

BELIEF IS STRONG THAT RECORDS WILL BE BROKEN AT THE OPENING OF THE BRIGHTON BEACH TRACK THIS WEEK.

VIEW OF THE BRIGHTON BEACH RACETRACK.



NEW COOLING OFF SHED.

NEW PADDOCK.

NEW CLUBHOUSE.

GRANDSTAND.

BETTING RING.

NEW FIELD STAND.

BRIGHTON BEACH RACING

BEGINNING NEXT SATURDAY IT WILL LAST A MONTH.

MANY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE TRACK BESIDE THE SEA—HANDICAP ENTRIES.

THE RACEHORSE.

FROM THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE. He treats the paddock turf with mowing feet. One gleaming mirror all his satin coat. His nose thrust forth some faintly hand to greet. He holds the saddle bell with warning note. Takes him from irksome peace to battle heat. Then on the course he sweeps with swiftness stride. Faces the rate, eager for that mad ride which in one flash gives triumph or defeat.

Oh, what a wealth of changes are in store. For these dumb players this costly game. Who fall to reach the zenith of their craft. One year, the course's mad tempestuous roar. The fondling hand that caresses the mane. The next, a common hansom's galling shaft.

The Brighton Beach racetrack will be opened next Saturday with an admirable schedule of races. A good field is in sight for this race, and the belief of the officials of the Brighton Beach Racing Association that one of the dozen or so horses which will go to the post for that contest will come close to shattering the record, if not actually accomplishing this feat. The belief is based, first, on the fact that the present racing season is developing some wonderfully fast animals, and, second, that the Brighton track is now faster than ever, for it has been carefully resodded and reworked for the coming season.

Because of the auspicious spring meetings of the other racetracks in the metropolitan circuit and the great public interest which has been shown this year in the sport, William A. Engeman, president and treasurer of the Brighton Beach Racing Association, made up his mind that the track should be improved, and further accommodations provided for the increasing number of track goers. Inasmuch as the Brighton track has only one meeting in the middle of the racing season, followed by the fall meetings of the other tracks, Mr. Engeman found that he had ample time for the improvements which he contemplated, and he went to work with a will.

As a result of such enterprise the track facilities have been enlarged to accommodate as many as 2,000 persons, and a new clubhouse has been erected for the use of the club members, which has cost nearly \$50,000, and which is now the chief ornament of the course. A new paddock, a new cooling off shed, and a practically new field stand have also been erected. The total cost of the improvements aggregates about \$100,000, but the optimism of the club feel certain that the increased interest in the sport which has been so remarkable this year will more than reimburse them for these extra expenditures.

The new clubhouse has been built directly east of the grandstand, and the two structures are connected by a bridge by which club members may step across from the grandstand to the second floor of the clubhouse. This floor of the clubhouse is surrounded by a broad veranda, which on the side toward the track is terraced with five steps, where members of the club, together with their families and friends, may obtain a far reaching and unobstructed view of the whole track. As this part of the porch is on the north side of the building, it is shaded from the sun, although at the same time open to the cool breezes off the ocean. The third and top story of the clubhouse is also constructed with a porch overlooking the track, where several hundred more spectators may watch the racing.

The ground floor of the clubhouse is divided into nearly a dozen rooms for the jockeys, and there are also lockers and baths for their special use. The second floor contains a spacious bar and cafe, and on the third floor are dining rooms for the women guests of the club. A new paddock, 100 feet square, stands to the east of the clubhouse, with a broad gallery running around the four sides of the building. This feature is a novel one, and is for the purpose of permitting women to cross over from the clubhouse and scrutinize the horses in the paddock, without being jostled by the crowds of horsemen, jockeys and stable boys who throng the place just prior to a race. It is thus that the club has endeavored to arouse a "scientific interest" in horses on the part of their fair guests and to break up as far as possible that feminine custom of judging a horse entirely by the vowels of the name, or the colors of the jockey. That the experiment will be successful still remains to be seen. Beyond the paddock, the cooling off sheds have been rebuilt and enlarged.

The grandstand, which was erected in 1896, after the great fire which swept away the buildings of old Brighton, has not been changed, except for the construction of sixteen more boxes, each containing four seats. Formerly there were sixteen such boxes at the eastern end of the stand, and they proved so popular that the number has been doubled. This improvement does not increase the seating capacity of the grandstand, as other seats are simply inclosed to secure greater privacy. Frank H. Quinby, of No. 26 Nassau-st., who designed the stand and also the new clubhouse, now nearing completion, said yesterday that when the track is thrown open to the public next Saturday

there will be accommodations for more than twenty-five thousand persons. The grandstand has a seating capacity of thirty-seven hundred, the field stand, which has been enlarged to twice the former size, will accommodate twenty-five hundred, while nearly twenty thousand more will be able to watch the races from inside the rail and the infield. Though not so large as the Sheepshead Bay or Gravesend track, the Brighton track has become exceedingly popular, for the reason that it is the coolest track in the East. In recognition of this fact the midsummer races, which will extend this year from July 5 to August 2, are held here. Open, airy, built on the edge of the sea, with a breeze for the most of the time blowing cool and fresh from the ocean, the Brighton Beach track offers a cool retreat when the rest of the city is sweltering in the heat. There are no trees, as at Sheeps-

head Bay, to cut off the breeze, and the track, for that matter, is as cool as if it had been laid out on the wet sand of the beach. Those familiar with the history of the track since its establishment in 1879 know how in fact the land upon which it stands was practically reclaimed from the sea. Dirt was brought from inland, and at an expense of nearly \$100,000 the track was built up out of a swamp. At the opening of the season of 1887 a high tide threatened to inundate the track and to float the horses, jockeys and spectators out to sea. A force of one hundred men was set to work building a dike to shut out the inroads of the ocean, and the crowds made their escape by way of the railroad embankment. Even at the present time one may see after a shower large pools of water in the middle of the track. If one happens to stand in the infield when a race is on he can feel the ground beneath his feet quiver up and down in a sort of soggy fashion when a bunch of horses go racing by. The steeplechase used to be dangerous for the reason that a horse, after making a hurdle, often drove his sharp pointed hoof through the covering of soil into the marsh beneath. Constant resodding, however, has eliminated these dangers, and recently still greater security has been sought. In the last month hundreds of wagonloads of earth have been carted onto the track, an additional foot has been spread on the racecourse for a width of forty feet, and the steeplechase course has also been resodded and strengthened.

In the construction of the grandstand, the field stand, and the buildings of the association great care was taken to give them a solid foundation, and under each pillar upholding the iron roof of the grandstand bunches of piles were driven into the marshy soil underneath and solid beds of concrete were laid on top of the piles. It is because of the fact that so much of the Brighton Beach track has been rescued from the sea that it has been referred to by some as the Venetian racetrack of America.

There are seventy-four acres in the inclosure which has been set apart for the use of the Brighton Beach Racing Association, and although there is plenty of room for stables around the track, few have been built there. The contest of the races at Brighton are for the most part staked at Gravesend and Sheepshead Bay and led to the track each day prior to the races. It is only a ten-minute walk for a spirited racehorse from either Sheepshead Bay or Gravesend to Brighton, and at nighttime, when the race season is on, it is a customary sight in the neighborhood of the track to see what might be termed a parade of thoroughbreds headed for Brighton.

Because of the fact that there is a growing demand for stables at Brighton, Mr. Engeman is contemplating filling in a space of seventeen acres, belonging to the association, to the north of Neptune-ave., and practically adjacent to the track. The land here is low and marshy, but according to present plans it could be brought to a proper level above the sea in time for the racing season of next year. Although William A. Engeman is the president and treasurer of the Brighton Beach Racing Association, his father before him having owned all the land along the shore east of the Boulevard to Manhattan Beach, he gives the track only a small part of his attention. Mr. Engeman, though a young man of thirty-five years, is exceedingly busy, and he has left the details to a great degree to his as-



JAMES CLAIRE, Superintendent of the Brighton Beach track.



A. H. BATTERSBY, Vice-president of the Brighton Beach Racing Association.



JOHN BODEN, JR., Racing secretary.

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this year than any other horse on the turf. He has been favorite, or close to it, nearly every time he has started, and seldom runs as well as his friends. The next horse in point of weight is Walter C. Rollins's sturdy campaigner, Herbert. Herbert will carry several pounds less in the Brighton contest than he carried in the other big handicaps. The Rollins entry is a plucky, earnest sort of brute whose record is not exactly consistent, but who will be reasonably sure to give a good account of himself, should the track be heavy or muddy. Herbert seems to like this going better than a fast track. Another animal in the handicapper's book has much respect is J. E. Widener's Ten Candles. Ten Candles was the first horse in the East this year to run a mile in 1:30. This has since been beaten, but Contend, who did it, carried much lighter weight. In the opinion of experts, Ten Candles with only 118 pounds on his back ought to go the route at great speed. J. G. Pollanabee's Roehampton was one of the sensational members of the light weight handicap division in 1901, and was one of the most consistent animals of last season. Roehampton

SNAKES AND THEIR POISON.

EXPERIMENTS IN SECURING THE DANGEROUS FLUID FROM RATTLESNAKES AND WATER MOCCASINS.

R. L. Dittmars, of the New-York Zoological Park, in The Bronx, gives the following interesting account of experiences with poisonous snakes, in the work of securing their peculiar product for scientific purposes. He says: "To the lot of a scientist often fall unique and embarrassing experiences. In a pursuit relating to the study of snake poison, this might be expected. Although never blessed by the hearty co-operation of my neighbors, I must confess that my investigations into this subject were begun by a whirlwind of trouble and embarrassment. The subject of snake poison is an interesting one. From the popular standpoint it has been sadly neglected. "With several physicians I began a series of observations on the poisons of snakes. An order was dispatched to a collector in Florida soliciting a number of rattlesnakes and moccasins. This was the start of the scientific enterprise. Events of various natures followed quickly. "A search for a laboratory resulted in the discovery of a place exactly suited to the purpose, and in a neighborhood where no objections could arise. A number of glass fronted boxes were ordered to be manufactured and placed in the laboratory, and with the progress thus far attained we waited for tidings from the Florida collector. They came, but in a form that was startling and wholly beyond anticipation. "One evening I answered a ring at my doorbell. An express wagon stood outside, from which the driver was removing a bunch of snakes out here," he shouted lustily. As this happened on an evening when

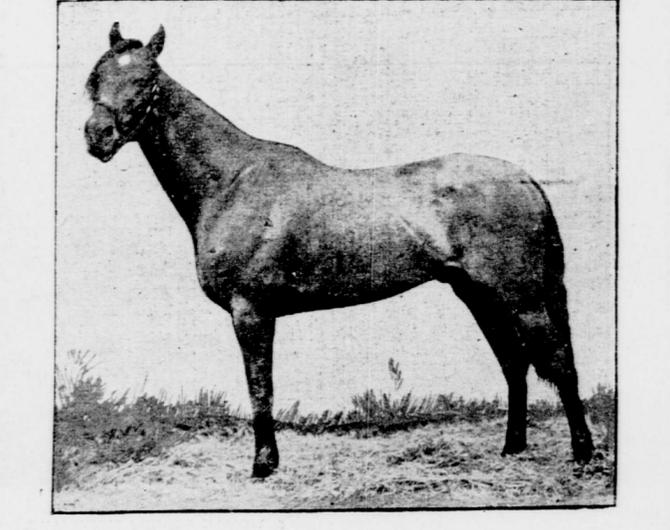
ing the second crate when a particularly big rattlesnake threw itself into a fighting coil some eight feet from him, and 'sounded off.' With one accord 'Henry' gave a furious tug at the hammer, the claw end of which was inserted between the crate and the cover, and fled. His heavy figure approached the cellar stairs on an elephantine run, up which he thundered amid a burst of Teutonic adjectives. There was a slam of the upper door, heavy footfalls on the floor above, and 'Henry's' services came to an end. This was only laughable, however, and I was enjoying the situation until my eyes rested on the box which 'Henry' had partially opened. "From that box was issuing a procession of sombre, olive colored snakes, the reptiles eyes scintillating in the gaslight as they glided for woodpile and coalheap. The cellar was rapidly becoming populated with water moccasins, which continued to issue with apparent unconcern to the music of the five big rattlesnakes. The situation was becoming decidedly interesting. But the worst was realized when I saw marked upon the crate in bold characters the words 'Forty moccasin snakes.' Forty moccasins issuing from that box! Snakes that are credited with a most villainous disposition, backed by the most deadly fangs. Something had to be done at once. "Leaving the sullen rattlesnakes to lie coiled and buzzing, operations were directed upon the moccasins. One by one they were lifted from the floor upon the end of a stick and dropped into a trunk. Fully half an hour was consumed in the work. Finally the last specimen was found hiding beneath some boxes, it was dragged forth, with open mouth, showing the cottony white interior of the same which give this snake in many portions of the South the name of cottonmouth. All through these anxious moments the rattlesnakes were stopped by their uncanny, the pressure of the all at last laced and watered, and I retired with a due sense of appreciation that in this collection of snakes I possessed a 'white elephant' of the most emphatic description. "With the utmost speed the laboratory was made ready for the snakes. The neighborhood celebrated when the reptiles left the cellar on their way to experimenting quarters. Here the glass fronted cages were immediately placed in the middle of the room, constituting the only pieces of furniture. For rolling the snakes were curved at the ends and

THREE WELL KNOWN JOCKEYS WHO MAY RIDE IN THE BRIGHTON HANDICAP.



BULLMAN, T. BURNS, ODOM.

neighbors were grouped on numerous nearby verandas, the expressman's vocal energy was embarrassing. "The boxes were taken into the cellar. From one came the continuous rasping sound indicative of the caudal appendage of the rattlesnake. This sound fluctuated at times, growing stronger as the box was unceremoniously dumped from the truck, and owing to the fact that in the semi-darkness silent spectators could be seen intently studying every phase of the manoeuvres, I perspired more than normally while the boxes were being taken into the cellar. "With the boxes open inside and the noisy expressman dispatched, realization dawned quickly. This was the answer to the order. Without warning, in shape of letter or telegram, the enthusiastic snake collector had forwarded to us two boxes of deadly snakes, in need of water, cages and food, but we were without any accommodations to supply the same, for the laboratory could not be made ready within a week. There was no help for it, however, the snakes had to be looked after, temporarily caged and watered or they would die. "Upstairs in the 'den,' as the family called it, was a collection of some two dozen harmless snakes, but all the cages were filled. Upon hearing the music of the newly arrived rattlesnakes, the family refused to allow them upstairs. Boas and lively blacksnakes were considered bad enough and armed the limit to toleration. "Persuasion of an oratorical and desperate nature, however, resulted in permission to convert the cellar into what certain members of the household insisted would become a veritable chamber of horrors. Emphatic recommendations to lock all doors leading to the place accompanied the concession. "There were three old trunks in the cellar, which it was determined to utilize as snake cages. In the first part of the proceedings it was necessary to appropriate several large pans from the kitchen to serve as drinking dishes for the reptiles. This relationship of household utensils to the snakes' comfort was soon discovered by the cook, who at once condemned the dishes for any future use in the face of an enthusiastic attempt on my part to explain that snakes were the most cleanly creatures imaginable. "The crates were opened, and from one of them five huge rattlesnakes were taken. Formidable enough these reptiles appeared as they threw their rough bodies into fighting coils on the concrete floor, while they watched with glittering eyes every movement about them. A young man from a nearby grocery, familiarly known as 'Henry,' assisted in the work. 'Henry' was engaged in open-



GOLD HEELS, a prime favorite for the Brighton, in which he is the top weight.

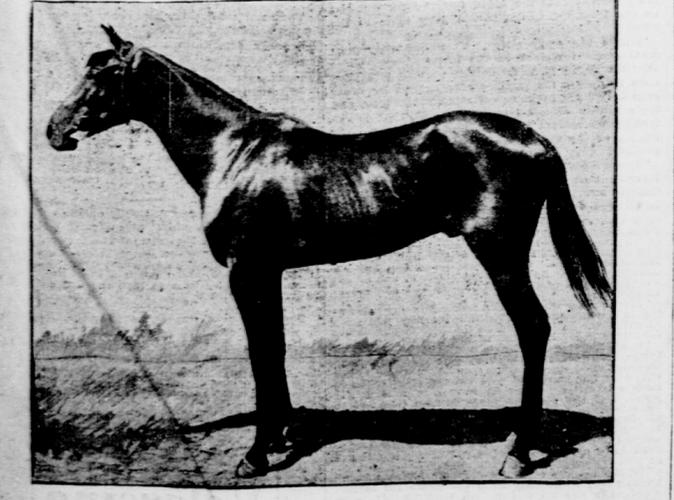
Boden has made a thorough canvass of the list, and the horses whose owners at the present time are desirous of starting them, he says, are as follows: Owner. Horse. Heels. Wt. Melrose & Co. Blue. 120. Frank Farrell. Blue. 122. Frank Farrell. Bonnhert. 121. Walter C. Rollins. Herbert. 118. J. E. Widener. Ten Candles. 118. J. G. Pollanabee. Roehampton. 117. G. B. Morris. Watercure. 116. C. T. Bours. Arregoor. 108. E. T. Wilson. Carabelle. 99. W. C. Whitney. Goldseeker. 100. S. J. Smith. Northern Star. 90. Thomas Monahan. Contend. 99. W. C. Whitney. Morningglow. 99. J. R. & F. P. Keene. Port Royal. 96. Henry Graham. Keyote. 93. J. G. Pollanabee. Pyra. H. 90. S. J. Smith. Northern Star. 90. Jere Dunn. Sun Shower. 88.

By the time the horses go to the post the field will in all likelihood be narrowed down to ten or twelve. The tipsters, although it is almost a week hence on the eve of the Brighton Handicap the tipsters are pretty much as usual, not knowing whether to base their beliefs on the results of the Brooklyn or the Suburban. Gold Heels, the winner of the Suburban, the property of Melrose & Co. (the company being "Diamond Jim" Brady), will carry the heaviest impost, the handicapper having allotted to him 125 pounds. Some of the best judges on the turf are of the opinion that Gold Heels will train on and at the close of the season will be recognized as the best handicap horse of the year. Gold Heels is the grandson of the famous Longfellow, the pride of Kentucky, and one of the greatest thoroughbreds that ever lived. Frank Farrell, who has sometimes been referred to as the "Foolroom King" of New-York, will probably be represented by two candidates, Blues and Bonnhert. Bonnhert has been seen little on the turf this year, and his chances can only be conjectured. Blues has been ever more disappointing, and has probably burned up more money in America

was run in 1895, and the winners of the race up to the present date are as follows: 1895—LOUIDA, 103, won; LUCKY DOG, 100, second; REEDIN, 103, third. Value, \$850. Time, 1:29. 1896—NANKI POPE, 106, won; CLIFFORD, 123, second; DUTCH SKATER, 88, third. Value, \$1,850. Time, 2:24. 1897—BEN BRUSH, 126, won; THE FRIAR, 107, second; BANGIE, 112, third. Value, \$8,420. Time, 2:06. 1898—ORNAMENT, 128, won; TILLO, 126, second; GEORGE KEENE, 104, third. Value, \$2,400. Time, 2:04. 1899—IMP, 115, won; STELHELT, 106, second; BANGIE, 112, third. Value, \$8,420. Time, 2:06. 1900—JACK POINT, 109, won; THE KENTUCKIAN, 106, second; IMP, 125, third. Value, \$9,045. Time, 2:04. 1901—TODDY, 100, won; WATERCURE, 100, second; ALBERT, 123, third. Value, \$8,400. Time, 2:05. In the race of 1895 the distance was one mile and an eighth, so that the fastest time made in the race for the present distance of one mile and a quarter was made by Jack Point, in 2:01 3/5. The conditions of the race are as follows: The Brighton Handicap, for three-year-olds and upward, by subscription of \$20 each, \$100 forfeit, or only \$15, if declared by February 29, 1902, with \$5,000 added, of which \$1,500 to the second horse and \$200 to the third; weights to be announced on February 1, 1902; winners, after the announcement of the weights of two races of the value of \$50 each, to receive \$1,200 to carry 4 pounds extra; of two races of \$1,200 each, or one of \$2,000, 8 pounds extra; of three races of \$1,200 each, or two of \$2,000 each, or one of the value of \$4,000, 12 pounds extra; in the case of horses handicapped at from 115 to 121 pounds, penalties shall apply to the extent of one-half only, from 122 to 125 pounds, one-quarter only, and horses handicapped at 130 pounds or over incur no penalties. One mile and a quarter. The value of the race this year is estimated to be more than \$10,000.

THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY. From The London Chronicle. The Bodleian Library at Oxford, whose three hundredth anniversary will be commemorated in October next with all the ceremony which such an event deserves in this country, is one of the British Museum Library in the number of volumes, but though fewer they are perhaps finer, and it is especially rich in manuscripts of value. The Cambridge University Library contains only fifty thousand fewer books, but can boast of only five thousand manuscripts, compared with thirty thousand of the Bodleian. In the case of these libraries, as well as of the Advocates in Edinburgh, and that of Trinity College in Dublin, the mere business of filling more shelves is very easy, because under the copyright acts they are entitled to a copy of every work published in their country. They do not avail themselves of their full rights.

NOT THIS SECTION. It's the other section of the paper that contains those "Little Ads. of the People."



BLUES, Frank Farrell's candidate for the Brighton.

HERBERT. His chances for the Brighton would be improved by a muddy track.