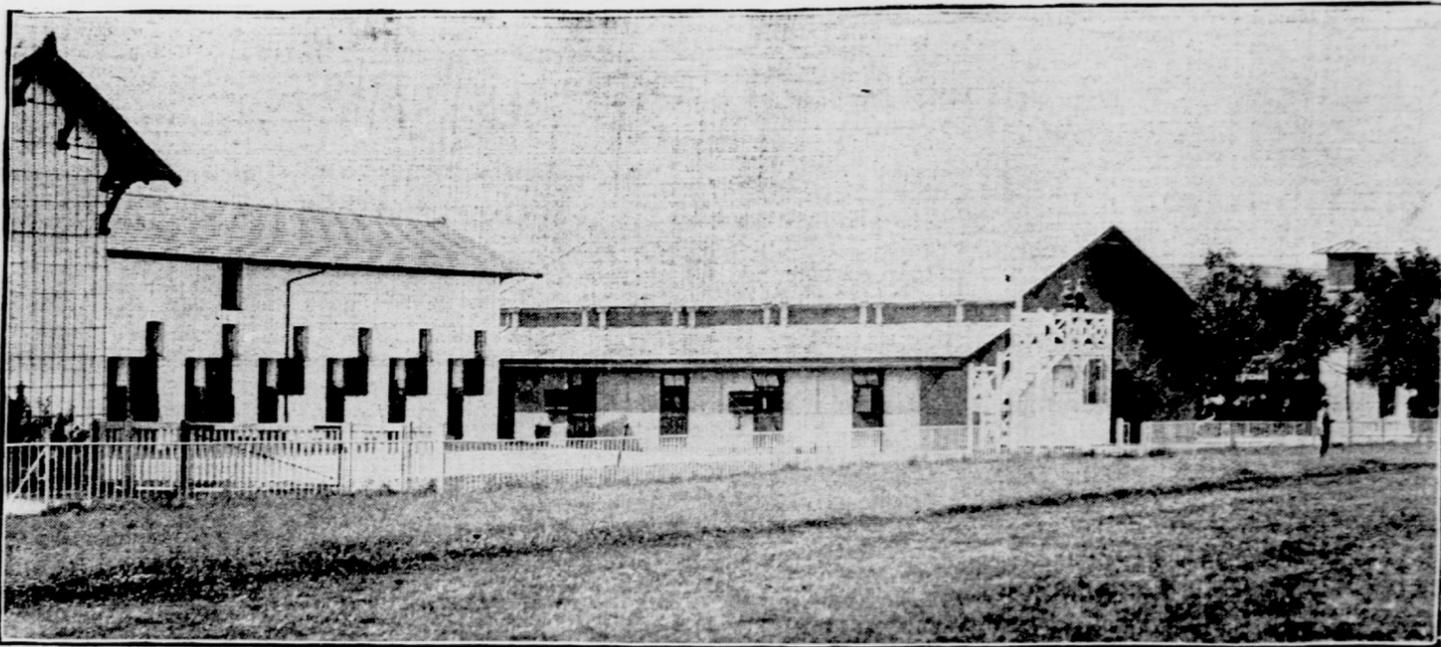


W. K. VANDERBILT'S RACING ESTABLISHMENT IN FRANCE IS RUN ON AMERICAN

(Photographs by Delten, of Paris.)



MR. VANDERBILT'S NEW BOXES AT ST. LOUIS DE POISSY.



MR. VANDERBILT'S COVERED TRACK
RUBBING DOWN

FRENCH RACING STABLE.

Maintained by W. K. Vanderbilt on American Plan.

Paris, April 4.

The racing establishment of William K. Vanderbilt at Saint Louis de Poissy, on the Seine, about fifteen miles northwest of Paris, is of unusual interest this season, for it is the first instance in France of an American racing stable, owned by an American, managed by an American, and conducted on American principles by an American trainer whose plans are executed by American jockeys and by American stable lads. Mr. Vanderbilt has for some years gradually and with sound judgment been creating an American stable in France, and the opinion in sporting circles is that before long the popular black and white Vanderbilt racing colors will gain the honors which they deserve.

The Vanderbilt stables are on the site of an abandoned racecourse near Poissy, purchased by Mr. Vanderbilt five years ago from M. Camille Blanc. The boxes and sheds of the old course have been rebuilt and new ones constructed with high ceilings, and are better ventilated and more accessible to sunlight than those of any of the racing stables at Chantilly or Maisons Laftite. The American principle of air, cleanliness and sunlight, which Edward Hughes, Mr. Vanderbilt's American trainer, considers essential for colts and fillies, is developed at Saint Louis de Poissy with a thoroughness hitherto unknown in France.

A feature of the American training system, contrary to the French and English custom, is that the horses are kept as much as possible in the open air. The boxes are so constructed that

the horses, in no matter what weather, can put their noses in the open air, breathe freely, and look about and see what is going on. There is a splendid double track on the Vanderbilt establishment of 2,900 metres circuit. A turf track runs parallel with a gravel track. This course, of 2,900 metres, is longer than the Epsom course, on which the English Derby is run, and is only one hundred metres shorter than the Longchamps course of three kilometres, upon which is run the Grand Prix de Paris. The course on the Vanderbilt establishment is over undulating ground, and is rather severe for the young horses, but is an ideal track for training.

Another feature of the establishment at Saint Louis de Poissy is Mr. Vanderbilt's "grand manège," or covered course, over two hundred metres in length and twenty metres wide. It is oval in form, and at the ends the track is raised at an angle like that of a velodrome, so that the horses can gallop around the turns at full speed without danger. The floor of the covered track is of soft chopped straw. This is the only private covered track in France where horses can have a gallop two hundred metres straight and with turnings so that the speed can be maintained around the whole unbroken circuit.

Near the stables are large, deep oval patches of sea sand to enable the horses to take their sand baths. Hughes, the trainer, insists on the horses being groomed in the open air, and this sand bath is the final stage of their daily exercise. The horses delight in the sand bath, and roll about in the fine, clean sand, which keeps their skins and coats in a most healthy condition. The large track at Saint Louis de Poissy is provided with a starting machine similar to that in use on the French racecourses. The horses are practised at this every day. Edward Hughes is a partisan of the American system

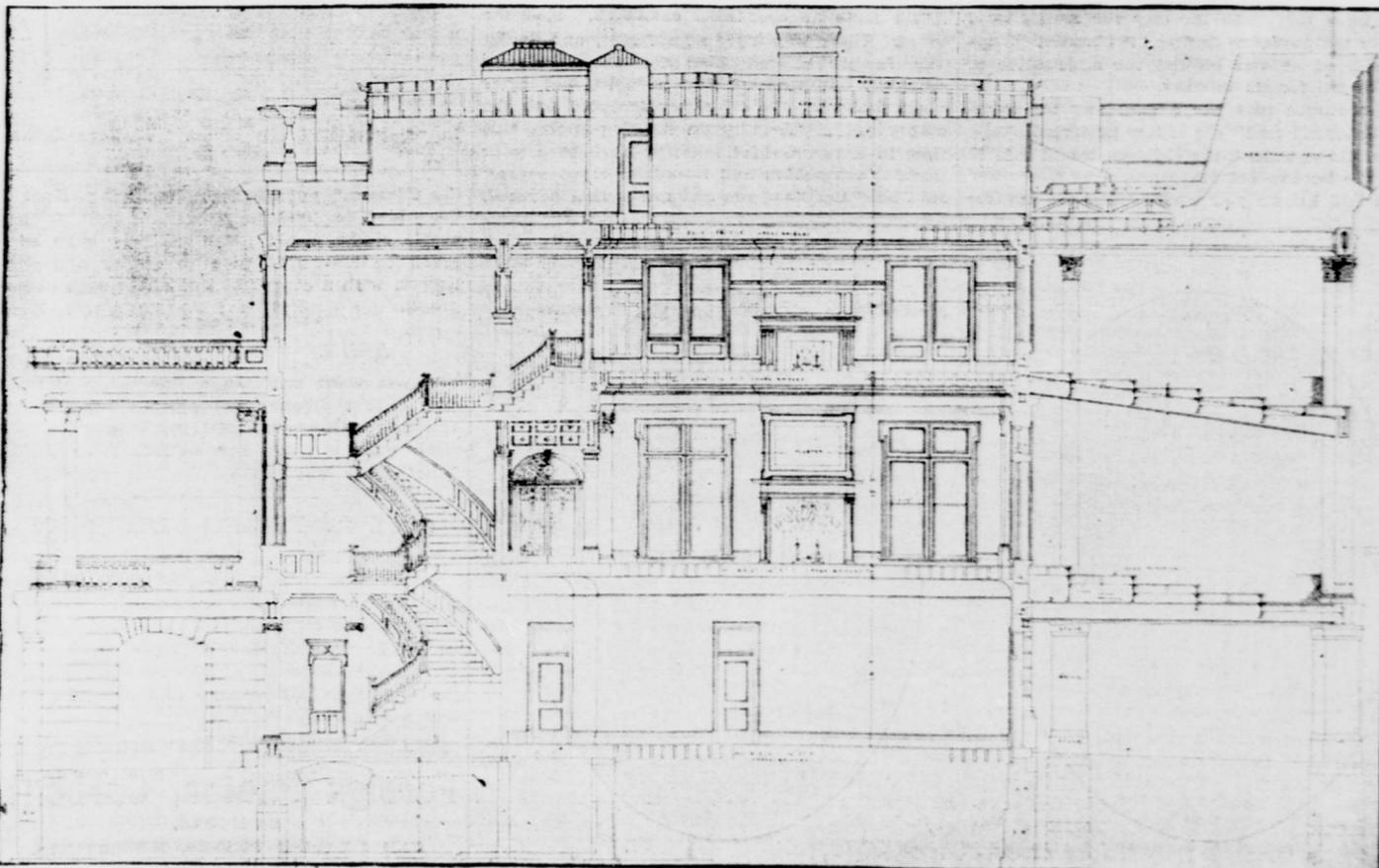
of short gallops at frequent intervals, but avoids exhausting overgalloping, which, in the opinion of the French trainers, is the great fault of the American system.

The two leading jockeys at the Vanderbilt stables this season are Nash Turner, the heavyweight, and Jay Ransch, the lightweight. Turner and Ransch are both Americans, and are newcomers on the French turf. They are bright, nervous youths, of regular habits, and belong to the new lot of



CROSS SECTION OF BELMONT PARK CLUBHOUSE.

It will stand on the magnificent new track of the Westchester Racing Association, which is now being constructed in Nassau County, Long Island. Charles W. Leavitt, jr., architect.



PRACTISING WITH THE STARTING

American jockeys that came over here at the end of last year, and who are of a much higher grade of men than those who rode here last season, and who were surrounded by swarms of disreputable characters who got them into all sorts of scrapes. Turner was born in Texas, and is twenty-three years old. He is well known at home, where he rode a number of winners last season for Mr. Whitney. Ransch is a Californian, and is only seventeen years old. Most of his victories have been in the Pacific Coast and in the Western and Southern States.

An interesting feature of the French season which is just now opening for flat racing at Saint Cloud and Maisons Laftite is the competition between the new American jockeys, foremost of whom are Turner, Ransch and Winnie O'Connor, who rides for Baron de Rothschild, with second mounts from the stables of Baron Schickler, Count Portalès, Prince d'Arenberg and Baron Leonino. The American jockey McIntyre, who got into trouble last year, has been taken on again by Prince Murat and M. de Brémont. On the other hand, M. Cattault has replaced young Reiff, who was his jockey last season, by J. Childs, an English jockey, who last year rode thirty-eight mounts to the winning post.

Among the most promising three-year-olds in the Vanderbilt stables this season are Biltmore, a chestnut colt, by Polygone, out of Belphèbe; Quos Ego, a bay colt by Clairon, out of Queen of the Vixens, and Edna, a chestnut filly, by Fripon, out of Gretna. These horses have all been trained by Hughes at Saint Louis de Poissy, and are favorites already with the racing public.

During his frequent visits to Paris William K. Vanderbilt inspects his stables and shows great interest in racing matters. In Rutgers Le Roy,