# COMMENT ON SPORTS,

## THE HANDICAP WEIGHTS.

### News and Views on Current Topics, Amateur and Professional.

There seems to be a general feeling among racing folk that the allotment of weights for the Brooklyn, Suburban and Brighton handicaps, the three great mile and one-quarter specials, of $25,000 each, was fair and equitable in the main and that W. S. Vosburgh, the official handicapper of the Jockey Club, had provided, as usual, one of those racing puzzles for which he is justly famed. There has been some unfavorable criticism—it could not be otherwise—of some horses harshly treated and others too leniently dealt with, but, on the whole, the weights were satisfactory to owners and trainers, as will be proved, no doubt, on February 20, when a declaration can be made at $15. The announcement of the weights means something more than the allotment of what certain horses must carry in races some time next summer. It amounts to the first official rating of practically all the best horses that were in training last year. Mr. Vosburgh is considered by many the cleverest weight adjuster in the country, and for that reason his ratings can be accepted, on the whole, as being the fairest that, under the circumstances, can be made. Still he is not impeccable, and his opinion of James R. Keene's great colt, Colin, the unbeaten son of Commando, so high as it is, falls short of that of many prominent horsemen. In my humble opinion Colin is the greatest horse ever bred and developed in this country, if not in the world, and this is said with such great horses in mind as Domino, Hamburg, Sysonby, Artful, Irish Lad, Hermis, Stalwart, Ethelbert, Ort Wells, Waterboy, Burgomaster, Imp, Beldame and Commando, of recent years, and Hanover, Salvator, Tammany, Firenze, Kingston, Miss Woodford and Lexington. Colin did everything required of him last year in winning twelve straight races in such a commanding and convincing way and under conditions not always favorable that it is hard to believe that any horse in training can defeat him at anything like even weights, with the understanding, of course, that he is at his best, or, at least, close to it. In the light, then, of his wonderful performances last year, which are still fresh in mind, his imposts of 111 pounds in the Brooklyn and Suburban and 112 pounds in the Brighton are hardly a fair measure of his greatness.

Ballot, which is at top weight with 126 pounds, is a good horse, and it is only natural that he must this year suffer the hardships of greatness. He was badly beaten in the Brighton Cup by Salvidere and Running Water, but he was hardly himself that day and had previously defeated his conquerors on that occasion in both the First and Second specials at Gravesend. Ballot won eight fixtures last season, including those mentioned and the Great Republic and Century stakes, and earned $64,580. In the opinion of the official handicapper he was five pounds better than Salvidere, the champion two-year-old of 1906, and there can be no quarrel with this, in spite of the fact that Salvidere was not a sound horse and had to be handled with great care. It is hard to believe, however, that Ballot was or is as good a horse as Colin, and yet Mr. Vosburgh ranks them the same, according to the scale, so far as the Brooklyn and Suburban are concerned, and asks the son of Voter to give Colin two pounds in the Brighton. The form of a horse from two to three years old is hard to gauge and the unbeaten son of Commando may not live up to the position he made for himself last season, but the chances are in favor of his being even better. If by good fortune such proves to be the case he should be able to give Ballot from five to eight pounds and a beating over a mile and a quarter. Assuming that Ballot, on Mr. Vosburgh's rating, is the best horse in training, Colin in a truly run race would have one or more of the big handicaps at his mercy. If Sysonby as a four-year-old was five pounds better than Hermis, according to the ratings of 1906, a fact unfortunately that was never demonstrated owing to the untimely death of the former and the enforced retirement of the latter, then Sysonby in the opinion of the handicapper was a better horse than Colin, as few will acknowledge that Ballot is a greater horse than Hermis. In all probability the question will never be settled, as Colin, with engagements not far short of $150,000 among horses of his own age, will hardly be pointed for the big mile and a quarter specials, where he must meet older horses under conditions unfavorable to him; but whether he starts or not the fact remains that he seems to have been "thrown in" at the weights.

It was not my purpose when I started to take up a discussion of the weights as to the probable chances of one horse or another, as the races are far off in the future and much can happen, particularly when the allotments were made on last year's form. It is a fact, however, that year after year the handicaps provide close, hard fought and sensational battles, even under the rather questionable method of assigning the weights so far in advance and with a year-old form as a basis. For that reason the amateur handicappers can feel that their time is not wasted in figuring on the probable contenders. Leaving Colin out of consideration, the horses which appear to be worthy of most consideration are Ballot, 126; Salvidere, 121; Running Water, 115; McCarter, 114; Dandelion, 117; Frank Gill, 119; Celt, 106; Uncle, 105; Lawrence P. Daley, 102, and Jim Gaffney, 101. It looks to me as if Nealon, 125, the Suburban Handicap winner last year, under 113 pounds; Glorifier, 120, winner of the Carter and Metropolitan handicaps; Montgomery, 120, and Superman, 117, winner of the Brooklyn Handicap, were slightly overweighted, while Charles Edward, 122; Dr. Gardner, 118, and Electioneer, 118, have rarely shown a disposition to go a route in the best company. Running Water seems to have a slight pull on a line through Ballot and Salvidere, and McCarter is in about right, as Peter Pan would have been at top weight with 128 pounds, in all probability, if he had been entered, and that son of Commando gave McCarter fourteen pounds and beat him a neck last year in one of the best and fastest Brighton handicaps ever run. James R. Keene's Celt gives promise, and if he trains on will be a good running mate for Ballot, as it has been whispered around the Keene stable that he was not far behind Colin last season, and he certainly did all that was required of him in his two races.

Anent my comment a week ago concerning fouls and disqualifications and the weakness of the present rule governing same, a correspondent writes:

I read your comment on disqualification and rough riding with considerable interest. You are dead right, of course, but you are striking at the effect rather than the cause. The rule is all right if we had a different type of steward. A correspondingly same rule in England disqualifies for crossing and impeding during the first furlong, and being rigidly enforced jockeys hold their horses straighter, trainers do not train every horse to run on the rail when only one horse in each field can get there, and consequently the "line" is kept better. Owners will not ride boys there who constantly lose races when riding the better horse, there our trainers are working each horse right up to the rails, instead of through the centre of the course, and this, linked to the exaggerated "monkey crouch" by short legged boys (Sloan was very long from the knee down), and the utter lack of official consistency in discipline, produces the trouble. The boy crouched over the long, flexible neck has no fulcrum for his lever (owing to his short leg from the knee), and must go with the neck when it turns. Miller, Nicol, Dugan, are none of them horsemen. They cannot "place" or "rate" a horse to save their lives. If the Jockey Club would accept my ten year old suggestion to have a starting judge (as now), a patrol at the second furlong, another at the fourth, another at the turn and then place the stewards on the infield rail to look straight through each approaching field, for roughing, kneeing, etc., all this rough riding would be stamped out in a week, but they will not do it. The late William C. Whitney actually built the patrol stands at Saratoga, but they persuaded him away from it, and although they have increased the number of patrols they have never handled the matter on a business basis, letting the boys know they were being watched every inch of the way, and that the punishment would be having the indorsements to put them down for the rest of the season. Boys would not then take chances. There is the remedy.

I cannot entirely agree with this, although with a change in the rule governing disqualifications more patrol judges might lead to the quicker stamping out of unnecessary rough and foul riding. Under the rule as it stands the stewards cannot enforce it to the letter without working a constant hardship by unreasonable disqualifications, and with more patrol judges reporting on crossing and interference their position would be an even more difficult one and wellnigh untenable. The simple change of the word "is" for "may" in the rule would strike at the cause of much present dissatisfaction in its enforcement or non-enforcement. Miller, Nicol and E. Dugan may not be finished horsemen as compared with Sloan, Maher, Shaw, McCue and some others who might be mentioned, but they seem to have acquired the "winning habit," which necessarily appeals to owners, trainers and racegoers.

Ora Morningstar failed utterly in his effort to wrest the world's billiard championship at 18.2 balkline from George B. Sutton last week in a match that was slow, disappointing and amateurish. Morningstar is a finished player and a master of the ivories, but it begins to look as if stage fright or buck fever will forever rob him of a chance to win the title. He did not begin to do himself justice and the cold hall was not entirely responsible. Hoppe now appears to be the only man likely to dislodge Sutton and Schaefer from their proud places as champions at 18.2 and 18.1 respectively.

Captain Bobby Burch of the Yale football team is lucky to secure the services of Biglow and "Tad" Jones as head coach and assistant head coach next season. So far as can be judged, both men are well endowed with the qualities so necessary for teaching and leading, and, with Walter Camp behind them, it looks, even at this time, as if another championship would go to Yale. In commenting on the decision of the baseball management to return to graduate coaching, which, by the way, is a long step in the right direction, the "Yale Daily News" says editorially:

Both from the standpoint of strict amateur ethics and from the more practical aspect of turning out a team capable of producing the best results in their own amateur field this reversion to the older system seems a step in advance. In a game which has been reduced to the set of almost scientific rules and principles, such as now govern professional baseball, a contest between two teams is often in its lowest terms a struggle between the baseball "senses" of two men sitting on opposite benches, with nine trained mechanisms at the command of each. Individual judgment is at a discount. Quite naturally the introduction of such an element, in the person of a professional coach, into the sphere of college baseball, no matter how proficient the players may be, results to a great extent in the duplication of the features of the professional game. The coach dominates the situation by virtue of his wide experience, the captain ceases to feel direct responsibility, the men lose their power of judgment—their baseball personality.

John H. Farrell, secretary of the National Association of Minor League Clubs, has remained silent, so far as can be learned, to the request of Garry Herrmann, chairman of the national commission, for a statement of the real attitude of his organization on the much talked of and so-called black list resolution. It is high time some official statement was made by the national association, for in the interest of the sport that resolution must be abrogated. HERBERT.

## MAY ENTER RELAY TEAM.

### Harvard Wants to Meet Yale in a Special Race.

Although Harvard athletes and teams are rarely seen as far away from Cambridge as New York, there is likely to be an exception made in the Columbia University relay meet in Madison Square Garden a week from next Saturday night. Gustavus T. Kirby, graduate manager of the Columbia Athletic Association, has been in communication with W. F. Garcelon, the Harvard graduate coach, and he has just received a letter from the latter saying that if Mr. Kirby could induce Yale to send a one-mile relay team to the games for a special race with Harvard he, Mr. Garcelon, would do all in his power to obtain permission from the Harvard faculty for the Crimson quartet of quarter milers to enter the race.

## GENERAL ORDER 41144.

### From the Huguenot Yacht Club's "Feed Captain."

No general order that they have ever received since the organization of the club, away back in 1894, has made the members of the Huguenot Yacht Club sit up and take so much notice as No. 41144, issued by their commodore from the flagship Dipper the other day, announcing the thirteenth annual midwinter cruise, which is to take place on Saturday, February 15. This unique document, bearing the club's seal and signed by George F. Lewis, "feed captain," which is herewith reproduced, explains itself:

Rendezvous—Cafe Martin, Fifth avenue and 26th street, New York.

Classes—Six-footers, one design and handicap class.

Course—From the starting line off Zaza to the Carolinas. Any one cutting courses under the table will be disqualified. In case the race is finished after sundown, a red light will be burned off the Carolinas.

Preparatory signal—Secretary's pennant hoisted after 6 p. m.

Starting signal—Highball hoisted at 6:30 p. m. A cork will be fired with each signal. Chart of the course will be furnished each contestant at the starting line.

Measurement—A certificate of measurement must be filed with the committee. The rating shall be determined by taking fifteen times the cube root of the square root of the load line, multiplied by hunger and thirst, divided by the area of the midship section, and good fellowship.

Equipment—Contestants shall be in full boozing trim.

Entries—Entries should be received by the chairman of the committee, George F. Lewis, No. 24 Park avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y., not later than Monday, February 10, 1908. Each contestant shall state the number of "dingies" he will tow.

Rules—The cruise will be under the rules of the Long Island Sound Epicurean Association.

Tide—It will be high tide at Martin's on day of cruise about 10:30 p. m.

At finish of cruise a special exhibition will be given by contestants equipped with hot air engines.

A POPULAR BOATING RESORT IN FLORIDA WATERS.
LOOKING EAST FROM BRIDGE ACROSS MIAMI RIVER.

## BOATING IN THE SOUTH.

### A Trip from St. Augustine to Miami Now Possible.

The East Coast of Florida has begun in earnest to interest the sportsman and the man and woman who need rest and recreation under the most ideal conditions, and to that end the Florida East Coast residential enthusiasts, like Dr. De Witt Webb, of St. Augustine, are sending out information of its beauty.

This winter for the first time it has been made possible for a boat of small dimensions, if it has power, to go from St. Augustine to Miami inland through more than three hundred miles of the most entrancing scenery and the most splendid water conditions. If a man wishes to take a little risk he can put his boat overboard at Jacksonville and take the St. John's River and go outside, hug the shore, making St. Augustine, about forty miles distant. This winter the automobilist found that he could drive the entire length of the East Coast, 366 miles, starting from Jacksonville and ending at Miami. Good road enthusiasts, many of them Northern visitors, with axe, pick and spade have made the roads between the two points mentioned fairly passable, so that on February 18 an endurance contest for automobiles will be held from Jacksonville to Miami.

The Florida East Coast Canal Company, after much discouragement, succeeded in opening up the canal dug by the company between St. Augustine and Ormond. Along the East Coast the same company has had dredges working for years, so that now there is a sufficient depth the entire length of the East Coast for boats of light draft. Boats drawing five feet of water have succeeded in making the trip, so that now a regular procession of power boats is found passing along the Indian River and frequently are seen making side exploration trips into the numerous rivers and creeks that abound along the route. These trips are made for the purpose of fishing and shooting, as game is found in abundance.

The trip from St. Augustine starts in a delightful run through the new canal to Ormond where entrance is made to the Halifax River. Nearly all stop to examine the beauties of Ormond, its orange groves and record making beach automobile course. At Daytona, six miles further, the Halifax River Yacht Club is situated. Here a small strip of land divides the river from the ocean.

From Daytona the course is laid by Fort Orange, New Smyrna and on to Titusville. Here the traveller finds himself in the famous Indian River, which for nearly two hundred miles he follows, passing through large flocks of duck which are so tame that they allow a boat to come within shooting distance before flying. If fish is needed for a meal it is only necessary to reduce speed, or perhaps anchor for a few minutes, as almost every variety of fish are found that inhabit Florida waters.

Fort Pierce is the next town of importance, although Cocoa, Rockledge, Eau Gaille, Melborne, Roseland and other towns are passed. A number of small towns are passed further on and at last Lake Worth and Palm Beach are sighted. After looking over Palm Beach, and taking on supplies, the journey is continued some sixty miles further south, where Miami is reached. From that point numerous trips can be made to the Florida Keys, so that a vacation of thirty to ninety days can be put in to good advantage in boating on the Florida East Coast.

## WITH ATHLETIC BOWLERS

### Elizabeth and New York in Lead—Clauss Heads the Individuals.

The same air of uncertainty that has prevailed for several weeks continues to mark the race for the leading positions in the Athletic Bowling League championship tournament. At present the Elizabeth club and the New York Athletic Club teams are tied for first place, with 16 games won and 8 lost, while the Roseville Athletic Association and the Jersey City club fives follow, with 14 won and 10 lost.

When it comes to team average Elizabeth seems to have left the others far behind, with a mark of 914.4. The nearest approach to this is Roseville's 899.19. It is worthy of mention that in past seasons the champion Roseville team has generally been able to point to an average well over 900.

From now on to the end of the season, which is only a trifle more than a month away, the Jersey City combination will bear watching. When Roseville visited Jersey City last Friday night the personnel of the home team was changed by the substitution of Meyer and Collard for G. Schlereth and Howe. It is said that the team as it appeared against Roseville will remain intact for the remainder of the season. If it does it will be a difficult combination for any five to beat.

The individual average race now finds Clauss, of Elizabeth, in first place. His mark of 190.22 gives him a clear lead of more than three points over Rohdenburg, of Columbia, the second man. Sherwood, of New York, is third, with 186.22, and then comes Al West, of Elizabeth, the man who has the high individual score of 256. Olozaga, of Roseville, last week's leader, has dropped to fifth place. Altogether there are fifteen with averages better than 180. The official figures are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL AVERAGES.

| Games. | Name. | Club. | Average. | High score. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | Clauss | Elizabeth | 190.22 | 238 |
| 21 | Rohdenburg | Columbia | 187.9 | 244 |
| 24 | Sherwood | New York | 186.22 | 238 |
| 24 | A. West | Elizabeth | 185.17 | 256 |
| 24 | Olozaga | Roseville | 185.13 | 245 |
| 24 | R. West | Elizabeth | 184.17 | 223 |
| 24 | Adams | New York | 183.16 | 235 |
| 21 | Lamster | Jersey City | 182.7 | 243 |
| 24 | Lockwood | Montclair | 181.4 | 228 |
| 21 | Dwyer | Newark Bay | 180.20 | 235 |
| 24 | Arnold | New York | 180.15 | 223 |
| 21 | Olsen | Passaic | 180.11 | 214 |
| 24 | Harper | Passaic | 180.7 | 237 |
| 24 | Wood | Roseville | 180.5 | 235 |
| 24 | Pope | Elizabeth | 180.3 | 245 |
| 24 | Meyer | Roseville | 179.23 | 213 |
| 15 | D. Lefferts | Passaic | 179.3 | 190 |
| 21 | Perry | Newark Bay | 178.7 | 208 |
| 24 | Thomson | Montclair | 178.15 | 237 |
| 24 | Van Ness | Roseville | 178.4 | 236 |
| 21 | Griffith | Newark Bay | 177.17 | 224 |
| 21 | Garrison | Jersey City | 177.9 | 202 |
| 21 | Hartzel | Columbia | 176.14 | 221 |
| 12 | Sherlock | Passaic | 176.11 | 199 |
| 21 | Jaeger | Newark Bay | 176.7 | 226 |
| 24 | Pierson | Roseville | 175.22 | 214 |
| 15 | Clute | New York | 174 | 225 |
| 24 | Elston | Passaic | 173.21 | 246 |
| 21 | Schultze | Columbia | 173.13 | 203 |
| 24 | R. Schlereth | Jersey City | 173.4 | 247 |
| 24 | Nolte | Elizabeth | 172.17 | 214 |
| 15 | Vreeland | Newark Bay | 171.9 | 199 |
| 24 | Breen | New York | 171.14 | 235 |
| 21 | Applegate | Columbia | 169.14 | 200 |
| 21 | Howe | Jersey City | 168.3 | 218 |
| 24 | Brown | Montclair | 166.13 | 200 |
| 21 | G. Schlereth | Jersey City | 164.7 | 193 |

STANDING OF THE CLUBS.

| | Won. | Lost. | Average. | High score. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Elizabeth | 16 | 8 | 914.4 | 1,031 |
| New York | 16 | 8 | 893.5 | 1,035 |
| Roseville | 14 | 10 | 899.19 | 1,009 |
| Jersey City | 14 | 10 | 874.4 | 968 |
| Newark Bay | 11 | 10 | 884.14 | 965 |
| Montclair | 8 | 16 | 882.1 | 939 |
| Columbia | 7 | 14 | 866.10 | 969 |
| Passaic | 7 | 17 | 878.18 | 961 |

## DE SILVA WINS HIGH SCHOOL RUN.

Undaunted by the chilliness of the air and the wind, twenty-six members of the Harlem Evening High School Athletic Association competed yesterday in its series of bi-weekly cross-country runs. The course was about two and a half miles, starting from Macomb's Dam Park. Frank De Silva, with the low handicap of a minute and a half, worked his way through the field and won the race in 14 min., 10 sec. Charles Rota, the scratch man, finished third in 12 min., 43 sec.

## IN THE HOCKEY LEAGUES.

### Crescent Athletic Club and Harvard Sevens Look Like Winners.

Two games are scheduled to take place this week in both the Amateur and the Intercollegiate Hockey leagues. On Tuesday the Hockey Club of New York faces the New York Athletic Club seven and on Thursday the Crescent Athletic Club and the St. Nicholas Hockey Club cross sticks, while in the intercollegiate league Princeton and Yale meet on Saturday at St. Nicholas Rink, and on the same evening Harvard and Dartmouth play at Cambridge.

The most important games are the St. Nicholas-Crescent and the Yale-Princeton contests. The two first named teams are tied for senior honors in the Amateur Hockey League, and both sevens realize that the winner of this game will in all likelihood win the championship. The strong pressure brought to bear upon Wall, Dobby and Shiebler has resulted in all three getting back in the game, and their presence on the Crescent seven has placed in the front rank what looked like a second division team early in the season, with an excellent chance to win back the honors lost last year. Playing in the form the men showed last Friday, when they defeated the New York Athletic Club, they have the best chance in the league at present. Their team work on this occasion came to the fore, and in the second half it completely dazzled their opponents, who were unable to stop their rushes. The champion St. Nicholas team has shown no such form in any of its games and the chances of the seven winning on Thursday with Donald Gordon, the clever coverpoint, missing from the line-up, look extremely slim. Gordon, who has been playing an excellent game all season, is out for the rest of the winter, owing to a severe cold he contracted last week, which has developed into pneumonia. His absence will be much regretted by the supporters of both teams, as the Crescents were anxious to face the same team that took the championship from them last year, winning both games by the margin of one goal, the last meeting, in fact, running into an extra period before the result was determined.

The game put up by the Crescents in the second half on Friday night was the best they have shown in two years, mainly owing to the fact that their efforts were confined more to team work than to star individual plays. Their opponents, the New York Athletic Club, forced them to the limit throughout the game, and, while the latter were defeated and have two games registered against them in the lost column, it does not follow that they are entirely out of the race, for should they win all their remaining games and the Crescents and St. Nicholas team lose to each other, as well as to the Mercury Footers, a three-cornered tie would be the result. This is not impossible, as the New Yorkers are playing well and getting stronger with each game. Then, the Hockey Club is liable to turn the tables on any one of the other teams in the second round of the series. If the latter club did not have to depend upon Bryan to do all the shooting it would have more victories than defeats to its credit. On Tuesday, when its representatives meet the New York Athletic Club, there promises to be a hot fight for third position, as they are now tied.

A good line on Yale's chances for the championship may be had on Saturday night, when she faces Princeton. Should the latter team win, which would not be surprising, the Elis would be practically out of it. On the other hand, if the New Haven men triumph their stock will take a big jump, for Harvard had a hard fight to capture the game from the New Jersey men a few weeks ago. Tom Howard, Yale's coach, may succeed in whipping his charges into championship form, but judging from their work to date they are hardly in the same class with the Cambridge men.

The standing of the clubs in the Amateur Hockey League follows:

| | Won. | Lost. | P. C. |
|---|---|---|---|
| St. Nicholas Hockey Club | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Crescent Athletic Club | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| New York Athletic Club | 1 | 2 | .333 |
| Hockey Club | 1 | 2 | .333 |
| Wanderer Hockey Club | 0 | 4 | .000 |

The standing of the sevens in the Intercollegiate Hockey League follows:

| | Won. | Lost. | P. C. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Harvard | 2 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Yale | 2 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Princeton | 1 | 2 | .333 |
| Dartmouth | 1 | 2 | .333 |
| Columbia | 1 | 3 | .250 |

## HALEY AND HOGAN WIN.

### Athletes Defy Wintry Blasts in 'Cross Country Runs.

Defying the wintry blasts that swept over upper Manhattan and The Bronx yesterday, a field of some thirty hardy athletes started out from the Mott Haven Athletic Club house for a six-mile 'cross country run. The cold breezes nipped the meagrely clothed runners, but it seemed only to make them run the harder. Several found the cold too much for them and dropped out, but the majority finished.

The race for club members only was won by Patrick Haley, who finished the course in 34 minutes 45 seconds, with a start of two and a half minutes. Haley ran a fine race, passing several of the runners more liberally handicapped before the run was half over. Within a half mile of the finish he passed H. Devlin, who had three minutes' start. Devlin finished second. The time prize was won by D. Devlin, a scratch man, who finished in 33:25, a few paces ahead of J. Glibert, the only other scratch man.

A number of runners from other clubs competed in the usual invitation event, which was won by Tom Hogan, of Holy Cross Lyceum, in 34 minutes 49 seconds.

## AMATEUR BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.

A three-cushion handicap amateur billiard tournament will begin at the Slosson Billiard Academy to-night. A cup has been given by Mr. Slosson for the winner and also prizes for the high run and average. The men entered and their handicaps follow: A. Scremmels, 50; A. French, 40; C. Belasco, 40; J. Blair, 40, and A. Strauss, 40.

## SUPPORTS GOVERNOR'S ATTACK.

### Poolrooms Not Behind Anti-Racetrack Betting Crusade, W. F. Crafts Says.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your issue of January 27 an article appeared in which those who are interested in the licensed racetracks of New York attempted to break the force of the Governor's anti-gambling crusade by claiming, as they have often done before, that the forces aiming to suppress racetrack gambling in New York State are always and altogether inspired by the poolrooms, because of the supposed restraint which the licensing of gambling on the racetracks puts upon them as outsiders. This claim has been repeated for a dozen years without any historic foundation. The proprietors of the racetracks employed Chief Pinkerton in vain to connect the reformers who have been checkmating the forces of the Jockey Club through all that time in the various commonwealths with the small gamblers who had been shut out of the race gambling monopoly.

The anti-gambling crusade was renewed two years ago because Governor Higgins had expressed privately his opposition to the racetrack gamblers' nullification of the constitution, but the same cry was raised—that the poolrooms were at the root of the matter. The gamblers have a big job on hand when they try to convince the State of New York that Governor Hughes is, consciously or unconsciously, the cat's-paw of the small gamblers who were shut out of the trust in his efforts to send all gamblers, rich or poor, to state's prison. The leaders of the racing associations might as well meet the main issue squarely, that the present law does not carry out the manifest purpose of the constitution, which orders the Legislature to suppress all forms of gambling.

In the gambler's defence there is another sophistry, the claim that the 5 per cent paid to the farmers is not revenue derived from gambling, but from gate receipts—whereas it is admitted that the gate receipts are really the payment for gambling privileges—when it is so often declared by the defenders of racetrack gambling that "racetracks could not be conducted without gambling." Two supreme facts stand out in this whole matter—first, that the mandate of the constitution has not been carried out by the Percy-Gray law in its actual operations, since it has not even reduced gambling, but rather increased it; second, racetrack gambling is not better but worse than secret gambling, in that it draws into the gambling habit respectable people who would never begin in the "low dives," and also in that its great crowds and excitement put into the sport a wild, wholesale frenzy, compared to which the poolrooms are only peanut stands.

WILBUR F. CRAFTS.

Washington, Jan. 30, 1908.

## GOLFERS FIND FAULT.

### DON'T LIKE CHEVY CHASE.

### Women and "Pros" Complain of Championship Selections.

There are murmurings of discontent among the golfers over the selection of courses for two of the national championship tournaments to be held this year. The Boston, Philadelphia and New York women have not yet ceased to discuss the action of the United States Golf Association officials in awarding the women's tournament to the Chevy Chase Club, of Washington. They refer to the action as a "slap in the face."

So far as can be learned the only persons who preferred Chevy Chase to the Philadelphia Country Club were a few Western women who had a curiosity to visit the capital of the United States. They argued that the awarding of the tournament to Chevy Chase would give them an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone. If the annual team match between the women's associations of the East and West is decided immediately prior to the national contest and over the same course, the chances are that the Chicago district will be fairly well represented.

As for the women living along the Atlantic seaboard, it is difficult at this time to make predictions with any degree of certainty. For the present at least they certainly do not appear much inclined to attend. Possibly, however, after they have had time to think it over calmly wiser heads will prevail, which will result in the entry at Chevy Chase comparing favorably with previous ones. Just at present some of the women are talking of organizing a national association of their own. Apparently all that is lacking to bring the matter to a crisis is the want of a leader courageous enough to make the first step.

Even if the women are piqued over their championship outlook, their feelings are as nothing compared with the professionals'. After the last time the national open tournament was decided at Myopia a number of "pros" declared they would not compete there again. They complained of the treatment accorded them by the hunt club officials.

It seems extremely improbable that the national organization will take any action in the matter further than to hold the tournament on the dates scheduled in August and over the Myopia links. There are those who claim that the "pros," when the time comes, will hasten to enter and that they will gather at the Hamilton course in their accustomed numbers.

What of the ideal golf course, the millionaire's paradise, the dream of Charles B. Macdonald? At various times stories have been published concerning this undertaking, this so-called national course, which extends along the shores of Peconic Bay, where the best holes of the world are being reproduced. The latest news about the links comes by way of London and appears in "Country Life" in the columns edited by Horace Hutchinson. He writes as follows:

The success of Mr. Macdonald's great scheme of a national golf course in America, with holes copied from the best known in Europe, is more than assured, for, although play has not yet begun upon it—it is said that it will be ready for play, though in rather a crude state still, by the fall—it may be said that success is already achieved. It is a course in being. The creator's own account of it is as follows (from a private letter):

"The whole plan is working out wonderfully. . . . Of course, we have not yet put in the bunkers—that is, but very few of them—and these have been put in where we must put them in because they are where the bunkers are in the holes which we have copied from the other side.

"Our 'Alps' is a finer hole than the 'Alps' at Prestwick; the Whighams say so, and they ought to know. Our fourth hole, which is a duplicate of the eleventh at St. Andrews, as regards contour of ground and placing of hazards, is really a better hole for the reason that you cannot take a putter, as there is a little arm of the sea about ten or fifteen feet wide, which we bridge over about thirty yards in front of the tee, and there is also, about eighty yards from the tee, quite a steep shoulder before we come to the shoulder which at the eleventh hole at St. Andrews crosses the front of the green. The putting green is exactly the same, and, of course, we have placed the bunkers exactly as they are there. Another point is that the putting green proper will have very much better turf.

"Before I put in the trap bunkers we will do some playing over it next year, although it is not my intention to open the course to the public until July, 1909. We have been wonderfully successful with the fertilizer and grass seeds which we have put in. With a good spring, I believe our putting greens will be in good shape next fall, which will be extraordinary."


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## Notice of Summons.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, BY the grace of God, free and independent.—To Elizabeth Schaffner, widow of Peter Schaffner, deceased; Elizabetha Schaffner, a sister of said Peter Schaffner, deceased; Phillipina Huba, Herman Schaffner, Frieda Schaffner, Ernest Schaffner, Fred Schaffner, Bertha Engel, Lizzie Koenig, Amelia Van Dusen, Gertrude Schiffer, Chester A. Luff, Louise Marie Schaffner, American Surety Company of New York, and to all persons interested in the Estate of Peter Schaffner, late of the County of New York, deceased, as creditors, next of kin or otherwise, send greeting: You and each of you are hereby cited and required personally to be and appear before our Surrogate of the County of New York, at the Surrogates' Court of said County, held at the Hall of Records, in the County of New York, on the 24th day of March, 1908, at half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, then and there to attend a judicial settlement of the account of proceedings of Elizabetha Schaffner, as Administratrix of the Goods, Chattels and Credits of said deceased, and such of you as are hereby cited as are under the age of twenty-one years are required to appear by your guardian, if you have one, or if you have none, to appear and apply for one to be appointed, or in the event of your neglect or failure to do so, a guardian will be appointed by the Surrogate to represent and act for you in the proceeding. In testimony whereof, we have caused the Seal of the Surrogates' Court of the said County of New York to be hereunto affixed. Witness, Hon. ABNER C. THOMAS, a Surrogate of our said County, at the County of New York, the 21st day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight.
[L. S.]
DANIEL J. DOWDNEY, Clerk of the Surrogates' Court.
ASA A. SPEAR, Attorney for Administratrix, 79 Wall Street, New York City.

SUPREME COURT, COUNTY OF NEW YORK.—Hilma C. Mason, Plaintiff, against John Mason, Defendant. Summons. Action for separation.
To the above named Defendant:
You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer on the plaintiff's attorneys within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service; and in case of your failure to appear, or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.
Dated January 6th, 1908.
BERGEN & PRENDERGAST, Plaintiff's Attorneys, Office and Postoffice Address, No. 25 Broad St., Borough of Manhattan, New York City.
To the Defendant, John Mason:
The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Hon. Vernon M. Davis, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated the 13th day of January, 1908, filed with the complaint in the office of the Clerk of the County of New York, at the County Court House, in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York, on the 14th day of January, 1908.
Dated New York, January 16th, 1908.
BERGEN & PRENDERGAST, Plaintiff's Attorneys, Office and Postoffice Address, 25 Broad Street, Borough of Manhattan, New York City.

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