INTEREST IN BIG FIGHT.

OUTLOOK FOR TO-DAY'S CONTEST BETWEEN MAHER AND M'COY.

Sporting Delegations From Several Cities on Hand to See the Bout at Coney Island "Pittsburg Phil" Bets $15,000 on the Irishman and Makes Him Favorite.

Down by the sad sea waves this afternoon in the postless ring of the Coney Island Sporting Club Peter Maher of Ireland and Kid McCoy will meet in a twenty-five-round glove contest for a purse of $20,000. Both men are in the heavy-weight class and each is particularly desirous of victory, for such a success will land the winner close to the standard already set by Jim Jeffries, Tom Sharkey and Bob Fitzsimmons. Probably no contest, barring the Jeffries-Sharkey bout decided in the ring last November, has caused such widespread interest and speculation as this affair. Maher and McCoy appear to be so evenly matched that the shrewdest kind of calculating by the "talent" has not produced a sufficient line on the fight to mark either pugilist as a sure winner. It is for that particular reason that a man visiting various sporting resorts on Saturday night found that in some of them Maher ruled favorite at about 4 to 5, while in others McCoy was the choice at similar figures. Betting men who follow fights as closely as they study the form of racehorses say that the wagers placed on to-day's battle should be at even money, as neither Maher nor McCoy has enough advantage to shift the odds either way.

"Pittsburg Phil" thinks differently, however, and after visiting Maher's quarters yesterday, the plunger came back so favorably impressed that he bet $1,000 to $800 on the Irishman as fast as a McCoy admirer could be found to take the short end. He now stands to lose $15,000 if McCoy wins. Harry Corbett took one slice of the money, "just to cover expenses." John Kelly has $10,000 to invest on Maher at the same odds.

Jim Jeffries got into town from Connecticut yesterday, and before leaving again for Toronto, he said he wouldn't bet a cent on the result. He rather fancies Maher if it comes to a mix-up, as he thinks the Irishman is a great puncher.

The fight gives promise of being sensational and decisive. Few of the regular patrons of boxing believe that twenty-five rounds will be fought, although they know full well that such an occurrence is possible between heavy-weights, inasmuch as Jeffries and Sharkey went a similar distance. Each man says he has no doubt about winning, which is not a bluff but an evidence of supreme confidence. Maher has the reputation of making matches with men who appear to him to be easy, and in taking on McCoy, Peter figures that if the Kid couldn't go farther than ten rounds with Sharkey, a victory for Ireland is certain, for Maher rates himself pretty well alongside of Sharkey. Maher fought Sharkey, it will be remembered, at a local club in 1897, and when the police stopped proceedings in the seventh round, the opinion of the spectators as to the better man was divided. Each fighter had scored a knockdown of the cleanest kind, and each had shown wonderful hitting power and pugnacity. From that time Sharkey bounded up the pugilistic ladder until to-day he is regarded as Jeffries's only capable rival. Maher has improved a great deal, too, but not so much as the Sailor.

McCoy's fight at the Lenox Club with Sharkey last winter showed that the Kid is one of the cleverest men in the ring. As far as science goes, he is thought to be the equal of Corbett. Against Sharkey, McCoy had the easiest kind of a time for three rounds, the Sailor through some mistaken idea endeavoring to show the spectators that he could box. In this respect, McCoy made him look like a novice and in the third round he knocked Sharkey down twice with two heavy lefts on the point of the jaw. Sharkey was in worse trouble then than in any other fight during his career except, perhaps, in his go with Fitzsimmons on the coast. But McCoy could not stop him, although he extended himself as much as nature would permit. It was simply a case of not being big and strong enough to beat the Sailor down. McCoy weighed at that time about 158 pounds, while Sharkey was easily at 180 pounds. After the third round Sharkey changed his tactics, rushed into ranges like a bull, got McCoy in corners and on the ropes and literally slugged him to the floor in the eighth and tenth rounds by main strength. McCoy showed that while he could hit hard, he was unable to take a good punch without weakening, and for the latter reason he was comparatively easy for Sharkey.

This fight gave to Maher his best line on McCoy. Peter believes that he can hit harder than Sharkey and that he can use the sailor's rushing tactics and by sheer brute strength and punching ability beat McCoy into submission. He concedes the fact that McCoy is the cleverer and is also a dangerous punisher. But as Maher will have an advantage in weight just as Sharkey had, and as he believes he can attack as effectively as the sailor, he does not see how McCoy, driven into a hard defence, can do much damage.

McCoy will be heavier than ever before. Billy Muldoon has built him up so that he weighs close to 170 pounds and yet has not lost any of his noted speed and shiftiness. Maher will possibly strike the beam at about 180 pounds, although he was lighter than that the night he knocked out Joe Kennedy of California in big time at the Lenox A. C. McCoy is convinced that he was beaten by weight in the Sharkey mill. If he had not been able to build up he would not have tackled so dangerous a proposition as Maher. McCoy has a special dislike for Maher that make him feel sanguine. The Kid more than a year ago was tackled by Gus Ruhlin up at Syracuse. McCoy could not knock Ruhlin out in twenty rounds but he got a fair decision over the Akron man on points.

Some time after Ruhlin ran upagainst Maher at the Lenox A. C. in what was one of the fiercest fights ever seen here. It went the limit of twenty-five rounds and was called a draw. McCoy believes also that he has secured an even better idea of Maher's style and methods by reviewing the Irishman's fight with Choynski several years ago.

Maher differs from McCoy in almost every respect. He is older, bigger and is a harder hitter. He is not in McCoy's class as a scientist, but he is cleverer than most people believe. Peter is a rusher, a terrific puncher with both hands, and has fairly good legs. His reach is long enough to allow him to get to any fighter in the world, providing his antagonist will stand up and mix it.

McCoy, in all of his battles since he first became prominent by whipping Tommy Ryan at Masreth, has demonstrated his skill as a ring general. Except in to-day's battle, he has been close to the middleweight limit. He is faster than the average pugilist with his feet, head and hands and is one of the greatest hitters in the world for his weight and inches.

A rumor that Maher's wife was dead and that the fight would have to be postponed was circulated yesterday. To all inquiries Maher answered that his wife was in good health and that nothing could prevent him from meeting McCoy.

Both pugilists spent most of the time out of doors yesterday enjoying a rest and the fresh air. They will remain at their respective quarters until this morning, when they will go direct to Coney Island.

Sporting men from other cities who have not arrived here yet will get in this morning. The Boston delegation reached here last night and declared for Maher. Among the sports from the "Hub" are:

Tom Murray, Jack Sheehan, Patsy Kerrigan, "Happy" Jack Smith, John J. Foley, Chris McCafferty, Dan Dunnells, Dick Baxter, Dave Blanchard, Jimmy Colville, Dave Barry, Jerry Brennan, S. Keating, Johnny Sillers, Peter McGinn, Sam Clare and Jack O'Brien.

The Buffalo men also arrived. There are about fifty in the party, and all apparently are for McCoy. They propose to bet the Maher adherents to a standstill.

Philadelphia and Baltimore will be well represented. Al Herford is here with Ernce Gebhardt, Maurice Herford, Hugo Bernstein, Herman Rosenthal, Joe Gans and Jake Kilrain. They are divided on the result. The Cincinnati party, as usual, is small, but Chicago will contribute considerably to the attendance. "Parson" Davies, Frank Hutchinson, J. McLoughlin, P. Conley, Leavitt, T. Henderson and J. Sinclair arrived last night. They say that McCoy is the choice of the Windy City.

At Corbett's yesterday the visitors gathered in large numbers. The former champion was kept busy acting as stakeholder and is now holding, he says, about $23,000 in wagers. Corbett declares that this fight is one of the best betting events he can recall for many years. Sylvie Warren took the short end of $500 to $375 on McCoy with J. Lyons of Savannah. Jack Murphy bet $100 even on McCoy with S. Davis, and T. Henshaw $500 to $400 on Maher with M. Brooks of San Francisco.

A good deal of Maher money was invested at the Imperial Hotel yesterday. Archie Hopper bet $1,000 to $700 with Dominick O'Connell of Pittsburg on Maher. At the Hotel Rivers Charlie Mahoney said last night that he holds $25,000 in bets.

Jimmy Wakely will be a heavy loser if McCoy is defeated to-day. This far Wakely has invested $5,000. He says he has not reached his limit and expects to back McCoy for half as much more this afternoon at the clubhouse. On Saturday night Frank Keeney at the Hotel Rivers bet for a Wall Street broker $2,000 to $2,800 on McCoy. Keeney also got down two lots of $300 even on McCoy for some Hartford friends.

The Montreal sports, who are hot enthusiasts of McCoy, arrived last night. In the party were Jack Humphreys, George O'Neil, "Tip" O'Neil, the old baseball player; Willie Kennedy, Johnnie Kennedy and S. Brookes. All are backing the Kid.

Brooklyn Jimmy Carroll backed Maher yesterday to the extent of $2,500 even. Sheriff Maloy of Westchester was said to be the taker. George Considine placed $2,200 to $2,800 on McCoy Saturday. Considine has $5,000 more from some Detroit sports to bet on McCoy today. Billy Edwards placed $3,000 against $4,190 on McCoy at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Saturday night. Al Smith at the Gilsey House yesterday received a commission of $2,500 to place on Maher.

Three Knockouts in the National's Ring.

There was good fighting at the National A.C., Brooklyn, on Saturday night and a big crowd of spectators witnessed the sport. Joe Ward was the referee. The first bout was between Kid Smith and Joe Sullivan, both of Brooklyn. The latter never was in the hunt, and Smith knocked him out in the first round with a right hand hook on the jaw. Time 1 minute 11 seconds. In the second bout Alf Levey of New York and Jimmy Lewis of Brooklyn crossed arms for ten rounds at 115 pounds. This was a give and take fight from the start. After fighting two minutes and fifteen seconds of the sixth round, Levey put the right on the jaw and Lewis went down and out. In the third bout Kid Holden and Billy Hatten, both of New York, met. Holden jabbed his man hard and often about the ribs and face, and knocked Hatten out in two minutes and ten seconds of the second round. The event of the night was a hot give and take fight for ten rounds between "Black Griffo" of New York and Bob Dwyer, who met at 135 pounds. This go went the limit and was declared a draw. An extra bout between Jack Derricks of Brooklyn and Kid Lyons of New York, at catch-weights, also resulted in a daw.

Gossip of the Ring.

Constant Reader, Newark.—He was knocked down only once, and that was in his contest with the "Kentucky Rosebud."

Al Herford, Joe Gans's manager, says: "I understand that Frank Erne is going to retire after his battle with Jack O'Brien. If this is the case Gans, who has challenged the winner, will fight any other lightweight should Erne prove successful. The only bout Joe has on at present is the one with George McFadden."

Leo Pardelli, the Italian wrestler, called at THE SUN office last night and stated that he would like to have another chance at George Bothner of the Pastime A. C., whom Pardello failed to throw the other night. The latter says he has a backer who will wager $500 on his chances the next time if Bothner makes a return match.

Prof. Jimmy Kelly has received a cable despatch from a friend in Birmingham, England, to the effect that a club in that city will offer a purse of $3,000 for a match between Eddie Connolly and Johnny Hughes, the English lightweight champion. The club wants to pull off the battle in February. Kelly has accepted and is waiting for further particulars.

Dr. B. New York.—They met three times. The first contest was to a finish at Coney Island on Dec. 8, 1892. Goddard knocked Maher out in three rounds. Their second tilt was at Philadelphia on May 13, 1898. It was for six rounds. Goddard put Maher out in the first round. Their third and last encounter was at the Lenox A. C. on July 8, 1898. Maher was victorious in eight rounds.

R. S. P. V., New York.—They fought three times. The first match was for ten rounds. It took place in New York on Dec. 5, 1895, and resulted in a draw. The second mill was held at the Broadway A. C. on Nov. 27, 1896. It was for twenty rounds and Erne received the decision. Their last meeting was at the same club on April 7, 1897. Erne received the verdict after twenty-five rounds.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

The Cold Weather Had No Effect on the Followers of the Trail Yesterday.

Despite the cold weather yesterday, the various local cross-country clubs held their regularly scheduled trips. In the teeth of an easterly wind that set the teeth of the spectators chattering, John J. O'Brien dashed over the line at Sixty-fifth street and Fourth avenue, Bay Ridge, the winner of the Hamilton A. C. run. It was a big pack of athletes that braved the cold air over a course five miles long. There was a good pace all the way set by the whip, John McKenney and William Gregory. In the sprint for home O'Brien beat out David King, who finished second, and who was followed by Owen Jenkins, Thomas F. Good, Albert Longman, David McAvoy, Thomas B. French, Henry L. Johns, William H. Hopkins, James W. Reynders and Frederick J. Grant, in order named. Time, 47 minutes 31 seconds.

There was quite a turnout of the members and guests of the Glendale Harriers at the weekly run of that club from the headquarters at Glendale, L. I. The course was about five miles long and over some of the roughest country in and about Glendale, Ridgewood and adjacent territory. Thomas A. McAvoy of Evergreen A. A. was first home after a great race with H. M. Turner, his club mate, who was followed over the line by William H. Davis, and he, in turn, was chased home by James A. Gladwish, both of the Glendale Harriers. Thomas McCormack, Edward Carson, John Williams, Edward Bernard, Louis B. Post, Frederick McGahey, Edwin B. Andrews, Philip Hone, Robert McLearey, John D. Berbier, Samuel Strange, Anthony C. McJames, Paul L. Sommers and George W. McArdle were the other finishers, in the order named. Time, 48 minutes.

Twenty-six hardy athletes turned out for the weekly invitation run of the Star A. C. from the clubhouse in Long Island City. The course was a trifle over five miles long. Al. Hammarth led the slow division five miles in advance of the fast pack. Robert W. Kennedy went away at the head of the fast division, cutting out a stiff pace. He slowly forged up on the tailenders and romped home an easy winner. R. D. White gave Kennedy the best race of the bunch. The finish was as follows:

Robert W. Kennedy, Fast Pack, first; William H. Murphy, Slow Pack, second; F. Hussey, Fast Pack, third; R. D. White, Fast Pack, fourth; J. Lee, Fast Pack, fifth; J. J. Mulligan, Slow Pack, sixth; J. Hampton, Slow Pack, seventh; J. J. Cronin, Fast Pack, eighth; William H. Hugg, Fast Pack, ninth; William H. Rafferty, Slow Pack, tenth; J. H. Shevlin, Fast Pack, eleventh; Thomas F. Hickey, Fast Pack, twelfth; D. J. Lynch, Slow Pack, thirteenth; Al Hammarth, Slow Pack, fourteenth; J. H. Pendier, fifteenth. Time, 31 minutes.

John C. Doyle and Capt. Chris Kenney were the "hares" in the paper chase of the Brooklyn A. C. at Maspeth. They laid a course about seven miles long. The finish was as follows:

J. H. H. O'Keefe, first; Otto Mampe, second; William H. Classen, third; J. H. Pulaski, fourth; Frank Veres, fifth; William H. Eder, sixth; Frank Sheridan, seventh; William H. Cotter, eighth; Henry Sneider, ninth; Herman Dreiban, tenth; Chared Debrow, eleventh; Henry Classen, twelfth; John Wherele, thirteenth; John H. Broderick, fourteenth; Warren, Travis, fifteenth. Time, 56 minutes 1¾ seconds.

Tremaine Forbes, W. F. Horn, Eugene H. Whitlach, Dan McMahon, H. G. Lawton and J. H. O'Keefe finished in the order named yesterday at the cross-country run of the Sea View Harriers at Bay Ridge. The course was five miles long. It was a good pace all the way, Forbes outfooting the pack in the last few strides. Time, 38 minutes 27½ seconds.

Hurling and Football.

About 500 spectators shivered with cold yesterday afternoon in the grand stand at Celtic Park watching a game of Gaelic football and one of hurling. The Young Irelands and Mahers were pitted against each other at hurling. The former won by the score of 12 to 2. Sullivan and Hinchy, goal and full back of the Irelands, put up a fine game of interference and blocked many good puts. Feeney, centre for the Irelands, played the star game, and made nine points in the second half. Keating of the Mahers was seriously hurt during the first half. He and James Leopard came into collision. The latter gave Keating a terrific hit with his hurley, throwing him headlong on the ground. The back of Keating's right hand was torn open by contact with the hard ground. Henshay, Carey and Barney Ryan collided near the middle of the field in the first half. Henshay and Carey were knocked out for several minutes.

In the football game the Sarsfields and Emeralds were the contestants. After playing one hour the result was a tie, each side having scored two points. Crowley of the Sarsfields and Tuohy of the Emeralds had a lively set-to. They were separated by the referee. Tuohy made the first point, kicking the goal from the twenty-yard line with three players interfering with him. Shannon of the Emeralds kicked the ball from the forty-yard line. Sullivan, at goal, attempted to catch it. In doing so he stepped over the line and a point was credited to the Emeralds. Shannon shortly afterward kicked another point for his team. Ryan for the Sarsfields made the last point a moment before the referee's whistle was blown. After the game, Capt. Lawrence Foley of the Robert Emmet football team of Bridgeport, challenged the Garryowens for a game. The doll was accepted.

Kicking Indoors.

The Potomac Field Club football team and an eleven from the United States School Ship St. Mary's lined up in the big arena of the American Horse Exchange on Saturday night. The boys from the school ship were a little bit slow in getting on to the indoor style of play, but when they got started did well. The score was 12 to 6 in favor of the Potomac's. The opening game between the second teams of the Potomac and St. Mary's was won by the former by the score of 42 to 0.

Why Does The Sun

believe that it is especially adapted to do your advertising? Because in all New York there is no man of property, no man of real substance, no citizen of standing and of honorable ambition who does not read THE SUN.—*Adv.*

FINE SPORT ON THE ROAD.

SPEEDWAY IN GOOD CONDITION AND MANY HORSES OUT.

Sir Eld and Island Belle Divide the Honors With Col. F. N. Lawrence's Lottie—Last Brush of the Year Was Between Dundess and Madison Chief—Newcomers.

With the mercury hovering around the 20 mark and the wind whistling up the Harlem Valley at a clip which the fastest horse in town could hardly equal, there was rare sport at Speedway Park yesterday morning. To the surprise of many persons who had not visited the speeding ground within a week, they found the surface of the road as smooth as a billiard table. It was frozen, of course, and accordingly was rather too hard, the hoof beats of the horses ringing out with an almost metallic bing! bing! bing bing! when the flyers moved at speed. But a road fit for speeding in the dead of winter was such a novelty and a treat to the men who drive trotters that they were not disposed to be very critical.

One of the notable features of the day was a series of brushes between W. R. Rose's cross-matched pacing team, Sir Eld, 2:14¾, and Island Belle, 2:24¾, and Col. F. N. Lawrence's rangy, big chestnut trotting mare, Lottie, 2:29¾, by Look, the sire of the dam of Praytell, 2:09¾. The pacers were in fine form, but so was the mare, and the contest for supremacy was one of the bestever seen on the Speedway. Before Rose turned his team in company with Lottie, he had warmed them up in a rattling brush with Dr. H. D. Gill's great pacer, Jack, 2:12¾. Col. Lawrence's mare had likewise got thawed out in a tilt against Charles C. Lloyd's chestnut golding, Richard B., 2:21¾, by Elyria, so that all three horses were in shape to do their best. At the first trial of speed the team got a lead of about a length near the start and they held it all the way to the point of rocks where the brush ended. Col. Lawrence had missed the mark by such a narrow margin, and his mare was moving so fast and true, that he wanted to try it over again. Rose consented and the three horses walked slowly back to Dyckman street for another brush. This time they got away on even terms, apparently, but the Island Belle was at the front wheels of Rose's wagon as the contending flyers shot past the end of the stone wall, about half a mile from the start. Col. Lawrence, who is called one of the best reinsmen in New York, called on the big chestnut trotter for more and more speed until she was going on her tiptoes, on a loose line, all out. Young Rose shook up the pacers at every stride, keeping them strung out to the utmost limit of their speed. Once the mare made a slight riffle, but she was back on her stride going faster than ever after a revolution or two. So close was the contest that nobody in the crowd near the half-mile post could see which was ahead until the two drivers began to pull up near the bridge. As they slowed down, and Lottie swung over to the western curb, she crossed in front of the pacing team, and then the sidewalk watchers up the road knew she had won the brush.

The last brush of the day and of the year brought together the two well-known trotters, Madison Chief, 2:17¼, owned by Michael Reid, and Dundess, 2:23¾, owned by Benjamin Zahn. The meeting came about in this way: The owner of Madison Chief had invited a friend to try his hand behind the gelding. Reid meanwhile joining some friends on the sidewalk. With the strange driver up, the handsome little bay horse tried to pass Dundess and Jack Blackburn, Miller's brown trotter Jim Dandy, 2:27¾, coming down the road and failed to do it. Then Reid got in to see what he could do. Jim Dandy did not join in this brush. From the bend in the road to the foot of the hill Dundess and Madison Chief trotted almost neck and neck, the big bay mare having a slight lead all the way. She was still in front as Zahn pulled up, but as he took her back before reaching the point of rocks little Madison Chief was the first to pass the goal. Dundess was not once decisively beaten yesterday. Before her brush with Madison Chief she outfooted W. J. Clark's speedy brown pacing mare Hallie Stranger, 2:31¼, by Hal Willard, hailing from Worcester, Mass., and shed away from Lawrence Schlosser's superb-looking gray pacing mare Mary A., 2:25¾, in a short, sharp brush of about a furlong, approaching the bridge.

Mary A. is a newcomer on the Speedway and is one of the handsomest of harness horses, with grace and beauty in every line of her contour. She is a large dapplied gray mare by Geo. Wilkes, she was bred from New Jersey. Although her record is not up to the standard, it is said she has paced half a mile in 1:06. That her driver had confidence in her speed appeared when he started her with Dr. H. D. Gill's noted sidewheeler Jack, 2:12¾. The shapely big bay gelding defeated her, but he had to go some to do it. Another newcomer that proved to be a notable addition to the list of Speedway flyers was J. Blackburn Miller's Jim Dandy, 2:27¾, by Madison. This trotter is an Orange county product. He is a wiry, brown gelding of medium size, with white feet, and he displayed speed enough yesterday to make it interesting for Dundess, 2:23¾, one of the best trotters on the Speedway. In a second brush the new horse essayed the difficult task of measuring strides with the bay trotter Iago, 2:11, formerly driven on the road in Cleveland by D. R. Hanna, the son of Senator Hanna. Iago was hooked to a cart, while Jim Dandy pulled an ordinary road wagon. The horse from Cleveland won the brush with a burst of speed after a spirited contest. No sooner had the two horses gone back up the road than Miller again tried to beat the trotter with a record of 2:11. In this bout Iago showed clearly that he was more than a match for Jim Dandy, fast and steady-going as the latter horse is.

Newcomers were numerous on the Speedway yesterday. R. R. Moyer introduced a good one in the bay pacer, Peter H., by Geo. B. F. Tracy's gallant old trotting sire, Kentucky Wilkes, 2:21¾. Peter H. is without any public record, although he has shown great speed in private, and is known to be capable of turning a mile track in 2:15 or better. He was handicapped yesterday by having to pull a heavy pneumatic wagon. In the two brushes in which he took part Myers tackled two of the fastest trotters on the Speedway. One of them was Iago, who was hooked to a pneumatic cart. Peter H. tried hard to head this fast trotter, but was not quite equal to the task.

W. F. Steele of Chicago, who used to own the great champion trotter Alix, 2:09¾, now driven on the Speedway by G. W. Grote, held the ribbons over a brown pacing mare called Emma M., that was a stranger to most of those who saw her. Like Peter H. she is without a record, but has paced three furlongs in her work at Hartford last year in 0:45—a 2:00 gait. Charles C. Lloyd tried to beat her with the chestnut trotter, Richard B., 2:21¾, but quickly found that he was going against one of the fastest pacers ever seen on the Speedway.

Bernard Zahn, who owns three or four fast ones, drove the black trotter Ebony, and won a hard-fought contest with Mr. Durando's bay trotter Clarence, 2:29¾, by Pilot Medium. Both horses were hooked to high-wheel road wagons and Clarence was further handicapped by having two heavyweight passengers behind him. The load anchored him. After lighting it out for a quarter of a mile he made a break. D. Blanchard of Palmer, Mass., attracted a good deal of attention along the road with his brown trotting mare, Lillina, 2:20, by Launcelot, hooked to a three-wheeled pneumatic wagon. The mare has lately been brought to New York and it was her first appearance on the Speedway. She took part in only one brush, showing in this a clean pair of heels to the brown trotting stallion Rhylander, by Leland, a horse that looks not a little like the champion pacing stallion Star Pointer, 1:59¼.

A. B. Gwathmey, President of the Cotton Exchange, rode behind his new road mare, the little chestnut trotter Louise Mac, 2:09¾, by Little Corporal, son of Onward. He did not take part in any of the brushes, but sent his Grand Circuit winner along alone with a show of pure action and brilliant speed which called forth many expressions of admiration. Frederick Dietz drove the noted pacer Bessie Bonehill, 2:05¼, to a road cart, but did not start her up. The white mare is in foal to Mr. Dietz's black stallion Director's Jug, 2:20½, whose sire is Director, the sire of Directum, 2:05¼, and whose dam produced Brown Hal, 2:12, the sire of Star Pointer, 1:59¾. Charles Welland, who has owned four road horses with records below 2:10, drove his bay trotter Russell T., 2:22¾. George A. Coleman drove up behind the big chestnut pacing mare Marvinia, 2:24¾, but had the ill-luck to lose his morning drive through the bursting of a tire just after he arrived at the speeding ground. F. Pflueckinger was out with the brown pacer Dan S., 2:25¼, and won three or four good brushes. Ned Harlan's turnout was a sort of symphony in sealskin. He drove a seal-brown trotter called Black Diamond, and was clad in sealskin cap, gloves and overcoat, with a big, luxurious sealskin laprobe spread over his knees.

T. R. McMann, a son of the old-time horseman, James D. McMann, owner of Flora Temple, 2:18¾, drove the gray gelding Bachelor Boy, 2:25¼, and Melville C. Boynton was out with his dainty little gray mare, Brunhilde, 2:17¼.

Curling.

The Grand National Curling Club, at a recent meeting arranged the schedule of important annual contests as follows:

Jan. 9—North vs. South of Scotland, for Dalrymple medal and other trophies. Van Cortlandt Lake.

Jan. 24—Champion rink, Gordon medal. Hoboken.

Jan. 24 to Feb. 7—Scots vs. Nationalities for the McGlashan medal. Hoboken.

Feb. 7—Bonspiel for challenge cup and four gold medals. Hoboken.

The events for which dates have yet to be fixed are

Interstate match—New York vs. New Jersey, for the Hamilton medal.

Champion Club match for Mitchell medal, at St. Paul, Minn.

International two-rink match for Gordon medal, Canada vs. United States, at Utica.

GOSSIP OF THE HARNESS HORSES.

Talk About a $20,000 Trotting Race at Boston Next Year.

The Massachusetts Purse for trotters of the 2:13 class at the Boston Grand Circuit meeting will probably be raised to $20,000 in 1900. The New England Breeders' Association wish to make it the richest and most important event of the year on the trotting turf. The Massachusetts was established in 1896 as a $5,000 purse, and was doubled in value last year. It is a subscription purse, in which horsemen are not required to designate their starters until two or three weeks before the date of starting, and is not one of the races against which the owners of trotters are threatening to boycott: Last season there were nineteen subscribers to the $10,000 race, eighteen of whom made the final payment and named starters. Horse owners thus contributed something more than $11,000 in entrance fees and received $10,000 of it back after a seven-heat race had been trotted.

Although C. K. G. Billings's great pacer, Bumps, 2:03¾, never was considered to be a really game, lasting racehorse, he won $19,295 while on the turf. Starting in forty-eight races, he was eighteen times first, thirteen times second, nine times third, six times fourth and twice unplaced. The average time of the seventy-three heats which he won was 2:10¼. In 1897 he paced twenty heats, at an average of 2:07. It is not generally known that Warden Addison Johnson of Sing Sing Prison owned Bumps when Dick Wilson campaigned him with so much success in New England and the Grand Circuit. In a letter to the *Trotter and Pacer* Warden Johnson states that up to the time he purchased the horse Bumps had always been wintered in a poorly-constructed small box stall, where he was kept unblanketed and without exercise. To this fact he attributes the lack of stamina sometimes exhibited by the speedy pacer, as the horse always went into the trainer's hands poorly fitted to begin his track work.

H. M. Hanna has decided to retire his crack trotting mare Mattie Patterson, 2:09¾, from the turf and use her hereafter for road driving and wagon racing at the matinées of the Cleveland Driving Club. The handsome daughter of Vilander cost the Cleveland sportsman about $7,500 last year. Although somewhat under size she is said to be a ripper to wagon and her owner hopes to see her beat the champion record of Grace Hastings at that way of going in 1900.

William Simpson of this city is transferring a large part of his Empire City Stud from Cuba, N. Y., to the blue-grass region of Kentucky. Last year he sent the young trotting stallion Hummer, the sire of Bouncer, 2:06¼, to Versailles, and he lately shipped twenty-eight choice brood mares there to be bred to Hummer. Another lot of trotters has lately been sent from the Empire City Farm to Terre Haute. Most of these animals are undeveloped youngsters that George Starr will train and perhaps campaign for the New York breeder next year.

Joe Hicks, the colored Boston horseman, whose testimony afforded so much amusement at the recent meeting of the Board of Review, has disclosed the hiding place of the now noted pacer, Dandy O., 2:12¾, alias Dr. D., and has sold him to E. J. Barry of South Boston, who is driving him on the road.

Barney Demarest, who, like M. E. McHenry, Jack Curry and Andy McDowell, has become a New Yorker since the Speedway started the new boom in trotters hereabout, has purchased the chestnut mare Ruth Wilkes, 2:15, by Emperor Wilkes. This mare won seven of the nine races in which she started last season, cutting her record down from 2:19¼ to 2:15. On the mile track at McKee's Rocks, Pa., she trotted three heats in 2:15¼ each. Demarest bought her from Edward Gray and Capt. Ellis of Pittsburg. It is said that she will be sent to Europe and campaigned there next year.

The Russian Government has completed at the trotting track in Moscow what is said to be the most costly grand stand in the world. It is a three-decker, 300 feet long and 150 feet wide, with a glass front to protect the occupants from the cold. It is built of stone and brick and cost 1,000,000 roubles or about $500,000, according to report.

President Douglas Offers to Buy the Louisville Track.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 31.—President Douglas of the Louisville Fair and Driving Association has made an offer to the stockholders for their stock and it can be said that after Jan. 10 he will own the entire trotting track plant and there will be no more association. Louis Seelbach, representing all the other stockholders, will meet Douglas on Jan. 10 and complete the deal. In explaining why Douglas sought to acquire a clear title to all the property, Secretary Frank Kenney says that Douglas wanted to be in a position to accept one of several offers which he had for the track.

"A number of persons are after the track," said Kenney, "and Douglas wants to be able to deal with them without having to call a meeting of the stockholders. I feel sure that a meeting of some sort will be held on the track next year. In fact, there may be two meetings, one in the spring and one in the fall."

Jockey Burns Suspended.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—Judges Hopper, Price and Murphy of the California Jockey Club indefinitely suspended Jockey Tommy Burns yesterday afternoon for his refusal to ride Sly in the last race. These judges are the License Committee of the American Turf Congress and they declare that Burns's license shall be revoked. The latter was under engagement to J. F. Schorr. Burns & Waterhouse had second call on his services, and the trainer of that stable has had the placing of all Burns's mounts. He arranged for that jockey to ride Sly to-day. Jockey Thorpe refused to ride Dr. Sheppard in the fifth race, but the judges sent in a peremptory order and Thorpe rode. Jockey Songer was suspended for getting left on Scotch Plaid.

The Card for New Orleans To-day.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 31.—The New Year opens at the Crescent City track this afternoon with five well-filled events including a special handicap. The entries are as follows:

First Race—Selling, one mile and seventy yards—Debride, 116; Chicopee and Barataria, 110; Traveller, 107; Manlius, What Next and Frank McConnell, 105; Eldad and Lennep, 102; Free Lady and Can I See 'Em, 100; Miss Rose, Miss Dooley and School Girl, 97. Chonita, 92.

Second Race—One mile—Magic Light and Chickamauga, 110; Barney F., Sorrel Rose and Little Smoke, 105; Jodee, The Bobby and Frangible, 102; Kitty G. and Miserikord a, 100; Lunar, 95.

Third Race—Selling, one mile and five furlongs—Pan Charm, 114; Ebenezer, 109; Admetus, 106; Our Nellie, 105; Sunburst, 104; Shintana, 102; Fresco, 101; False Lead, 99; Jennie F., 98.

Fourth Race—New Year's Handicap, one mile—Prince of Veronia, 112; Miss Mae Day, Florizar and Red Cross II., 109; Dissolute, 105; Tom Gilmore, 104; Silver Coin, 102; Tickful, 96.

Fifth Race—Selling, one mile—Old Fox, Mouzelton and Col. Eades, 101; Bright Night, 99; Waterhouse and Uhlers, 96; Juanetta and Acushla, 94.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

Private W. H. Palmer, Jr., Wins the Seventh Regiment Diamond Badge.

W. H. Palmer won the coveted diamond badge of the Seventh Regiment Rifle Club for standing and prone bullseye shooting on Saturday night. Prizes were awarded to the winners in both styles of shooting, and the maker of the most bullseyes in the two matches got the badge for the year. In the standing competition Sergt. R. M. Kalloch equalled Palmer's score of six out of a possible ten bullseyes, but the latter had the best target and was declared the winner. Private Palmer was in great form at prone shooting, and after making ten straight bulls, shot three more before he missed. The following are the scores:

Bullseyes, Standing—Private W. H. Palmer, Jr., Company G, 6; Sergt. R. M. Kalloch, N. C. S., 6; Private W. M. Phillips, Company D, 5.

Bullseyes, Prone—Private W. H. Palmer, Jr., Company G, 12; Sergt. R. M. Kalloch, N. C. S., 9; Corporal E. S. Coy, Company D, 9.

Private H. Pinner, Company B, qualified as a sharpshooter with the following score: 200 yards, 34; 500 yards, 31.

The annual championship shoot of the Twenty-second Regiment Rifle Club was held on the Armory ranges on Saturday night. The conditions were 14 shots, seven standing and seven prone, at 200 and 500 yards. There were several withdrawals just before the match was started, but the twelve who accepted the conditions were the crack shots of the regiment. Christopher Levine of Company G won. The scores made by the first three were: Christopher Levine, Company G, 31, 35—66; Frederick Wendel, Company H, 32, 32—64; Lieut. Moses, battalion Adjutant, 28, 34—62. Besides the championship emblem there were three prizes for the winners.

Baseball Note.

The games in the Armory Baseball Association series on Saturday night resulted as follows: At Second Signal Corps, Brooklyn, Signal Corps, 15; Thirteenth Regiment, 8. Awarded to the Signal Corps players on the Thirteenth's withdrawal in the fifth inning. At Ninth Regiment, New York Second Naval Battalion, 12; Ninth Regiment, 14. At Twelfth Regiment, New York Twelfth Regiment, 23; Seventy-first Regiment, 16.

NEW YEAR GOLF VIEWS.

INTERPRETATION OF ST. ANDREW'S RULES MAY BE ADOPTED.

The Revised Code of Scotland's Leading Club Likely to Find Favor at the U. S. G. A. Annual Meeting—Innovation at the Links of the Nassau Country Club.

Undoubtedly the greatest event in golf in this country during the past year was the winning of the amateur championship by a homebred player, an event that in 18 d even such an enthusiast in the development of the game here as the late Theodore A. Havemeyer deemed an impossibility until 1901 at least. The victory was enhanced, too, by being a well-earned one, for Harriman, during the first six months of the season, as the records will show, was playing in more brilliant style than any amateur in the country, Douglas included. Travis, reckoned by the number of successes, outranked Harriman in the spring, but at neither the Metropolitan nor the National championships did he win out, although Harriman only beat him after a tie in the semi-finals for Metropolitan honors. This year it may be expected that the homebred players will show an advance in form down the entire list, from the seasoned veterans and collegians to the schoolboys.

A New Year's wish that all golfers will reecho is, that those who last year were reckoned almost sure to make a score of 80 to 90, may this year be counted on for a 70 to 80 on every trial. Another phase of the old year's golf was the growth of subordinate associations to the U. S. G. A., based on State or geographical lines. At a similar ratio of progress it will be possible, in the near future, to settle the vexing matter of the overcrowding of the amateur championship by some plan under which only the best players in the minor associations may enter for the national event. At the annual meeting of the U. S. G. A., in February, it may be expected that the new St. Andrew's rules will be formally adopted. They are better than the old ones in conciseness and directions, and while more in accord with the American requirements, it will probably be necessary to have the new rules interpreted fully for our players, in the exhaustive manner in which Messrs. Curtis and Macdonald explained and amplified the old rules. An instance that bears out this anticipation is in the matter of mud on a ball, a state of things possibly more frequent here than on the links abroad. The new rules only state: "Mud adhering to a ball shall not be considered as making it unfit for play." By implication this even forbids players by mutual consent to remove mud from a ball even on the putting green. Except in a hazard it is proper to be only just to permit the cleansing of the ball by hand and to replace it without penalty.

To-day, in honor of the holiday, there will be competitive play at the two Lakewood links, the open tournament being continued and the annual handicap being at the Golf Club, and at the Baltusrol, Nassau, Atlantic City, Richmond County and Crescent links. This is a "Norther" blowing the play on all links, whether formal or informal, should be very enjoyable.

An innovation at the Nassau Country Club is to have the cop bunkers shaped on a curve, in half-moon style, the outer edge of the circle facing the line of play. The center of the bunkers is also lower than the ends, and the sand traps follow the curve of the cop. The idea is that a straight ball will have the shorter carry, and it going fast it will have a fair chance to bound over. The player who slices or pulls will not only have to negotiate a longer carry, but he will also get the chance of the ball going over, for, aside from the extra height on the ends, the curve of the bunker has the effect of deflecting the ball and rolling it back into the trap. Hit true on the sloped cop in the centre the ball will bound forward, but hit on the curve the rebound will be in a slanting direction and the odds are greatly against the ball getting over.

In the recent open tournament at the Presidio Club, near San Francisco, for the amateur championship of the Pacific