WITH THE HARNESS HORSES

GEORGE KETCHEM TALKS ABOUT AMATEUR DRIVERS AND THEIR TROUBLES.

The Owner and Handler of the Champion Trotting Stallion Sues Club Races Should Be Confined to Members Rochester May Enter the Grand Circuit This Year.

George Ketchem of Toledo, owner and driver of the champion trotting stallion Cresceus, 2:07¼, is not in sympathy with the Amateur League of Driving Clubs. In a talk with a friend he said that, in his opinion, amateur reinsmen were not only wasting a lot of time, but were opening the way for a great deal of trouble.

"All this talk and trouble," Ketchem further said, "started as soon as the amateurs undertook to go outside of the legitimate channels of amateur driving clubs. The field of such a club is strictly a local one, and to reach the highest success should be confined to contests of speed among its own members. Just as soon as they begin to have interclub matches, they treat in the footsteps of the professional and the regular racing associations. The result is easy to see. The League of Amateur Driving Clubs is built on the same lines as the American and National Trotting Associations. Look at the intercity contest at Boston last fall. The trotting associations were compelled to put a curb on the ambitions of the overzealous amateur drivers by deciding that a record made by a horse in public was a record, as in the case of the Cleveland stallion, John A. McKerron. That decision put a damper on the flame of the amateurs, but they brought it on themselves.

"Take the Toledo club, for instance. The members of that organization do not support it for the racing features. They lend their aid, because in doing so they feel that they are contributing to the general welfare of the city. They are encouraging the ownership of good horses and fine turnouts and at the same time providing a series of cleanly conducted sports for themselves and their friends. That, I believe, is the true province of an amateur driving club."

The report that Columbus would not be in the Grand Circuit is denied by Secretary Conrade, who writes that the city will not only be an applicant for dates in the Grand Circuit as usual, but will offer more money than the association has ever offered before in stakes and purses. The Columbus association is game and there never was a thought of abandoning the big circuit.

James A. Murphy is driving his horses on the snow at Chicago, and they are showing their heels to about everything they run up against. Amy Wilkes is going fast and steady and has not been beaten since her return to that city. The old warhorse Mohican defeated I. J. M., driven by Ira F. Mix, three times the other day. The Chicago Speedway extends from Thirty-fifth to Thirty-ninth street on the Grand Boulevard.

Among the stallions in the stud in Austria that have gone from this country are Que Allen, 2:09¾, by Champion Medium, 2:07¼, by Highwood; B. L. Robinson, 2:17¼, by Enablet; Prince Warwick, by Alcona; Robert Lee, 2:18, by Alcantara, and Wilbur M., by Wilton.

F. G. Schmidt, who missed a great deal of the fall and winter driving by reason of his collision with a runaway saddle horse in the Park, is anxiously waiting for a good road to test the speed of the sidewheelers on the Harlem River drive. His black pacer, Excellence, 2:18¼, is being logged on the Park roads every morning and never was in better shape for fast work. He is one of the most level-headed roadsters and can go a mile much faster than his record indicates. Mr. Schmidt's enforced retirement from the brushing brigade for a few months has made him keen for a dash around the bend against something fast.

Mart Demarest returned to New York yesterday from New Jersey, where he went to attend the funeral of his father.

It is rumored in horse circles that George Bodimer, the former Austrian trainer, has been reinstated by the Vienna Trotting Club and will campaign a stable on the Austrian turf this year. Bodimer, it will be remembered, was expelled about two years ago for foul driving in the Derby, which is the great futurity event on the trotting turf in that country. Since then he has been training for Count Potocki, owner of Cadi, 2:07¼, and several other American-bred trotters. It is said that Bodimer will drive for the Count. The Vienna club is severe on infractions of its rules, and it does not hesitate to fine or suspend those who are found guilty of violating them.

There is a probability that Rochester will again be seen in the line of Grand Circuit cities this year. Several prominent horsemen there are of the opinion that a properly managed meeting would pay handsomely. A one-day special meeting held in 1899 at which John R. Gentry, Joe Patchen and Searchlight competed, attracted a far greater crowd than the promoters looked for. It is understood that if racing is revived at Rochester, and Grand Circuit dates applied for, C. F. Chase, owner of the pacer, Connor, 2:03¾, will be at the head of the movement. With Albany horsemen also talking about dates, as well as Syracuse and Cincinnati, and a slight prospect for New York, it will be a royal Grand Circuit indeed, if all realize their wishes.

One of the best entered three-year-old trotters in this country is Neville Gradly, by Ondale, son of Onward, dam Gracie N., by Crittenden. He is eligible to start in $51,500 worth of stakes. Gus Macey says that as a two-year-old this colt could have beaten 2:20.

Last fall at the Parkway meeting, when Will Dickerson drove Joe Patchen a rather indifferently rated exhibition mile, there was a rumor that he was to supersede his brother, John Dickerson, as trainer and driver of the Parkway Farm string. It now transpires that Honest John has resigned as trainer of the stable, and Will is in charge. In Harness, T. F. Tracy, Marion and Stud, Orange county, commencing Feb. 1.

Myron E. McHenry, the "thunderbolt finisher," who drove several races for James Butler last season, is at Chicago getting horses together for a public stable, which he will train this year.

It is reported that there will be no public meeting at Belmont Park, Philadelphia, this year. The directors of the driving club controlling it propose to hold matinees for members only.

The pacers Red Lawn and Neta B., were driven through the Park for a short time yesterday by Jack Curry. He cut them loose just enough on one of the stretches to show that no pacing team driven on the Speedway has a license to beat them. They go well together, are level headed, and are not quick to break.

Both the Gentlemen's Driving Club of Boston and the New England Trotting Horse Breeders' Association have passed resolutions expressing regret at the decision of the Board of Review of the N. T. A. in declaring the time made by John A. McKerron, 2:10, at the matinée races at Boston last fall, a record. They also ask the board to grant a rehearing of the case at the May meeting at Chicago.

The Lawson stable is wintering at Charter Oak Park, Hartford. The quarters are in the long barn next to the hippodrome, and at the west end of the track. There are twenty-four head of horses, including the great Beralma, the much-touted green horse Bagwa and the queerly named Beralma's Brother, that according to the Register Association will have to be changed.

Charles E. Reed, the well known Western trainer and driver, is located at the McDonald stables with two fast horses belonging to L. S. Painter of Menominee, Wis., proprietor of Oakland Stock Farm. Mr. Painter was here with the expectation of finding the Speedway good enough to warrant his sending down a pacer and a trotter to be trained and raced. He has a pacer and trotter that will make it interesting for the sulky tracks. One is a black pacing gelding by Dictator, dam Firelwood; Minnie A., by Hambletonian. He was raced last year, but he showed enough to be able to win in fast company. The other is a green gelding by Oakland Baron, dam Wilkes, by Baron Wilkes, second dam, Alice Mac, by Sherwood, a trial mile in 2:14 flat.

Skating.

At the Clermont avenue rink, Brooklyn, last night a half-mile skating race in heats, a one-mile handicap and a 2-hour race were the attractions. Summaries: [illegible]

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Inclosed is a challenge to skate a team relay race against the Fifth Avenue Club during the next Ladies' Day at the Grenoble Avenue Rink during the next two weeks.

CHARLES C. EARL.

HEFFLEY SCHOOL, Ryerson street, Brooklyn.

NEW YORK A. C. VETERANS DINE.

Portraits of the Late W. B. Curtis and Harry E. Buermeyer Are Presented.

The veterans of the New York A. C. held their third annual dinner in the clubhouse last night. It was the first gathering of the clubmen since the formation of the new hundred members, and was a distinct success in every way. An incident which overshadowed the reunion of old friends was the presentation of portraits of the late William B. Curtis and Harry E. Buermeyer.

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Golf.

PALM BEACH, Fla., Jan. 19.—Much interest centered in the opening golf tournament today. Competition was at thirty-six holes for a handsome silver cup. The scores were as follows:

First Eight—D. Emmett, Garden City, 79, 77—156; G. C. Dutton, Oakley, 77, 81—158; W. A. Macken, Wallasey, 79, 85—164; C. B. Cory, Ardsley, 81, 83—164; J. W. Johnson, Ardsley, 80, 84—164; S. Maddock, Lenox, 81, 83—164; H. D. Smith, Charleston, 80, 86—166; H. Taylor, [illegible]

Second Eight—A. W. Tillinghast, [illegible]; J. Lennedy, Westchester, [illegible]; J. B. Johnson, Ardsley, [illegible]; H. Vilven, Glen Head, 85, 85—170; H. M. Harriman, Westchester, 84, 86—170; H. Pendleton, Bar Harbor, 90, 83—173; G. B. Stark, St. Augustine, [illegible]

FLUSHING, Jan. 19.—The annual meeting of the Flushing Golf Club was held at the clubhouse last night and the election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: W. H. Rankier, President; Edward E. Sprague, John W. Wood and Augustus Talbot, Vice-Presidents; William B. Harrison, Secretary; Robert J. Lowden, Treasurer; Robert Gow, A. F. Lude, Ernest Mitchell, H. M. Hubbell, Mrs. George H. Clements, Miss Alpheus W. Montgomery and Miss Alice Colgate, Board of Managers. It was decided to make some improvements on the club links.

Yale Shuts Princeton Out at Hockey.

A large and fashionable crowd saw the Yale hockey players "whitewash" Princeton in a game of the intercollegiate championship series at the St. Nicholas Rink last night. The New Haven lads made five goals. The tigers were the absence of Purnell, their star player, who is laid up from a cut over the eye with a hockey stick. The line up follows:

Princeton.	Positions.	Yale.
Paul	Goal	Talntor
Sheffield	Point	Ward
Cook	Cover Point	Cox
McAlpin	Forwards	Shaw
Ogden	Forwards	Stocard
Alexander	Forwards	Hopson
Fox	Forwards	Brown

Referee—Yale, 5. Irwin, 6. Referee—W. Callender. Goal umpires, H. Walton and H. Mentner. Goals—Ingram, 3; Shaw, 1; Hopson, 1. Substitutes—Alexander for A. Alexander, and Homans for Sheffield.

At the Clermont avenue rink last night the St. Francis Xavier College team defeated the Oriental A. A. team by a score of 2 goals to 1.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19.—The Quaker City hockey team defeated Brown University tonight at the Ice Palace by a score of 5 to 2. Yale and Pennsylvania have agreed to a dual gymnastic meet, to be held in this city on Feb. 8.

Local Bowlers Will Play a Chicago Team for From $1,000 to $5,000.

If the Chicago bowlers and the followers of the game in that city are willing to back up their opinion that the Western players are superior to the New York cracks in toppling over the pins they can win from $1,000 to $5,000. According to several local bowlers, who are willing to roll a series for the above stake, the match can be decided so that neither team will receive an advantage. It is proposed that the rival factions meet each other half way, Buffalo being named as the most suitable place.

If the match can be arranged," said Charley Starr yesterday, "I will guarantee to take $1,000 of the New York side of the wager and I have no fear that the entire $5,000 will be forthcoming in a short time. As we defeated the Brooklyn bowlers in a match on their own alleys I hardly think they will consent to meet us.

In the event of a contest the New York backers would probably pick Fred Clinch, Dave Schman, John Voorhels, Charley Starr and H. Manskopf Louis Stein.

Racing at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 19.—An attractive card was presented to the Jockey Club this afternoon. The Live Oak Handicap, at one mile and one eighth, a steeplechase handicap over the short course, and the first race of the season for two-year-olds at three furlongs, were the particular features. The Live Oak Handicap proved to be a lively betting event. A field of seven went to the post, with McGahan, a heavy favorite, at 6 to 5, against the others. Soldan was in the lead [illegible] Soldan was [illegible] and won easily by two lengths. McGahan [illegible] Time, 1 minute 58 seconds. Second race, one mile and a furlong,