

FAMOUS CYCLER RETURNS FROM AUSTRALIA.

William Martin, a famous American long-distance rider, who has earned the name of "Pluggler" on account of his gritty, hanging-on qualities, arrived here Wednesday on the Moana from Australia via Honolulu, at which latter port he got off from a long and tiring race on the Cyclomere track there.

In many ways Martin is a remarkable rider. He belongs to the old school of long-distance champions, along with Morgan, Howell, Knapp, Ainslie and others. As far as years ago he was racing in six-day contests on the high wheel, and won a big event of this kind in New York. With the advent of the safety he adopted that style of wheel, and later took to racing shorter distances, from five to twenty miles being his favorites. He traveled in Europe and won his way against some of the best men over there, and two years ago saw him landed in our Antipodes, one lone American against scores of native Australians, Englishmen and Frenchmen of every nation on earth almost.

It did not take the "Pluggler" long to get accustomed to the grass tracks there, and to their style of riding, and after he had won two or three of their principal championships and had annexed several purses they were forced to the conclusion that the quiet American was "not so worse" after all. Further, Martin has a very rare talent that won for him merited encomiums, and he soon became very popular with the Australian people.

On the way up he stopped off at Honolulu. He had had but little training, but he was in excellent condition, and took liberal inducements to ride and he took the chance. The steamer got in Thursday and Martin rode Saturday, two days later, and he had a grand race, and won. He was in excellent condition, and took liberal inducements to ride and he took the chance.

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KILLING TROUT BEFORE SEASON OPENS.

Every angler is well aware of the fact that it will not be in order to catch trout above tide waters until April 1. The coast streams are now low and clear in January and February. Consequently poachers find little difficulty in spearing the few large fishes which took advantage of the recent freshet to reach the spawning beds.

The Call has frequently stated that a little protection at this season of the year is of more value than all the stocking (such as it is) the coast streams have received in past years.

From now until the opening of the angling season much good service can be rendered by Deputy Fish Commissioners if they were ordered to patrol each stream as an armed detachment of their fishies by those who have no respect for game or fish laws.

The Paper Mill, Sonoma, Calaveras, San Gregorio, Purissima and Pescadero creeks are being ruined by the poachers who use spears, cartridges and nets to mention the numbers of small fishes that are taken by means of hook and line.

Messrs. V. H. Wheeler and the Fish Commission are unquestionably of the opinion that the streams should be protected by the proper authorities.

The following letter to The Call is self-explanatory: SAN FRANCISCO, March 9, 1898. Sporting Editor of The Call: Last Saturday afternoon, on my return from the Laguna Creek, I saw two men wading in the Laguna Creek, with Paper Mill Creek. They had spears and were looking for salmon in the deep pools.

Anglers will be pleased to learn that John Benn, the famous dresser of trout flies, has not left this city to reside in Humboldt County. Benn is industriously engaged in his work at his old place on Montgomery street, where he will be pleased to see at any time his old friends.

James Watt, who is more familiarly known to anglers as "The Doc," visited Point Reyes last Sunday and landed two nice fish, one ten pounds and the other two and a half pounds.

It has been a brisk week at the California Tennis Club, especially for the ladies' single tournament attracted quite a few spectators. While the order of the game was not in any way characterized by phenomenal excellence, the matches were close enough to be interesting.

The subject which is exciting the interest of local racket wielders is the invitation tournament at Penryn and the surrounding towns. From time to time tennis tournaments are held at Penryn and the surrounding towns.



TRAP SHOOTING IS NOW QUITE A FAD.

The Empire Gun Club will meet tomorrow at its shooting station, Alameda Point, and after the smothering of blue-berries is finished, the men who are to meet the Garden City Cyclers team will be selected. Doubtless the scores will be large, as each member of the club will try his utmost to be included in the team that will face the traps at San Jose on Sunday, the 20th inst.

The Olympic Gun Club will hold its first live bird shoot of the season tomorrow at Ingleside. Shooting will commence at 10 a. m. sharp. Mission street will take visitors to the grounds.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the California Wing Club was held recently in the office of Dr. S. E. Knowles and the following members were elected: Dr. S. E. Knowles, president; A. Roos, vice-president.

Whereas, the American Kennel Club has substantially ignored the wishes of the Pacific Coast, and has refused to accept the resolution to establish an independent league of Pacific Coast clubs.

To judge from the expressed intentions of the members of the club, the array of mastiffs at San Jose will be truly formidable. C. A. Spreckles, the vice-president, will exhibit a noble specimen named Jack, of Cupertino stock; William R. A. DeWalt will show a fine specimen named Montez; J. P. Norman's famous Lola will figure in the ring, as also Mr. Geary's name, besides those named above.

Henry Betten of Alameda has lost his fine young setter dog by Valiente out of his kennel. He was shot on Monday last of the mastiff bitch Queen, belonging to F. W. Dinsmore of San Jose.

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FIELD BOOKS LOSING IN POPULARITY.

It begins to look as though the field book has had its day. At least it is losing caste in the Southern States. Eddie Austin, the bookmaker who has secured the betting privilege at the Newport (Ky.) track, does not look with favor on it. There are two strong arguments that can be used against the field book. It prevents a larger number of pencils from doing business in the main betting ring, and there is no valid reason why a dollar bettor shouldn't get as much for his money as one who bets two dollars.

The meeting of the St. Bernard Club was held on Monday last. It was decided to offer for competition at San Jose a gold medal each for the best St. Bernard dog and bitch. The "holy breed" will probably be well represented at that show.

The premium list has been issued and is very attractive. The show is held under the rules just formulated by the American Kennel Club, and while no money prizes are offered, the list of specialties is very long. Among the medals and cups offered are the gold and silver medals of the Pacific Mastiff Club for best mastiffs, Oakside Kennel medal for best dog, and the Lopez medal for best greyhound, besides innumerable others.

Dr. Van Hummel has in his Eastern string an "ocean greyhound." Fact! While out for their morning run one day last week one of the "fliers" espied a rustling of something strange among the tufts of grass in Lake Merced. Followed by the rest of the pack he dashed into the water and a moment later tossed a black object above his head, as he would toss a hare. He refused to bring it ashore, but the doctor secured it and found it to be a canvassack dog. Had it been a fish it would have been a magnificent specimen.

J. Farley's Snowbird has been bred to the game old Skyball. To this was due the fact that the Snowbird was a clever and the ultimate outcome will make up for all that.

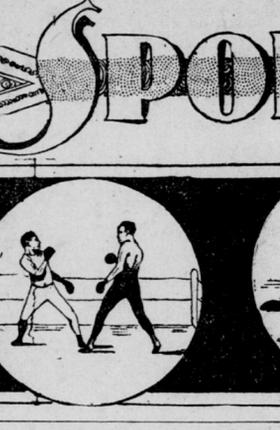
Dougherty is coming to the front again with his puppies Palmer Hill and Lady Thorndyke, and of late he has been landing well within the money. This is as it should be. It is not true that Dougherty raised the dogs that killed the dogs that worried Lazarus, but Dougherty has raised a number of good dogs, and he certainly deserves all the luck that the sport can afford him.

The Saratoga Racing Association has in contemplation a trophy to be contested for by Tod Sloan and Tommy Burns, the two best lightweights in this country. Tod will ride for Fleischmann and Burns for the Schorrs. Both stables will send out a powerful string of racers, and in view of the keen rivalry existing between the two riders it is thought the idea ought to prove a very fetching attraction.

Ornament is being heavily backed by Southern horsemen to win the Brooklyn handicap, a horse race to be run at the Union course on Wednesday next. In an interview recently printed, saying that his colt would win both the Brooklyn and the Union handicaps, he has a severe setback in the interim.

Judge Joseph J. Burke, who formerly presided over the racing at the Union course, appears to be getting the "go by" from all sides of recent years. His friends all presumed that he would again be elected as president of the coming Newport (Ky.) meeting, but now it appears that J. J. Tarleton will preside over the destinies of the Queen City Jockey Club's season of sport.

"Jockey Bill" Martin was in receipt of a letter from Pat Dunne a few days ago, and will leave for Memphis to join his employer's string on the 24th of the present month. Dunne has a fine string of horses in his string that his horses are all doing finely and thinks he has a better stable than ever before.



GOOD COURSING EXPECTED IN TWO PARKS.

There'll be some warm coursing at the Ingleside and Union coursing parks to-day and to-morrow. The stakes at both parks are rich and well worth winning.

Of course there are no strong armed jockeys to guide the hounds, but there are many niceties of training and handling which make perfect. The running to-day at Ingleside begins at 1 p. m. and the run-off of the ties to-morrow at 11 a. m.

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ON THE TRACK AND THE DIAMOND.

This is the day of field meets and baseball games. The programme at Palo Alto is a handicap college field day; at Berkeley, both a contest on field and track and a crossing of bats on the diamond.

Even at a distance of something like 100 miles from Palo Alto, the Stanford team will try conclusions with the Stanford nine for the third time. Stanford has received a vivifying influence under the supervisory power of John Sheehan. Sheehan is now the Stanford coach-in-chief and for the next five weeks he will be with the baseball men, training and instructing. Already an improvement in play has been attained by the persistent grilling which he has instituted as a process. Sheehan's system is something of the same nature as that practiced by Cochran at Berkeley. First he works the Cardinal athletes on the diamond and general baseball fielding and batting. Then a practical game of five innings follows. A second team has been organized and a captain appointed. After the game between the first and second nines, the most likely candidate for the position of captain will represent the varsity in the intercollegiate engagements are distributed in their places on the diamond and then a sharp, quick practice in throwing, which continues for a half-hour, completes the day's training. When Sheehan took the men in hand there was a decided slump in the playing. Baseball interest was on the wane, but owing to the sharp methods in use the latent enthusiasm has been aroused and the players are now in the diamond and are ready to start a large-scale confrontation.

On the other side of the bay Cochran has been working at Berkeley. He has had a large aggregation of baseball talent. There are four men wearing the blue and gold colors who, according to Cochran, are the best players on the team. Hoag and McLaren, he thinks might earn positions on an Eastern college nine. The other two are, however, in Cochran's heart. Many things he finds wanting. There still exists that lack of spirit and poignancy which is characteristic of the college players. Cochran took the men out the other day and read to them a certain lecture, exhorting them to greater effort. He would toss a black object above his head, as he would toss a hare. He refused to bring it ashore, but the doctor secured it and found it to be a canvassack dog.

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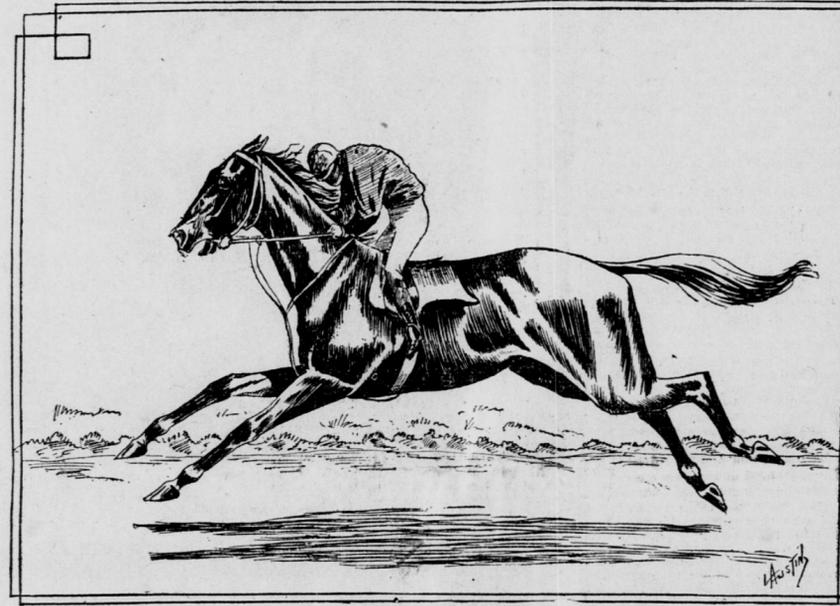
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Riding to Lose—One Way of Pulling a Horse.

dent: C. A. Haight, secretary and treasurer; directors, L. D. Owens, L. R. Wagner, J. C. Wagner. The first live bird shoot of the season will be held on Sunday, the 20th inst., at the Olympic Gun Club grounds at Ingleside. All subscribers to the Call are invited to attend.

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