

and blankets are dull at previous prices.—Dun's Review, Dec. 24.

Boots and Shoes—Shipments from the East have been in December larger than in any year other than 1887, and for the year to date larger by about 200,000 cases than in any other year. A large quantity of the back orders as far as they can, and although country merchants are selling largely the spring demands are scarcely satisfactory, being barely equal to last year's. Orders for the belmors are extremely light, and very small for the majority of shops in women's shoes, though light shoes are better.—Dun's Review, Dec. 24.

Leather—Much less than the ordinary traffic is seen, and a surplus on hand still exists, unless and until the past season's stock is lightly better. Prices hinder progress in oil grain.—Dun's Review, Dec. 24.

Hides—Packer hides at Chicago are less active, and some imported hides are offered at less than the current price there. Country hides are higher, with moderate offerings, and are fairly active.—Dun's Review, Dec. 24.

THIS SEASON'S COTTON CROP OF POOR QUALITY.

"There is a good deal of complaint among mill men regarding the quality of the cotton of this season's crop, and that there was considerable difficulty in getting a suitable quantity of the fine yarns," says the Boston Journal of Commerce. "A large quantity of the cotton is found to be of such short staple as to only be fitted for the very coarse goods. One of our large mills on coarse goods recently purchased some of this cotton for use in their coarse blankets, for which it is well adapted, for 3 1/2 a pound, a pretty low figure, but still all it was worth, as there cannot be a very wide market for so short a staple. The cotton to which the past season's crop is affected by this poor grade of cotton will be developed later, but it will have a tendency to advance the price of the better staple cotton to which the market is so much seller for future delivery to largely from the wrong side of their mouths. It looks very much as if it would be quality and not quantity of this season's crop."—Dun's Review, Dec. 24.

Cotton Goods Activity—"Not long ago the cotton goods market was one of the dull and most depressed of New England's industries," remarks the Boston Commercial Bulletin. "Now these conditions are reversed and goods are moving very actively at a time that is usually quiet, while prices are unusually stronger and have in certain instances been advanced. The cause of this improvement are partly of a nature peculiar to the industry, which has been greatly strengthened by a betterment in the general commercial situation of the country. The low prices of cotton goods throughout the past season have been discounted an expected large yield of the staple. But until recently the market's activity has hardly been a question of price. Regular operations have been going on in stocks of goods at unprecedented terms. The market was languid and trading was desultory. Of New England's three great industries the manufacturing of cotton was generally considered the least important. The unexpected has happened. Cotton goods are on a rising market, and the manufacturers of wool and leather must fall into line."—Dun's Review, Dec. 24.

Incidents. Dec. 26.—Weather clear; track fast. Results: First race, five furlongs—Good Hope won, Amako second, Cardale third, Time, 1:23 1/2.

Second race, hurdle, mile and a quarter—Granger won, Forton second, E third, Time, 2:18 1/2.

Third race, one mile, gentleman riders—Collins won, Uta Colorado second, Hazard third, Time, 1:47 1/2.

Fourth race, three minutes handicap, two miles—David Tenny won, Lady Hurst second, Dr. Bergans third, Time, 2:31 1/2.

Fifth race, six furlongs—John won, Ed Gartland II second, Paul Griggs third, Time, 1:47 1/2.

Sixth race, mile and a sixth—Daisy E won, Roy Del Tirra second, Sardonio third, Time, 1:47 1/2.

New Orleans Races. Dec. 26.—Weather clear; track fast. Results: First race, one mile—Stanhope won, Flop second, Rusbild III third, Time, 1:23 1/2.

Second race, five furlongs—Elmer S won, Myosotis second, Sidella third, Time, 1:30 1/2.

Third race, mile and a quarter—Over four furlongs—Brakeman won, Voyage second, Laura May third, Time, 2:08 1/2.

Fourth race, three minutes handicap of a mile—Belle of Memphis won, Elkin second, Sin W third, Time, 1:45.

Fifth race, mile and twenty yards—Eight Bells won, Muskadine second, Dalgreita third, Time, 1:45.

Intercollegiate Chess. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The seventh intercollegiate chess tournament, between two students from the University of Columbia, Harvard, Yale and Princeton began in this city this afternoon, when the first round was being played respectively.

K. G. Cook (Y) vs. C. A. Ely (P), queen's gambit.

A. S. Meyer (C) vs. A. Weston (P), king's gambit.

M. Webb (Y) vs. E. E. Southard (H), Dutch defense.

Racing on the Ice. ALBERT LEA, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—The sports were all out on the ice on Fountain lake this afternoon, when the first round was being played respectively.

Charles Levine's bay mare, Pig, won the first heat. In the second race C. E. Brain's black mare, Lady Colvin's bay gelding beat two in three.

One Boxer Broke an Arm. CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 26.—Johnny Leback of Cleveland, and Fred Green of Toledo, fought tonight before the Imperial Athletic club, at Sandusky. In the third round Green broke his right forearm, and the contest was given to Lavack. The men were featherweights.

Better Go Now. The low round-rates East, now being made by the Soo Line, will soon be a thing of the past. After Dec. 28 you will pay regular fare. Ticket office 389 Robert street.

CONJUNDA OF THE BASE BALL DIAMOND WAS WISE.

When Arlio Latham was in his prime as a base ball player he was considered the greatest sprinter in the profession. Lath never had a dollar. His name was a synonym for improvidence. Sheriffs, constables and lawyers with attachments and bills were all in his wake. He never played with a club that he did not draw ahead of his salary. Pay was the same for him as for any other player who had anything coming, and if he did he was sure to be broke soon after receiving his check. His fellow players would wonder what he did with his money. He had no expensive habits. He did not drink, and he never knew to throw his money away in the red light and tenderloin districts of New York. He was a simple man, and he wondered what he would do when his professional career was ended. There were those who thought that the reputation of a sprinter was a "bluff." They imagined that he was under "cover," that he "planted" instead of sponging. They thought that while someone would suggest that Lath had something laid away for a rainy day, that he had a heavy New York bank account, and that he was a millionaire.

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Some Logic in the Claim of the Syracuse Man.

"While the ordinary mind cannot figure it out when Tommy Ryan has a chance against Bob Fitzsimmons, the idea that Bob is getting about in years should not be lost sight of," says William Pierce in the Police News.

"Ryan's claim that he is middleweight champion upsets the ludicrous position of Fitzsimmons in his straggling endeavor to hold both the title and the weight class in his hands. The position taken by Ryan is logical and tenable. He has expressed his willingness to meet Fitz for a title in his class. Bob's talk about wanting to fight to a finish and for \$10,000 a side shows that he does not care to meet Fitz for a title in his class. It seems to me that Fitz does not care to come openly to a fight with Ryan, and that it is an impossibility for him to reach the middleweight limit again. Fitz has seen his best days, and he believes, and if he goes against hard game in his next contest he is very liable to meet defeat. Fitz is a man of years now, and the elasticity of youth has faded from him like dew before the sun. To again undergo the rigors of training in the winter months, and to say he will enter the ring in better condition than ever before.

SMITH AND JEFFRIES. Have Signed Articles to Box for a Big Stake.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 26.—Articles of agreement have been signed here for a boxing match for \$10,000 a side between "Denver" Ed Smith and Jim Jeffries, champion heavy weight of the world. They will meet at the Olympic club, San Francisco, toward the end of January. Smith has been training in the city for the last few weeks, and he will enter the ring in better condition than ever before.

MOTORCYCLE BROKE. Question of its Utility in Bicycle Racing Yet Undecided.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The question of supremacy between human and machine pace-making for bicycle riders has yet to be determined. Tom Sharkey, who quit his track, the American Cycle Racing association held one of its tournaments where amateurs and professionals struggled hard for honors, and the motor cycle was the subject of much discussion.

Who Was Not Able to Keep His Pace, However—Miss Fanny Davidson gave an Exhibition of Fancy Skating—Holiday Sports at Como.

John Nilsson, the champion amateur skater of the world, won another victory yesterday afternoon, when at Lexington park he distanced four competitors in a two-mile race, finishing in 6:06 minutes.

The race was witnessed by about a thousand persons, who had been attracted to the rink by the promise of a race and special prizes. The skaters were good skaters. There were five starters, John Nilsson, Thorwald Tompson, D. Davidson, John Schwartz and John Davidson. A strong wind was blowing at the time, and this interfered somewhat with the racers, but they managed to run against it with little apparent difficulty.

The course was eight times around the rink, and during the first three laps the skaters kept close together, with Nilsson slightly in the lead. Then they began to straggle, Nilsson pulling away ahead on the fourth lap.

Schwartz fell so far in the rear that at the end of the race he dropped out. The race then was between Nilsson, Tompson, Davidson and Tucker keeping near together hopefully a full lap behind Nilsson. Tucker had a slip and fell, and Nilsson pulled ahead of Tompson and maintained that lead to the end. Nilsson was bent double, but skating easily, seeming to be pushed along by a peculiar pushing motion of his arms. Tompson tried his best to overtake Nilsson, but his effort was vain, and the crowd cheered enthusiastically as Nilsson passed under the trees.

Thompson came in second, and Tucker third, but Davidson failed to skate to the end of the race.

The judges were Thomas Eck, F. A. Murray and Otto Wirtensohn, of Minneapolis.

Prior to the race Miss Fannie Davidson gave an exhibition of fancy skating. Miss Davidson wore a very handsome costume of purple velvet, with red and white trimmings. She performed various forward and backward movements with Bishop rolls and toe steps, grapevines, plumvines, Philadelphia, and other fancy figures. She was on the ice for about half an hour, and most of them her own specialties. Her exhibition was heartily applauded.

After the race the Davidsons gave another exhibition of fancy skating. The rink was crowded all the afternoon with skaters. The ice was smooth and in excellent condition. The only thing that marred the enjoyment of the sport was the wind.

Como park was also the Mecca of many skaters yesterday, but there, also, the wind was a great annoyance. Many were obliged to leave the ice before the close of the afternoon.

The management of the Lexington rink park will have the rink open on Jan. 3, on behalf of the rink, Thomas Eck, on behalf of the rink, Johnson, has accepted the challenge of Julius, of Sweden, to race ten or fifteen laps on the rink. Johnson will recognize if the race will be skated on that date. Johnson holds a record on that date. Johnson holds a record on that date.

A Number of Minnesota People Are Among the Contestants.

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SMITH AND JEFFRIES. Have Signed Articles to Box for a Big Stake.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 26.—Articles of agreement have been signed here for a boxing match for \$10,000 a side between "Denver" Ed Smith and Jim Jeffries, champion heavy weight of the world. They will meet at the Olympic club, San Francisco, toward the end of January. Smith has been training in the city for the last few weeks, and he will enter the ring in better condition than ever before.

MOTORCYCLE BROKE. Question of its Utility in Bicycle Racing Yet Undecided.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The question of supremacy between human and machine pace-making for bicycle riders has yet to be determined. Tom Sharkey, who quit his track, the American Cycle Racing association held one of its tournaments where amateurs and professionals struggled hard for honors, and the motor cycle was the subject of much discussion.

Who Was Not Able to Keep His Pace, However—Miss Fanny Davidson gave an Exhibition of Fancy Skating—Holiday Sports at Como.

John Nilsson, the champion amateur skater of the world, won another victory yesterday afternoon, when at Lexington park he distanced four competitors in a two-mile race, finishing in 6:06 minutes.

The race was witnessed by about a thousand persons, who had been attracted to the rink by the promise of a race and special prizes. The skaters were good skaters. There were five starters, John Nilsson, Thorwald Tompson, D. Davidson, John Schwartz and John Davidson. A strong wind was blowing at the time, and this interfered somewhat with the racers, but they managed to run against it with little apparent difficulty.

The course was eight times around the rink, and during the first three laps the skaters kept close together, with Nilsson slightly in the lead. Then they began to straggle, Nilsson pulling away ahead on the fourth lap.

Schwartz fell so far in the rear that at the end of the race he dropped out. The race then was between Nilsson, Tompson, Davidson and Tucker keeping near together hopefully a full lap behind Nilsson. Tucker had a slip and fell, and Nilsson pulled ahead of Tompson and maintained that lead to the end. Nilsson was bent double