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SOUTHERN JOCKEY CLUB

THE FAMOUS OLD SOUTH CAROLINA ORGANIZATION PASSES INTO HISTORY

HAS IMMORTALIZED ITSELF

Features of the Great Race Week—Some Noted Southern Who Followed the Manly Sport.

The South Carolina Jockey club, the oldest institution of its kind in the United States, came to a quiet but illustrious end a few weeks ago. Its last act, after a century and a half of existence, insured for it immortality in American history (says a writer in the New York Sun). It gave to the Charleston library, a still more venerable institution, its entire property, valued at \$100,000, which places upon a sure foundation that valuable collection of books.

The library was well worth the sacrifice, for its Americana is of great value, its most important treasure perhaps being the complete file of the Charleston Gazette and other newspapers from 1732 to the present day. As Charleston has always played an important part in the national drama, from the battle of Fort Moultrie, the first great victory of the Revolution, to the war with Spain, when Cervera had orders to destroy it, there is a wonderful amount of interesting historical knowledge to be gleaned from these old papers. The library contains also many rare old prints and first editions whose value has greatly increased in the last few years, because of the great demand for them by book collectors. The Charleston Library society was founded in 1743 and has been kept up continuously ever since on the same site.

If there were public libraries in Charleston before there was horse racing, horse racing at least followed very soon after. As early as 1724 there was a race on Bowling Green, for Charleston, like New York, had its Bowling Green and Bowling Green public house. In the next year, 1735, a regular course was laid out and called the "York Course," about a mile and a half from the city. Here a racing season was held every February or the early part of March. The prizes were usually handsome pieces of plate, imported from England. At one race, for instance, the prize was a very fine embroidered jacket, valued at £20. In fact there was no money made by racing, except by individual betting, until nearly a hundred years after, when the races were pushed into the city, which had hitherto been a gentleman's sport began to degenerate into "professionalism."

As horse racing became more fashionable and the rich planters began to import fine-blooded horses, there was a demand for a better track, nearer the city. This one was subscribed for in 1754, but it was not completed until 1760, when the first races were held on it. This track was called the "New Market Course," and was about a mile above the town, on the eastern part of the neck of the peninsula on which Charleston stands. In this race course was run memorable races, and many of the horses became so famous that their names to this day in South Carolina are, in some families, "freshly remembered," and as "familiar as household words."

It was not until 1773, when the South Carolina Jockey club moved its headquarters to the western side of the "Neck," near the city, that horse racing was revived in all its former glory. This track was naturally called the "Neck," and the races were held on the eastern side of the city, under the auspices of the South Carolina Jockey club, which nearly a hundred years after. All that is now left of the Washington course is a crumbling pile of old gate posts at the entrance of the ground, which the club must have passed many of the finest horses, and fastest women, and bravest jockeys more fashionable than ever, and were carried off every year with great eclat. All of the first families of South Carolina belonged to the club, and nearly all sent horses to the races.

The original owners and proprietors of the Washington race course, in 1773, were Gen. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Gen. William Moultrie, Gen. James Moultrie, Gen. John Moultrie, Gen. M. Rutledge, Gabriel Manly, the Rev. M. M. Rutledge, Capt. White, L. Campbell, Gen. William Moultrie, Gen. M. Pherson, Col. McPherson, Col. Morris, F. Fenwick and William McClellan. It would be impossible to get so many celebrities together in these days. The names of Gen. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and of Gen. William Moultrie, the nation's only general who served in the Revolution, never left the councils of the country and on the field, while Gen. Wade Hampton, Gen. John Moultrie, Gen. M. Pherson and Gabriel Manly, who were eternal beards of the nation, were such men as these great statesmen and heroes of the Revolution found no shame in following the manly sport in times of peace, and with such men at the head of the state, it was not surprising that the race was kept up during the next half century to the very highest standard ever approached in this country.

Horse-show week in New York can give one only a faint idea of the immense excitement over and importance attached to the race week in Charleston by the old aristocracy of South Carolina. The "down" which was a century ago, one of the very largest in the United States, did not number half a hundred thousand inhabitants, including the negro slaves, but its population was nearly double during race week. The hotels in the South, like here, until recent years, were very good, because the Southern people, especially in South Carolina, were always so hospitable that no stranger who appeared to be a gentleman was ever allowed to stay at the hotels long enough to make it worth while to the proprietors. In race week,

James S. O'Brien's String of Runners

STILLWATER, Minn., March 24.—(Special.)—Among the lovers of fast horses in the Northwest few are better known in turf circles, particularly at Memphis, St. Louis and Chicago, than Hon. James S. O'Brien, of Stillwater, who owns a large stable of fast ones. Mr. O'Brien, who has for many years been largely interested in logging on the St. Croix river and its tributaries, and was Byron J. Mosler's predecessor as surveyor general of logs and lumber for the First district, also owns one of the finest farms in Washington county, situated in the town of Lakeland, overlooking Lake St. Croix, about six miles south of Stillwater.

When running horses were entered in the name of the stable they represented, Mr. O'Brien's horses were entered as the Lakeland stable, and the name is familiar to lovers of gallopers in all parts of the United States, where Mr. O'Brien's horses have competed for purses and in stake events.

Although Mr. O'Brien likes a trotter, his fancy runs more in the direction of running horses, and he owns a stable of eleven fast ones, now quartered at Memphis, Tenn., where racing begins for the season, April 5. These are Duke of Baden, who made a splendid record last season, Bonnyvald, Olie S, Dick Collins, Bert Davis, Bester, Carl, Charowitz, Lady Curzon and three unnamed two-year-olds. Lady Curzon showed great speed and endurance at Latonia, before Mr. O'Brien purchased her last season, but was a trifle off while the horses were at St. Louis and Chicago. Mr. O'Brien, however, expects her to round into form

is under contract to ride for Mr. O'Brien during the coming season, and the latter is of the opinion that his horses will do well, having stood the winter nicely at the Lakeland farm.

Mr. O'Brien first came into prominence as a turfman in 1875, when he owned Gol Rieley, at that time the fastest running horse in the country. Gol Rieley ran in several races in the East that year and Wilkes' Spirit of the Times, published at Cleveland, O., claims that Gol Rieley made the fastest two-mile run in the world, not barring Tenbroeck's great record of two miles in 2:37. In the particular race spoken of he was left standing at the post, an eighth of a mile behind, and at the close lapped out the winner, Warzig, in 2:24. Gol Rieley was raced for many years, but when his age began to tell upon him, he was taken to Charles Burns' farm at Graceville, where the once famous horse died about four years ago.

In addition to the horses now at Memphis, Mr. O'Brien owns a number of others, among them May Thompson, at one time a speedy mare. She is now at the Lakeland farm, where Mr. O'Brien has five brood mares and stallions, Hazel Hatch, an old racer, with a record of a mile in 1:41.

During Mr. O'Brien's experience as a turfman he has had many well-known horses, among them Eli Kindig, Gracie D, St. Croix and Longshot. The last named made several remarkable performances in the paddock, and his victory at Nashville, when, at odds of 40 to 1, he defeated some of the cleverest horses in

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officials to build it. The plan for having this path constructed has had almost the entire attention of the L. A. W. executive committee for the past three weeks, and the preparatory work will be pushed with every energy until the work of construction is actually under way.

The secretary of the League of American Wheelmen is expected to receive the first large numbers of renewals of memberships that expire on April 1. The outlook for the league, as indicated by these renewals, is brighter than it has been for some years, and shows the sympathy of the members in the active work now being done for side-paths, good roads, touring and the securing of wheelmen's rights.

Side-path bills have been introduced in the state legislatures by the L. A. W. divisions in Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, Iowa and Colorado. They are patterned after the famous New York law under which nearly 300 miles of paths were constructed last year. This particular bill, known as the "Edwards law," was passed through the efforts of the New York division, L. A. W., alone. It is so nearly perfect as to form a model for all other states.

The secretary of the L. A. W., of the L. A. W., speaking of the side-path movement, says: "It is true we are decidedly in earnest about this matter, and we intend to demonstrate that the L. A. W. is an actual necessity to every wheelman in the land. We do this by securing the privileges, pleasures and accommodations so much desired. This can be accomplished ideally only by organization on a big scale, and I want to ask every cyclist in the United States to send in his or her application for membership, that we may have such force of numbers and names that we will be able to secure anything we want within reason. Cyclists owe it to themselves and the L. A. W. to become members of this organization."

The membership of the L. A. W. increased 10 per cent during the first three months of the year.

A Pretoria cycle agent thinks trade in high grade machines will be very good in the Transvaal after the war—a rather indefinite epoch, perhaps—but he insists on the necessity of good machines being exported. There is no doubt that a trade will spring up with great readiness, once hostilities have ceased. Owing to the destruction of railways and the lack of other means of locomotion, the cycle will of necessity prove of immense value. Again, owing to the markets having been practically closed for a time, the supply of cycles available will be small; unless some enterprising men provide for it.

Payment of the cycle tax in France is proved by a small plate affixed to the machine every year, but the government now proposes to issue plates good for four years. The holder must have his name and address engraved at his own expense, but he is supplied with new plates when necessary, producing the fragments of the old. Should he cease to own a bicycle he must at once deposit his plate to have name struck off the list of persons liable to the tax.

There are about fifty bicycles in the Island of Antigua, British West Indies, which has a population of 35,000, as against twenty-five machines a year ago. All but four or five are of American manufacture, and are owned by natives. Three conditions mitigate against a more extensive use of the wheel, viz.: The poverty of the people; the tropical heat, which renders riding between 8 a. m. and 4 p. m. almost impossible, especially for whites; and the abominable condition of the roads leading between the various points of the island.

The bicycle era has been a little slow in getting to Cuba with its full strength, but it is there now, and wheel cranks are developing rapidly.

You can scarcely go on any street that you do not find a bicycle store urging the merits of some wheel, and now they are practically all American wheels that are finding a market.

Havana is not a good wheel city because of the bad pavements. In the heart of the town there is no place except the Prado, from Central park to Punta, where there is a population of 100,000, where the riding is decent. Here there is a macadam, or alleged macadam, pavement. The Prado is very wide, there being a more extensive use of the wheel, viz.: raised paseo or promenade, where the wheelmen and wheelwomen do not confine themselves to the roadway. Even in the afternoon, when the paseo is crowded, bicycles tear up and down the smooth course to the great annoyance of all the promenaders.

At Memphis, and looks upon her as one of the best horses he has ever owned.

All of the horses have been exercising at Memphis, Tenn., for some time under Trainer John Burns, who has been associated with Mr. O'Brien for twenty-five years, and is considered an excellent authority in the art of racing horses.

During the coming season Mr. O'Brien will compete for several large stakes, having entered Bonnyvald in the American Derby to be run at Washington park, Chicago. Bonnyvald is also entered in the Montgomery handicap at Memphis, together with Duke of Baden, and these two are also entered in a number of other smaller stakes events. Bonnyvald should win the American Derby. Mr. O'Brien's fondest hopes and anticipations will be realized.

Harry Witte, who, after spending the winter at San Francisco, is now riding at New Orleans, and is considered one of the best riders in the South and West,



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WHEELS AGAIN IN SIGHT

THE LAST WEEK HAS BROUGHT A HOST FROM THEIR HIDING PLACES

CYCLE PATH MOVEMENT GAINS

The St. Paul-Chicago Line is Arranging a Great Deal of Eastern Interest Among Riders.

Except those who are directly connected with the preparations, but few wheelmen appreciate the magnitude of the side-path movement as now being conducted by the League of American Wheelmen. Laws which will permit of the construction of the paths are before the legislatures of several states, and it appears that all of them will be easily passed. In New York and Pennsylvania, where the desired laws are already in force, having been secured by the L. A. W. divisions last year, the work of building new paths and extending those already constructed is so far advanced that actual building operations will commence as soon as weather conditions will permit.

The most interesting feature of the side-path movement, however, is the work being done on the "trunk lines," i. e., the paths intended to connect the centers of population, even at great distances. The first of these to be placed in practical shape is the one between Minneapolis and St. Paul and Chicago, which has so far progressed that work of construction will be commenced early next month.

The Chicago-New York path will be nearly 1,000 miles in length, but the magnitude of the project only serves to increase the determination of the L. A. W.

however, even the hotels were crowded, and all the large private houses were packed to overflowing with visitors to the tenth degree of relationship or friendship.

The races were usually held at the height of the social season, which was the time when the Washington course was closed for the winter. At the end of January or the first of February, one of the famous "Saint Cecilia" balls was always given during the week, and the very highest social standing were ever invited. Splendid private entertainments were given on the other nights, and there was always some special attraction at the end of the week for the club members. It was also the first city to have a theater—either a play concert or one of Shakespeare's plays. But the horses were the main subject of conversation, as it was the very highest social standing were ever invited. Splendid private entertainments were given on the other nights, and there was always some special attraction at the end of the week for the club members. It was also the first city to have a theater—either a play concert or one of Shakespeare's plays. 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