

tered the best four-year-olds in the country, and in which there are now \$9,100 and 49 nominators, each of whom will have to pay \$50 additional twenty days before the meeting to entitle them to start.

The report of the Auditing Committee on the Treasurer's accounts, signed by G. S. Moulton, Chairman, was read by the Secretary, and placed on file.

The association now numbers 163 members, and includes most of the prominent breeders of trotting horses in the United States and Canada. The following members of the Executive Committee, whose term expired this year, were H. W. T. Mali, Shepherd F. Knapp, J. D. Willis, H. N. Smith, W. H. Wilson. These were all re-elected, with the exception of Mr. Willis, whose request to be excused was acceded to, and Mr. J. C. McFerran, of Louisville, Ky., elected in his place. The following preamble and resolution was adopted :

Whereas, This association, a few years ago, adopted a set of rules governing the registration of trotters, thereby creating what is now known and accepted throughout the country as a standard rank, based upon a legitimate record of 2:30 or better, either in the individual or his ancestors; and

Whereas, The universal desire to get within this standard rank has led to various expedients and methods of doubtful fairness and reliability; therefore,

Resolved, That the following questions be submitted to the Executive Committee for their consideration, and that they be authorized and empowered to take such action on them as they may deem best, and publish that action as the action of the association.

1. Whether it would not be wise to reject all performances made against time, unless the animal has already a record of 2:30 or better against other horses.

2. In the event of not rejecting this class of performances, then to consider and formulate such additional restrictions and safeguards as will place such performances beyond cavil or doubt.

3. Whether the anxiety on the part of the great body of breeders to obtain records on their breeding stock cannot be met by giving a record, at the request of the owner, to any animal that may start for a regular purse or stakes against other horses.

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be authorized and instructed to prepare and report to the next general meeting of the association a scale of points under which prizes may be awarded intelligently and analytically to trotters and trotting-bred animals of all ages and sexes.

The following was added as Section 9 to Article 7 of the Constitution :

"The National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders has no organ. Its official records and opinions are given to the public only in the form of reports attested by the Secretary."

Article second, Section 9 of the Constitution, was amended, by making a quorum of the Executive Committee five, instead of three.

Mr. David Bonner, Mr. G. S. Moulton, and Mr. David Scott were appointed a committee for drafting suitable resolutions upon the death of Mr. Geo. B. Alley, a former member of the association, the same to be engrossed and presented to his family, and to be entered upon the minutes of the society. The resignation of Major Thomas Morton, the chairman of the meeting at the time of the organization of the association, was tendered and accepted, and the following were appointed a committee to draw a resolution befitting the occasion, said resolutions to be properly engrossed and presented to Major Morton, and to be entered upon the minutes of the society : H. M. Whitehead, L. D. Packer, J. W. Gray.

Pursuant to the Constitution, the Executive Committee met on Thursday, Dec. 13th, and elected the following officers for the ensuing year : President, H. W. T. Mali, New York City ; First Vice-President, Leland Stanford, California ; Second Vice-President, I. V. Baker, Jr., New York ; Third Vice-President, J. P. Wiser, Canada ; Secretary, L. D. Packer, New York ; Treasurer, J. W. Gray, Vermont. Board of Censors : Guy Miller, F. D. Norris, David Bonner, W. S. Tilton, E. G. Doolittle.

Banish the Check-Rein.

ABOUT three years ago we opened a war upon toe-weights, and we were met right fiercely by some of the manufacturers of those abominations; for a time there was a great hubbub, and THE MONTHLY was savagely denounced, especially by those who had toe-weight trotters they wanted to sell. The question at once sprang into great importance, and one of our enterprising contemporaries offered a premium for the best treatise on the subject. As usual, the treatise was washy and on both sides of the question. From the first we had the popular judgment with us, for our position was impregnable. After firing a few broadsides we soon found we had plenty of supporters, not only among practical men, but also among writers. Now that the smoke has cleared away, we find that the popular judgment endorses our designation of them as "murderous appliances," and if a man has a trotter to sell, the highest recommendation he can give is that "he does not wear toe-weights." Now, if we can make our views equally plain and effective on the evils of the check-rein, and be equally successful in banishing it, we think we will not only have accomplished a work of humanity, but secured a most important step in the increase of speed.

Among the hundred appliances that have been