The Chicago Horse Market.

For the past 32 years an accurate official record has been kept by the Union Stock Yards Company of horses passing through that market, 1,205,892 being the number that corporation records up to the close of 1897. It was not, however, till 1886 that this became an important feature of the general live stock market at the yards. The latter year 27,599 horses passed through that market; 20,289 was the largest number any previous year, and that was in 1873, and the next highest was 19,356, in 1885. The above figures do not nearly represent the full volume of the Chicago horse market, for during those times there were a number of heavy dealers operating in down-town districts. In 1889 the powerful corporation owning the stock yards had by aggressive work succeeded in getting practically the entire interests centred within its properties, and thus made itself the clearing house for the horse traffic, as it had for all other classes of live stock many years prior to this. This concentration proved successful, in that extra good facilities were provided for the dealers, and the market thus made particularly attractive to Eastern consumers.

The commission firm doing the selling gets a stipend fee of $3 per head. The late Thomas Evers, well known to many of the old-time shippers to this market, was for many years the ruling spirit, and did a large and successful business when located up till 1879 in what was then the only pretentious stable at the yards, and is now known as "Cooper's Corner." The latter year Col. John S. Cooper bought Mr. Evers' interests, and brought with him a large trade standing from his old location down town, near the corner of Jackson street and Michigan avenue. Mr. Cooper has since that time received and sold each year, varying according to the traffic, from five or six thousand the first few years located there to from twelve to fifteen thousand each year of late.

During the early eighties Jacob Koehler located in the place adjoining Mr. Cooper's, and is there to this day. Then, in the order named, soon after that came F. J. Berry and the late Max Newgass, who had also previously been located down town. Thus with this continual reinforcement the traffic grew to 46,404 in 1887. Up to this time the dealing had been by private treaty. In 1888 the present auction system was inaugurated, and that year 55,333 horses passed through the mart. It may be interesting to note that 52,866 were reshipped that year.

In 1889 auctions were held as follows: F. J. Berry, Tuesdays and Saturdays; J. S. Cooper, Wednesdays; Jacob Koehler, Fridays, and M. Newgass & Son, Thursdays. The enormous number of 79,926 horses passed through their hands that year. In 1890 a number of other dealers came, and 101,566 head were received and 94,326 reshipped. From that year the transactions each year were close to 100,000 head, but in 1895 113,193 was reached, and 109,146 were reshipped to all parts of the world, for then the export traffic had assumed formidable proportions. In 1897 the traffic reached 111,601, the reshipments 101,006, and from fairly accurate records it is shown that about 30,000 head went directly to various foreign ports during that year.

Thus far in 1898 a nearly as possible correct record of direct exports has been kept, and runs by months as follows: January, 2500; February, 3000; March, 3000; April (exactly) 2351. The latter month is the first in the history of the export traffic that a correct record of shipments for foreign ports has been kept at this mart. There are then, of course, many more exported by the buyers from eastern sales stables. The great advantage in this market to both the producer and consumer is the large and naturally varied offerings and the almost countless numbers of foreign and domestic buyers.

Auctions are held now, as for a number of years, every day, except Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M., and generally from 250 to 500 horses, according to the season, are sold daily, or from 1800 to 2500 horses per week, extremely active times going beyond the latter number.

The following commission firms now make up the Horse Commission Union: J. S. Cooper, Jacob Koehler, M. Newgass & Son, Marsh & Kanyon, Locke & Averill, Ellsworth & McNair, Blair Commission Company, F. J. Berry & Co., A. O. Elder & Co., and William Abel & Co. J. S. Cooper is president of this, a protective organization for both buyer and seller, as well as mutual protection for the sales firms. Louis Newgass is vice president and F. J. Berry secretary.

Samuel Cozzens, well and favorably known to shippers over the entire country, is in charge of the Stock Yards Company's interest, as superintendent of the horse department as well as the company's stables. The horse market is located in the most convenient part of the yards, at the main entrance on South Halsted street. There are 25 two-story brick barns, with all modern conveniences, and a capacity for stabling comfortably about 5000 horses.

The mammoth Dexter park horse exchange pavilion affords the most conveniently arranged amphitheatre and stables combined horse emporium in the world. This exchange building is 185 feet wide by 530 feet long, costing over $100,000; contains a speed and display track 35 feet wide by 530 feet long; is lighted by electricity and capable of seating 3000 or 4000 people. Here is where the blood horse and blue-ribbon public sales of fancy drivers, coachers, cobs and park horses take place.

The largest number of horses received in one day in 1431; this was March 25, 1895. The largest number in one week is 4369, week ending March 30, 1895. The largest number in one month is 17,782, during March, 1897.

From the best information obtainable, the conclusion is that about one-third of all the horses which pass through this market are of the harness sorts. This latter feature of this mart has been very materially strengthened during the past four years. During this time the great number of foreign buyers bought the heavy, full-made harness horses at quite profitable prices for coach and carriage use in foreign countries. Through this the better or wealthier class of consumers in America have gradually become educated to appreciate this same class for the same purposes, and thus become formidable competition to the foreigners.

M. H Tichenor & Co., now admitted by all in the traffic to be the largest dealers in the highest class of harness horses in this country, began business in close proximity to this market late in 1893, and have since been the most formidable competitors for the strictly high-class ones which the foreigners have encountered. This latter firm is composed of Mr. M. H. Tichenor and L. M. Newgass, and both had an extensive business acquaintance in the better class of horse traffic before venturing into this special branch as partners. They pay the high dollar at all times for the right sort of coach, cob, saddle and fancy harness horses. The reason for their aggressiveness in this line is that they have connections which call for the right sorts they can possibly supply or find.

This firm during 1894 handled about 800 of these various sorts of pleasure horses, which came almost invariably from among the trotting-bred horses. During 1897 close to 3000 head of this class passed through their hands. One day on the regular market, when there was a liberal sprinkling of choice ones in the various consignments, this firm bought 21 head for their stables at the regular auction. For five or six of these they paid about $500 per head, the balance ranging in price from $175 to $300.

M. Newgass & Son, who do decidedly the largest horse commission business, not only at this market, but of any other firm in the traffic anywhere, are also conceded by all, including their competitors at this market, to be doing much the larger traffic in the fancier kind of harness sorts. They make a specialty of this class, hence are especially in touch with the buyers, both for domestic and foreign consumption. The buyers for this market, that is, the shippers of this class, which includes the sorts that the breeders of trotting horses are the more interested in, very largely consign to this firm, which has made a number of special coach-horse sales during the last four years.

George E. McMann, Rochelle, Ill., is mentioned among the most successful consignors of fancy harness horses to this market. Twenty head from Mr. McMann two years ago at a special coach-horse sale brought an average of a trifle over $400. Many of those consigned by him come from southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, and it has been noticed that the progeny of Antar, the well-known son of Almont 33, is conspicuous among them. C. W. Mills, Richland, Ia., sends many good ones, the noted gelding Falconer, which went to the late Gen. Torrance two years ago, from Mr. Mills's consignment, for $1100, being the best of them. George M. Keyt & Son, Rockford, Ill., send many good ones from that section, as also does Hillis J. Ady, West Liberty, Ia. J. D. Fisher, of the same place, finds many good ones, the best to his credit being a chestnut saddle stallion, which went to New York through Tichenor & Co. for $3000. The Indiana sire Anteros, son of Electioneer, is much in favor as a sire of high-class harness horses with the dealers.

May 23 Caldwell Bros., Morrisonville, Wis., marketed a load of fancy drivers at a range of $120 to $300, the consignment averaging $171 per head. They were all trotting-bred animals, good individuals and well mannered. They report but few choic roadsters in the hands of breeders in their locality, and the few to be found are held at stiff prices. They announce a great revival of the horse industry among farmers in the vicinity of Morrisonville, but report a scarcity of desirable stallions.

Next in extent and importance to Tichenor & Co. and M. Newgass & Son in the harness horse traffic at this market come Marsh & Kenyon—in fact, they are the only other firm who in any manner cater to the harness horse traffic. The remaining eight firms, while all now and then have consigned to them a sprinkling of the fancy ones, confine the bulk of their dealings to the draught sorts. Free Kenyon, of the above stated firm, has given much attention to the breeding and especially the handling of the trotter as a market horse, and this firm has a remarkably strong standing with the traffic. Notably among the latter is the mare Nettie Garnett. This mare came from Kansas in a regular consignment to this firm. Mr. Kenyon bought her himself for $200. After 60 days' training he sold her to Isador Schlessinger, Vienna, Austria, for $700.

F. M. Hanley, Bloomington, Ill., is one of the best shippers of harness horses to Marsh & Kenyon. A recent load from Mr. Hanley contained seven head which brought $2100. Three out of the lot went to Tichenor & Co. for $375, $370 and $345; one went to a Belgium buyer for $505; another to Mr. Ellis of London, for $235.

A close study of this market, admittedly the most important one in the world, reveals the fact that during the past few years new conditions have been gradually developing, which promise a climax in the near future. Much encouragement seems in store for the American breeder, stimulated, in the main, by the foreign demand, now that the American product has become established and recognized as being of deserving merit in all of Europe. Success in the horse-breeding business depends from this on much on the kind or type produced, or to what extent the breeder will be guided by the demands of the market. It is not numbers alone that will yield a sure-enough profit; it is, in fact, almost entirely the quality. One guided by the practical and plain lessons of this market cannot well fail. Personal preferences must be sidetracked if they do not harmonize with the demand of the market.

CHICAGO HORSEMAN.

Atalanta, the dam of the world's champion trotter (sweet little Alix, 2.03¾), was bred to Patronage at Stratham, N. H., on Wednesday, 8th inst. Patronage, by the way, has a great show up in championship blood lines, and is entitled to high-class mares in his harem. He himself being sire of the fastest trotter in the world, his full brother, Patron, gained the three-year championship for trotting stallions, and again the five-year-old championship, and he is siring extreme speed, four-year-old *Ananias* (2.06¾) heading his list. Another full brother, Prodigal (2.16), sired China Silk (two-year-old record 2.16¼, and winner of the great $16,000 stake in Kentucky Futurity for two year olds in 1896). Patronage's second dam, Mary Mambrino, by Mambrino Patchen, is dam of Elvira, a champion four-year-old trotter. His grandsire, Woodford Mambrino, sired the dam of Kremlin (2.07⅜), another champion, and the dam of his sire was by Harold, sire of champion Maud S. (2 08¾). In fact, it is champions close up and way back in his blood lines.

Some Good Green Ones for Sale.

Dr. Carmichael of Springfield, Mass., has a remarkably keen scent for speed, and when he buys a green one seldom misses his calculation.

Among the good ones which the doctor now has on hand is a bay gelding by Constantine (2.12½) and a bay mare by Delmarch (2.11½). He worked this gelding a mile in 2.16½ a few days since, last half in 1.08 and last quarter in 32½ seconds.

He drove the Delmarch mare a mile in 2.23, last half in 1 11, last quarter in 34½ seconds, a 2.18 clip. The doctor has a few promising green ones to sell that judiciously handled ought to go right out and win from the start. Read his advertisement.

Combination and Granite State Park Meetings.

In our business columns this week will be found the announcement of the two meetings to be held at Combination Park, Medford, Mass., and Granite State Park, Dover, N. H., the weeks of July 19-22 and July 26-29, respectively.

The classes at both these meetings are the same, and the purses are $500 each. The classes are: Pacing, free for all, 2.11, 2.14, 2.17, 2.22 and 2.35; trotting, free for all, 2.12, 2.15, 2.19, 2 22 and 2.28.

These meetings will be conducted on the Hicks co-operative plan, and $100 in prizes will be given to the four most brilliantly costumed drivers, $50 to first, $25 to second, $15 to third and $10 to fourth, and $25 also will be distributed in prizes among the three best costumed grooms, $12.50 to first, $7 to second and $5.50 to third.

Entries for the Combination Park meeting close Thursday, July 7, and should be addressed to George H. Hicks, manager, Medford, Mass.

Entries for the Granite State Park meeting lose on Thursday, July 14, and should be addressed to A. T. Hicks, Rockingham House, Portsmouth, N. H.

Suburban Stock Farm Stallions.

There are three very high-class stallions in service at the Suburban Stock Farm, Glen Falls N. Y. These horses are Jefferson Wilkes (2.14¼), one of last season's best campaigning trotters, and a son of Alcone and Maggie Shea (2.30¼), by Jefferson Prince. Another is Amby (2) (2.16¾), the champion trotting two-year-old stallion of 1897, by Ambassador (2.21¼), out of Regalio, the dam of Ambulator (2 10½). The other is Abdell (2.23), the champion yearling trotter by Advertiser (2.15¾), out of the great brood mare Beautiful Bells. The service fee to any one of these horses is $50.

The Fourth at Whitinsville, Mass.

Three events are on the racing programme for the celebration of the 4th at Northbridge Driving Park, Whitinsville, Mass. The classes are: 2 40 trot, $100; 2.27 trot and pace, $100; and a free-for-all trot and pace for $150.

Entries close on Saturday of this week, June 25, with W. L. Taft, secretary, Whitinsville, Mass.

Hornellsville (N. Y.) Meeting.

The attention of horsemen is called to the fact that entries close to the Hornellsville (N. Y.) meeting, which is a member of the Western New York Circuit, on Tuesday of next week, June 28. This meeting is to be held the week of July 12.

The harness events are for purses of $400 each, for the following classes: Trotters, 2.45, 2.25, 2 29, 2.19; pacers, 2.20, 2.26, 2.40, free-for-all trot and pace, and a class open to 2.17 pacers and 2.15 trotters. There are also two running events, one at half-mile and the other for mile heats, for purses of $200.

Address entries to C. H. Armstead, secretary.

The next meeting in the Central New York Trotting Circuit, for which entries close this month, is Utica, N. Y., where a meeting is to be held from July 12-15. Entries close here on Tuesday of next week, June 28, with W. E. Richards, secretary.

The trotting classes are 2.40, 2.29, 2.25, 2.20, 2.16. The pacing events are 2.35, 2.26, 2.22, 2.19, 2.15, 2.11, free for all, 2.10 and free-for-all pace for $500. The other purses are for $400.

The Fourth at Clinton, Mass.

There will be a celebration at the Clinton-Lancaster Driving Park, Clinton, Mass., on the Fourth, when four harness events will be decided.

There are three classes open to trotters and pacers for purses from $100 up to $250, as follows: 2.40, 2.32, 2 22. There is also a novelty race, open to all, mile heats.

Entries close on Thursday of this week, June 23, with W. F. Howard, secretary, Clinton, Mass.

Danielson (Ct.) Meeting.

The Riverside Driving Club of Danielson, Ct., is hanging up $900 in purses for a two days meeting to be held July 4-5. The purses are from $150 to $250 for each, and the classes as follows: 2.26 trotting and 2.45, 2.30, 2.35 and 2.22, open to trotters and pacers.

Entries close Friday of this week, June 24, with A. E. Withington, secretary, Danielson, Ct.

Phœnix (R. I.) Meeting.

A two days meeting will be held at Pawtuxet Valley Park, Phœnix, R. I., July 1-2. There are four classes on the programme open to trotters and pacers, as follows: 2.40, 2.32, 2 24, 3.00, 2.28 and free for all. The purses are from $150 up to $300 in value.

Entries close on Saturday of this week, June 25, with John Flanagan, superintendent, River Point, R. I.

Stake Events at Huntington and Lynbrook, L. I.

In our advertising columns will be found a list of stake events offered by the managers of Huntington Driving Park, Huntington, L. I., which will be decided there during the five days meeting beginning Sept. 6.

There are 10 stakes of $1000 each, and horses are eligible to them from Jan. 1, 1898. The conditions are only five per cent. to start, payable in easy installments, and five per cent. additional from winners. For further particulars consult the advertisement.

Entries to these stakes close July 5, and must be addressed to Jesse L. Smith, Huntington, L. I.

The managers of Lynbrook Driving Park have reopened their stakes. The classes, amount of stakes and terms are the same as at Huntington and the date of closing is also the same, July 5, 1898. Address entries to R. L. Davis, secretary, Lynbrook, L. I.

These stake meetings precede the meetings at Mineola, Parkway and Riverhead, which gives horsemen an opportunity to race five consecutive weeks for good money on Long Island. The inducements offered should attract a large list of entries. Don't fail to read the advertisements.

Good Purses at Falmouth, Mass.

The managers of the Gentlemen's Driving Association track have decided to hang up three purses for races there on the Fourth of July. The classes are 2.27 and 2.37 trot or pace, purses $200 each. The third purse of $100 is for horses owned in the county that are eligible to the 2.50 class. For full particulars see advertisement. Entries close Tuesday, June 28, and must be addressed to E. E. C. Swift, Jr., Falmouth, Mass.

Every owner of a fine horse who wishes to keep his animal free from skin diseases, and at the same time give it a delightful appearance, ought to send to Goodwin & Co., 38 Hanover street, Boston, Mass., for a bottle of Glosserine, price $2. It has a wonderful success in treating eruptions, such as cuts, scatches and sores, and makes the hair very glossy.