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IMPROVEMENT IN NORTHERN-BRED TROTTING STOCK.

It may be a question whether the average of the carriage and general-purpose horse stock of New England and northern New York is better today than it was 10, 20 or 30 years ago. Whether this be so or not, there has surely been a vast improvement in the young trotting stock in the North during the past 10 years. Perhaps the fact cannot be better illustrated than by comparing the time made in the colt races during the first meeting of the New England Trotting Horse Breeders' Association with that in the same classes during the last meeting at Readville.

The first race meeting of the above-named organization was held at Mystic Park in 1887. There were three races that season for two year olds. Noblesse, by Alcyone; dam, Fair Lady, by Dictator, won the first in 3.04¼, 3 02½. Alcagetta, by Alcantara; dam, Lady Daggett (2.26), won the second two-year-old race, time, 2.35, 2 31¾, distancing all the other starters. In the third two-year-old race Virginia Evans, by Kentucky Wilkes (2.21¼), dam, Lady Thornton (2 26¼), took first and third heats in 2.46, 2.50½, and secured first money. Onawa Jr., by Onawa (2.22¼), won the second heat in 2.51¾.

By the above it will be seen that the time of the fastest heat trotted by a two year old at the Breeders' meeting 10 years ago was 2 31¾. This was considered a wonderful performance, and an offer of $5000 was refused for the filly Alcagetta, which accomplished it. She took a record of 2.25 the next year as a three year old, but died before the season closed.

At the late Breeders' meeting the two-year-old race for colts and geldings was won by the Muster Hill Farm, New England-bred gelding, Authentic, which distanced all his competitors in the first heat. The day was cold with the wind blowing almost a gale, yet Authentic trotted his mile in 2 26¾, which is five seconds faster than the time made by Alcagetta ten years ago. Authentic is by Autograph (2 16½), a son of Alcantara (2.23). His dam is Laura F. (2 19½) by Hamlin's Almont Jr. (2.26). Authentic was bred, raised and trained at Muster Hill Farm, and had never been away from home until trainer Brady who drove him to his record took him to Readville a few days before his race.

The class for two-year-old fillies at the late Breeders' meeting was won by Nowaday in 2.21¼, 2.19¼, which is 12½ seconds faster than the fastest time made in the two-year-old class 10 years ago, and 43¼ seconds faster than the Kentucky-bred filly Noblesse had to step to win the two-year-old stake at the first Breeders' meeting, which was open to two-year-old trotters wherever bred.

There were three classes for three year olds at the Breeders' meeting ten years ago. The first was won in straight heats by R. D. F., a son of Aristos (2.27¾); time, 2 41¼, 2.39¾, 2.39¼. In the second race for three year olds, Chastielard, by King Rene, had a walk over, as there was no other contestant. His time was 2.38¾. The third race for three year olds in 1887 was won in straight heats by Nimbus, a son of Ben Franklin; time, 2.54, 2.32¾, 2.42½.

There were three races for three-year-old trotters at the late Breeders' meeting at Readville. The first was the stallion produce stake in which there were four starters. Potenta, by Potential, won the first heat in 2 20¾. Nico, by Arion (2 07¾), took the next two in 2.16¾, 2 19¼. Potenta won the fourth in 2.23½. Mikado, by Ralph Wilkes, got the fifth in 2.23¼, and Nico the sixth in 2.25¼. The weather was too cold for fast time, and a stiff breeze rendered the conditions still more unfavorable for record breaking. Nico was bred and raised at the Forbes Farm, Ponkapog, Mass. His time was 22 seconds faster than the fastest heat trotted by any three year old at the Breeders' meeting in 1887, and 22½ seconds faster than the best made in that meeting by any three year old bred in New England.

The second three-year-old race at Readville was for a purse of $1000, open to the world, whether owned by members or not. There were five starters and only one of the lot was bred in New England. The Village Farm filly, American Belle, by Rex Americus, won in straight heats, time, 2.16½, 2 17¾, 2 12¼. The time of the last heat was 26½ seconds faster than the fastest heat trotted by any three year old at the first meeting of the New England Breeders' Association.

The third race for three-year-old trotters at the late Breeders' meeting was the Matron Stake for trotting foals of 1894, value $1415. There were three starters in this race, all Northern bred, viz: Potenta, by Potential, bred, raised, developed and driven by C. E. Wicker, Ticonderoga, N. Y.; Mikado, bred by E. V. R. Thayer of this city, got by Ralph Wilkes, and driven by E. Bither, and Mallacca, by Ralph Wilkes, bred and raised by Col. J. E. Thayer, proprietor of Maplehurst Farm, Clinton, Mass., developed and driven by trainer Allie Trout. This stake was won by Potenta in straight heats, time 2.17¾, 2.20¾, 2.19¼. Potenta's fastest heat was 21½ seconds faster than that made by the fastest Northern-bred three-year-old trotter at the Breeders' meeting in 1887.

These comparisons show that great progress has been made in improving the speed of Northern-bred trotters since the Breeders' Association was organized. Many very valuable trotters have been brought into the territory comprised within the limits of the association during the 11 years of its existence. Some of the most prominent of these which now occur to mind are the lamented Ralph Wilkes (2.06¾), Arion (2.07¾), Kremlin (2.07¾), Baron Rogers (2 09¾), Early Bird (2 10), Bingen (3) (2.12½), Constantine (2.12½), Oscar William (2 12¾) (lately died), Campbell's Electioneer (2.17¾), Baron Wilkes (2.18), Sable Wilkes (2 18), Sir Walter Jr. (2.18¼), May King (2.20), Woodbrino (2.25½), Patronage (sire of Alix, 2.03¾), Day Bell (by Palo Alto, 2.08¾, dam, Beautiful Bells, 2 29½), Potential (by Prodigal, 2.16, dam, a full sister of Arion, 2.07¾), Parker Gun and many others, some of which may yet prove the equal as sires to any of those named above.

Potenta, whose likeness appears on the front page, is a handsome, smoothly turned bay filly, bred by C. E. Wicker, Ticonderoga, N. Y., who has developed her speed and driven her in all her races. She is by Mr. W. R. Janvier's royally bred young sire Potential, and is his first foal. Potential is by Prodigal (2.16), and Prodigal is a full brother of Patronage, sire of Alix (2.03¾), and of Patron (2.14¼), the first trotter to take a record of 2 19½ as a three year old. Prodigal was by Pancoast (2.21¾), whose sire was Woodford Mambrino (2 21½), and whose dam, Bicara, was by Harold, sire of Maud S. (2.08¾), and out of Belle, the dam of Belmont 64, etc., by Mambrino Chief.

The dam of Prodigal was Beatrice, a full sister of Elvira, the first trotter to take a record of 2 18½ as a four year old. The second dam of Prodigal was Mary Mambrino, by that noted brood mare sire Herr's Mambrino Patchen. Prodigal's third dam was by Embry's Wagner, a thoroughbred race horse, whose sire was the famous inbred Diomed race winner Wagner, the first horse to win a four-mile heat in 7.43. The dam of Embry's Wagner was Bellamira, by imported Monarch, out of Kitty Heath, by American Eclipse, another noted four-mile race winner, and one of the best of his day.

The fourth dam of Prodigal was Lady Bell, by Bellfounder Jr., a son of Brown's Bellfounder. The latter was by imported Bellfounder, sire of the dam of Rysdyk's Hambletonian, and his dam was Lady Allport, by Mambrino, the thoroughbred son of imported Messenger, which got Abdallah, Mambrino Paymaster and Almack, three noted horses which in the order named sired the founders of the trotting families known as the Hambletonian, the Mambrino Chief and the Champion.

Prodigal's fifth dam was Multiflora, a thoroughbred daughter of Monmouth Eclipse. The latter was by the renowned American Eclipse, son of Duroc. The sixth dam of Prodigal was by Kosciusco, the son of Sir Archy, which got Woodford, sire of the great brood mare Woodbine, dam of Wedgewood (2.19) and Woodford Mambrino (2.21½). Woodford also got the dam of Brignoli (2 29¾), and Brignoli sired Missie, the dam of King Wilkes (2.22¼), etc. The seventh and all succeeding dams of Prodigal so far as known were thoroughbred. This gives Potential a speed inheritance through his sire equalled by but few stallions outside of the get of Patron, Patronage and Prodigal.

The pedigree of Helen T., the dam of Potential, is especially rich in blood lines which have produced speed with great uniformity and of the highest order. Helen T. is a full sister of Arion, whose trotting record of 2.10¾ as a two year old, made to a high-wheeled sulky, is still unbeaten. She was by Electioneer, sire of a greater number of 2.30 trotters and also of a greater number of world's champion trotters than any other stallion that ever lived. Manette, the dam of Helen T., Arion (2.07¾), Oro Fino (2.18), etc., is by Nutwood (2.18¾), which ranks second only to Electioneer as a sire of 2.30 or better speed, and whose 2.30 list will some day in the near future be larger than that of Electioneer. Nutwood, as is well known, was by Belmont, son of Alexander's Abdallah, and his dam was the great brood mare Miss Russell, which also produced the world's champion trotter Maud S. (2.08¾) and other fast ones, and whose son, Lord Russell, a full brother of Maud S., got Kremlin (2.07¾), also a world's champion trotter at five years of age. Kremlin also twice lowered the stallion trotting record of the world.

Miss Russell, the dam of Nutwood (2.18¾), sire of Manette, was by the successful brood mare sire Pilot Jr. Her dam, Sally Russell, was a thoroughbred daughter of Boston, the most successful race horse of his day. The pedigree of Sally Russell shows her to be more closely inbred to imported Diomed than any other animal whose name is found in the Stud Book which we can now recall.

The third dam of Potential was Emblem, and she was the grandam of *Flying Jib* (2 04). Emblem is full sister of Voltaire (2.20¼). Her sire was Tattler, trotting record 2.26. Tattler was by Pilot Jr., and his dam, Telltale, was a thoroughbred daughter of Telamon, by Medoc, son of American Eclipse. The dam of Telltale was also by Medoc, making her inbred to this stout son of American Eclipse. The fourth dam of Potential was the great brood mare Young Portia, by Mambrino Chief. Young Portia produced Voltaire (2.20¼) and Nora Lee (2,29¼).

It is not surprising that a stallion with such an inheritance as Potential possesses should get early and extreme speed. Indeed, it would be a wonder if he did not impart these qualities, and that, too, with as great uniformity as any stallion that lives. In addition to his rich speed inheritance he has had the very choicest of patronage during the past two seasons, and will continue to have as long as he is kept in the stud, especially if he remains the property of his present popular and liberal-minded owner, W. R. Janvier, and is managed by that capable and genial horseman, Charley Wicker.

The dam of Potenta is an inbred Morgan, known as Aristena. Her sire was Aristos (2.27¾), by Daniel Lambert. Aristena also produced Walter J. (2.23½) and Tony (2.27). The second dam of Potenta was Jenny, and her sire was Superb, a son of Ethan Allen (2.25½). Jenny is the dam of Mars (2 27¼). Both the dam and grandam of Potenta are in the great brood mare list. The dam of Aristos (2 27¾) was the great brood mare Fanny Jackson, by Stonewall Jackson, grandson of Vermont Black Hawk.

Potenta is a remarkably pure-gaited trotter, needs no weights, and wears only light quarter boots and scalpers in her races. She has never yet touched a boot, either when jogging or at speed. She took a record of 2 27¾ as a two year old. Her first race this season was over a slow half-mile track, and she won it easily. Her second start was on the first day of the late Breeders' meeting at Readville. It was a six-heat race. Potenta won the first heat in 2.20¾, was second the next two heats in 2.16¾, 2.19¼, won the fourth in 2.23¼ was second the next heat in 2.23¼, and got second money. Four days later she was started again and won in straight heats; time, 2.17¾, 2.20¾, 2.19¼. Her performance reflects great credit upon her breeder and trainer, Mr. Wicker, and foreshadows a brilliant future for Mr. Janvier's grandly bred young stallion Potential.

A PUBLIC-SPIRITED HORSEMAN—THE NEW SPEEDWAY.

In a late issue of the BREEDER we mentioned the fact that Messrs. John Shepard, W. D. Hunt and George A. Graves, the committee appointed to try and get a speedway in the vicinity of Boston, had paid out several hundred dollars from their own pockets for necessary expenses connected with their labor. A few days since Mr. Shepard received the following:

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 4, 1897.

Mr. John Shepard:

Dear Sir—I see by the AMERICAN HORSE BREEDER that Messrs. Hunt, Shepard and Graves are a little short on their Charles River improvement. Please add $25 as the "widow's mite," to help out the good cause.

Yours truly, C. W. MARKS.

Mr. Marks's unsolicited contribution is highly appreciated. Both he and his magnificent horse, *Joe Patchen* (2.01¼), will be held in grateful and pleasant remembrance by the present generation of the liberal-minded horsemen of this section of New England. We hope he may enjoy many a lively brush on Charles River speedway. A number of prominent road drivers in this vicinity have already contributed more than their share toward making up for the committee the sum of money which they were forced to pay from their own pockets, in addition to gratuitously contributing their time and thought.

If the rest of the horsemen in the vicinity of the speedway, who are to derive the most benefit from this beautiful piece of road, will each contribute such sums as they are able to spare, the amount paid out by Messrs. Shepard, Hunt and Graves will soon be made good. Had it not been for the persistent and well-directed efforts of the above gentlemen it is probable that none of the present generation of horsemen would have ever seen a public trotting ground in the vicinity of Boston worthy the name of speedway.

It was the privilege of the writer to examine the detailed plans of the proposed speedway a few days since, and we can assure our readers that when completed it will be a credit to Boston and numerous other cities which it will accommodate quite as well or better than it will the Hub. The speedway is to be 50 feet in width and one mile in length. The road running parallel to the speedway will be 60 feet wide, and is to be elevated its entire length a little above the speeding course, so as to give the best possible view of the exciting contests which will take place there. In addition to this road 60 feet in width there will be another road on the opposite side of the river, both of which can be used by owners of fast horses for returning to the starting point, so that they will have ample convenience for jogging back without delay. It is probable that the specifications for its construction will soon be ready. The contract will then be let, and work upon it will be begun at the earliest possible moment.

Descendants of Alcyone (2.27) made a very creditable showing at Lexington, Ky, last week. His daughter, Bush, reduced her record to 2,09½, and got third money in the Transylvania Stake, and Zylpha, which won the 2.21 trot, an eight-heat affair, is out of Senora, by Alcyone. The sire of Zylpha is Greystone, by Nutwood (2.18¾). The dam of Greystone was Starling, by George Wilkes, and Starling's dam was old Jessie Pepper, by Mambrino Chief. Jessie Pepper was bred to Alcyone and produced Iona (2.17½). She was also bred to Alcantara and produced Alpha (2 23½), the dam of Judge Hubbard's valuable stallion Ægon (3) 2.18¼). Starling was a full sister of Annabel, which bred to Alcantara produced the great brood mare Estabella, dam of *Heir at Law* (2.06½), Prince Regent (2.16½), etc. Zylpha is very choicely bred, and when her racing days are over, if bred to such a stallion as Arion (2.07¾) should produce a world's champion trotter.

The two fastest trotters by Allandorf (2.19½), viz., Dick Hubbard (2.09¾) and Celaya (2.11¼), are both out of daughters of George Wilkes (2.22).