THE HORSEMAN.

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AMONG the questions of the turf which have assumed large dimensions in England and the colonies is one which is gradually looming up into prominence on the American turf. It is the question: Should jockeys be permitted to bet? At first sight it would seem absurd to attempt to restrict a jockey's right to do what he likes with his own money, but the history of the turf proves that jockeys who are in the habit of betting heavily sooner or later get their names associated with the turf scandals of the day. It must be admitted that a jockey who bets on a race in which he has a mount has a great advantage over an owner or an ordinary backer. He is not only playing against the game, but he is one of the participants in it. It appears unjust to say that a jockey should not be permitted to back his own mount, yet if he does so heavily, and then informs the jockey on his most dangerous antagonist that he stands in with the winnings, is it not likely to affect the result of the race? But the case becomes more serious when a jockey believes that his own mount has no chance, and places his money on another horse. In such a case, unless he is the pink of honor, he has many opportunities for influencing the result of the race, which he will avail himself of. He may find to his surprise that he has under-valued the speed of his own mount, and that the horse he has backed to win can only do so by his own horse losing. In the fierce conflict of honor and interest his riding would be apt to be poor and his hand unsteady. But can there be the same determination to get well off, to carefully judge the pace, to watch for and take advantage of every mistake made by the other jockeys, and to ride a resolute finish to the wire when the jockey has his money on another horse? However honest he may be, the fact that he has backed a competing horse is proof positive that he has no confidence in his own mount. With this conviction in his mind is he not likely to determine to simply stay with the bunch and try to make a respectable showing in the home-stretch? We need hardly say that a jockey who had no scruples of conscience could do much more than this. He could assist the horse he wishes to win in a variety of ways, and though his own horse might be disqualified, yet he would pocket his ill-gotten gains. The worst feature of the business is that a certain class of turfites are always willing to assist impecunious jockeys, and bookmakers are naturally anxious to do business with them. When a jockey once contracts gambling debts he is to a great extent in the power of his creditor, and if he does nothing worse than divulge the secrets of the stable his employer is a very fortunate man. In a recent issue the Melbourne Sportsman describes the situation on the Australian turf, and demands legislation on the subject. The article is as follows:

For some years past there has been an outcry in Great Britain against jockeys betting, and it has rightly been deemed a serious evil, and rigid and severe rules have been enacted to suppress or minimise it. Even where a jockey only backs the horse he bestrides it may be deemed an evil by some who suggest that it may enable him to suborn another jockey whose mount he fears, by affording him the power to offer to save a liberal sum, either before or at a critical point in a race. If, however, it is an evil for a jockey to back the horse he rides for a big stake, how much more seriously wrong is it for him to back another animal in the race which he rides. For example, even if his own horse has no chance to win, how great is the temptation to make use of it to block or stop something which he may fancy has a chance of beating the horse upon which his money is staked; while if his mount has a show to beat the horse he has backed, he must evince a higher sense of honor than many jockeys are believed to possess if he uses his best efforts to win, and thus lose heavily on the race.

It is a well-known fact that in England jockeys, despite repressive legislation, bet heavily; and in the colonies it is commonly rumored that co-partnerships and rings exist, especially in races run over hurdles and fences, and it has been asserted that at minor meetings the whole of the jockeys engaged have had a bit on the winner.

This, if true, speaks volumes for their discrimination and judgment, especially when subsequent revelations show that the owner had no idea of his horse's powers, and let him run unbacked, while some of the defeated division carried heavy investments both for their owners and their trainers, and yet went down.

It is a well-known fact that among our successful horsemen, and especially among our hurdle and steeplechase riders, are men who bet heavily, and who win sums to which the stakes run for are insignificant. Of course, some of our jockeys are also trainers and owners, and it seems hard to prevent these men winning money on the animals they own, train or ride, and I for one should doubt the policy of attempting to prevent their doing so. Still, the question of jockeys betting is one which public opinion is greatly exercised upon. And anyone who attends suburban meetings can, if he chooses to watch, readily see how greatly the trouble is increasing. Stable boys and jockeys of every age can be seen investing their money with the ring, or in eager conference with backers who bet for them. Lads of fourteen or fifteen think nothing of having a tenner on a horse in a race in which they are about to ride one of its opponents.

Under our present system, or want of it, neither the lads nor the ring are under any regulation other than that which Rule 134 gives, and these are of too general application to be of practical use. In order to check the practice of jockeys betting it will be necessary to render the layer and backer alike amenable to punishment in cases where a jockey backs another horse, or accepts a share in a bet on any other horse than that he bestrides in a race in which he is riding. It will also become necessary to prohibit jockeys saving money with an antagonist during a race.

The system of ready-money betting which has now become the rule on all our courses must necessarily greatly increase the difficulty of dealing with this matter. The wagers under this system are not booked to name, and hence the task of proving a jockey guilty of improper betting becomes intensified, while his opportunities for doing so are enormously multiplied. As long as the cash is handed to him the ready-money metallician naturally looks no further; and he, in the hurry of business, can hardly be expected to. Despite all these difficulties the matter is too important and too urgent to admit of delay in dealing with it. With the English rules on this head before them, and with the aid of the club's detectives, steps may be taken which will abate the evil, and public sentiment not be shocked, as at present, by the spectacle of mere babies betting. About twelve months ago, at an important meeting, a race was run in which common report said an arrangement was arrived at between the riders of all the horses but one as to which was to win. This one was not thought worthy of consideration, and was left out of their ring, but proved the winner, and so upset a pretty conspiracy. This was an open secret, yet the stewards suspected nothing. What has happened in the past may again occur. If the chief club does not rise to the occasion, and at once "grasp their nettle," a handle will be afforded to the unco guid section of the community to raise a cry for legislative interference with racing. Like all great institutions, the turf has its weak points, and it rests with those who govern it to sedulously repress abuses and guard against flaws in its armor. It must be remembered that if our jockeys, as a class, become demoralized, and lose their integrity, public confidence will be withdrawn even although a few men remain in the profession whose whole career has placed them as far above suspicion as are the judges of our Supreme Courts.

In England the leading jockey, Charles Wood, who in a few years has become immensely wealthy, was refused his license at the beginning of the season, and Barrett, another popular jockey who was also refused his license, has only recently been reinstated. In both cases the cause of their downfall is really attributable to their extensive transactions in the ring. We do not believe the evil has attained to the same magnitude here that it has on the other side of the water, but a stitch in time saves nine, and as our turf legislators are about to meet, this subject is well worthy of their consideration. We are well aware that the majority of our jockeys are honest, and in spite of strong temptations maintain their honor untarnished. Such being the case, it is the duty of the governing powers of the turf to sedulously guard them from temptation, and if necessary to formulate rules which will restrict their betting operations to a minimum.

CONTINUING our review of the two-year-olds of the season, the first youngster on our list is the bay colt Gunshot, by The Gunner, out of Annie S. Brighton Beach was the scene of his exploits, and he got to the wire first on three occasions. On July 23 he won a purse race of six furlongs in 1:17½ from a field of seven. On August 24, over the same distance, he won by six lengths, showing his heels to ten competitors in 1:18¾. On August 27 he won a similar purse in 1:18¾.

The chestnut colt Harrisburg, by imp. Hopeful, out of Achsah, has shown some creditable form. On May 30, at the Brooklyn spring meeting, he won a purse race of three-quarters of a mile in 1:21½. The track was very heavy, and he won in a canter by two lengths. At Coney Island, on June 28, with 115 lbs. up, he won a sweepstakes, distance five and one-half furlongs, over a heavy track, in 1:12½. In the field behind him were My Fellow, 107 lbs.; Sorrento, 111 lbs.; Marsac, 110 lbs.; Flood Tide, 111½ lbs.; Consolation, 110 lbs.; Dalesman, 107 lbs.; Isis, 107 lbs.; Single Stone, 116 lbs.; the Billet-Juniata colt, 110 lbs.; Glory, 107 lbs.; Lovecraft, 110 lbs., and Darling, 107 lbs. At Monmouth Park he won a six-furlong race by a length in 1:16. At that time he defeated Radiant, 105 lbs.; Little Barefoot, 99 lbs.; Uintah, 105 lbs.; Chilhowie, 101 lbs.; Little Jake, 115 lbs.; Tiburon, 88 lbs.; Sweet Avon 88 lbs.; Katie, 94 lbs., and Malachi, 94 lbs.

The bay colt Hindoocraft, by Hindoo, out of Lady Crafton, did not show up prominently in the spring, but he signally improved in the autumn. At the Latonia spring meeting, on June 9, he won a purse race at four and a half furlongs in 56¾ seconds. Unlucky was second and Lady Hemphill third. Twelve others ran. At the Louisville autumn meeting, on September 26, he won a purse race of six furlongs by two lengths in 1:16¾. Behind him in the order named were Nyleptha, Julien, Santa Cruz, Winning Ways, Laura Stone, Meckie H., Vantrim and Englewood. At the Latonia autumn meeting, on October 4, he placed a purse to his credit at five furlongs in 1:03. There were sixteen starters, including Rimini, Blessing and Zoolite. On October 15, at the Lexington autumn meeting, he won the Clark Stake, distance three-quarters of a mile, in 1:20¾. The track was very heavy, and he won by two lengths. Behind him, in the order named, were King Regent, Sir Edward, Sportsman, Lannes, Teuton and Castaway. At the same meeting he won a purse race, distance eleven-sixteenths of a mile, in 1:23¼. On that occasion he defeated Sportsman, West, Sir Edward, Sparling, Santa Cruz and Lee Dinkelspiel. Hindoocraft is well bred and should make a useful three-year-old.

The chestnut filly Holiday, by imp. Hopeful, out of Minnie Mac, has done some fast work and proven herself to be a mare of more than average ability. At the Washington spring meeting she won the Youthful Stake, distance half a mile, by three lengths, in 49¾ seconds. At the same meeting she won the Brentwood Stake, distance five furlongs, in 1:03. On June 20, at Coney Island, she won the Zephyr Stake, distance six furlongs, in the fast time of 1:15. She carried 107 lbs. and won easily by one length and a half. Behind the winner, in the order named, were Buddhist, 115½ lbs.; Bill Barnes, 110 lbs.; Glory, 104 lbs.; Seymour, 110½ lbs.; Aurania, 113½ lbs.; Volunteer, 107 lbs.; Harebell, 111 lbs., and Verdeur, 104 lbs.

Lady Margaret, by imp. Ill-Used, out of Lady Roseberry, in four races scored two victories. On July 4, at Monmouth Park, she won the Independence Stake, three-quarters of a mile, in 1:15½. She carried 102 lbs., and easily defeated Buddhist by a length and a half. The balance of the field consisted of Single Stone, 110 lbs.; the Tom Ochiltree---Cyclone colt, 106 lbs.; Sorrento, 105 lbs.; Sam Wood, 113 lbs.; J. A. B., 105 lbs.; Brussels, 105 lbs.; Harrisburg, 110 lbs., and Winfield, 105 lbs. At the same meeting she won the Atlantic Stake, six furlongs, in a canter by three lengths in 1:15. On that occasion she carried 111 lbs. Winfield, 105 lbs.; Aurania, 112 lbs.; Ransom, 110 lbs.; Verdeur, 102 lbs.; Long Island, 105 lbs.; Single Stone, 110 lbs.; Sorrento, 115 lbs.; Ripton, 105 lbs.; James Morris, 105 lbs., and Gladys, 105½ lbs, also ran. Lady Margaret is a superior filly, and these two victories prove that she is dangerous in any company.

Laura Stone, by imp. Rayon d'Or, out of Valleria, proved herself to be a fast filly, and when on edge she was formidable in the best company. She won her first race at the Nashville spring meeting in the Ivy Leaf Stake. The distance was half a mile, and she got to the wire first by a length in 50 seconds. She had eleven competitors. At the Latonia spring meeting, in a field of fourteen, she won by two lengths a purse race of four and a half furlongs in 56½ seconds. At the same meeting she won a purse race at half a mile in 50 seconds. At the West Side Park, Chicago, on September 1, she cleverly captured a purse handicap, distance six furlongs, in 1:16½. With 116 lbs. up she defeated Martin Russell, 111 lbs.; Angelus, 112 lbs.: Judge Arnett, 117 lbs.; Spectator, 106 lbs.; Richland, 100 lbs.; Cassandra, 112 lbs.; Brandolette, 115 lbs.; Sunflower, 90 lbs., and Entry, 95 lbs. At the autumn meeting of the Washington Park Club she won the Kensington Handicap, three-quarters of a mile, in 1:16½. She carried 98 lbs. Her opponents were Hindoocraft, 106 lbs.; Havillah, 110 lbs., and Lady Hemphill, 104 lbs. At the autumn meeting of the Latonia Jockey Club, on October 10, she won a purse race, nine-sixteenths of a mile, very cleverly by a length in 56¾ seconds. Laura Stone should give a good account of herself in her three-year-old form.

The bay colt Liberty, by Leonatus, out of Effie C., shows a fair balance on the winning side. At St. Louis, Mo., on May 26, he won a purse race, five furlongs, in a canter by two lengths in 1:05½. At the same meeting he won the Real Estate Stake very easily by a length. The distance was six furlongs and the time was 1:15. In this race he carried 110 lbs., while behind him were Isabella, 105 lbs.; So So, 115 lbs.; Glockner, 110 lbs., and Columbus, 105 lbs. He also won the richest stake of the meeting, the Futurity Stake. The distance is six furlongs, and he won by a length in 1:16. With 110 lbs. up he defeated Bootmaker, 108 lbs.; Retrieve, 107 lbs.; Once Again, 110 lbs.; Monsoon, 108 lbs.; Philander, 108 lbs.: Lady Pulsifer, 105 lbs.; Reporter, 108 lbs.; Chilhowie, 112 lbs.; Outbound, 108 lbs.; Isabella, 105 lbs., and Blue Rock, 108 lbs.

The brown colt Madstone, by Vanderbilt, out of Nina Turner, achieved several very creditable turf victories during the season. On the first day of the Louisville spring meeting, in a field of twelve, he won a purse race, distance five furlongs, in 1:02¾. At the Latonia spring meeting he again won in a field of the same number in 1:03. At Monmouth Park, on August 23, he won in a canter by three lengths a handicap sweepstakes, six furlongs, in 1:16¾. He carried 113 lbs., and had behind him Red Light, 95 lbs.; Brahmin, 103 lbs; Tenny, 96 lbs.; Groomsman, 115 lbs.; Khafton, 114½ lbs.; Harrisburg, 108 lbs.; Little Jake, 108 lbs.; the Plevna-Tigress filly, 97 lbs.; Radiant, 107 lbs.; Winfield, 106 lbs., and Soncy Lass, 100 lbs. At the Brooklyn autumn meeting he won a purse race at the same distance in 1:16¼. At Coney Island he won the Gleaners' Stake, six furlongs, by two lengths in 1:18 2-5. In this race he carried 115 lbs., and had behind him Tenny, 105 lbs.; Sluggard, 118 lbs.; J. A. B., 105 lbs.; Gendarme, 102 lbs.; Sam Wood, 116 lbs., and Ogalalla, 102 lbs.

Monsoon is a bay colt by imported Kyrle Daly, out of Mura, and before his first appearance the announcement was made that he was a world-beater. His public career did not justify the statement, though he did achieve two creditable victories. At the Washington Park summer meeting, in a field of eighteen, he won a purse race at five furlongs in 1:02¾ by a length. Galen was second and Chilhowie third. At Saratoga, on August 21, he won a purse race at the same distance in 1:03¾. Laura Stone was second and Daisy Woodruff third.

Once Again, by Onondaga, out of Black Maria, commenced the year well, but like the most of his companions of the Melbourne Stable, was unfortunate during the greater part of the season. At the Latonia spring meeting he won the Harold Stake in a good field of fifteen. The distance was five furlongs, and he won in a canter by four lengths. In the field were such good ones as Proctor Knott and Hindoocraft. At the St. Louis meeting he met Champagne Charley in a purse race at six furlongs. The latter was a strong favorite at five to two on, but Once Again beat him by a length in 1:18½.

Oregon, by Onondaga, out of Skylight, did not take part in many contests, and he succeeded in placing three of them to his credit. At the Brooklyn spring meeting he won the Expectation Stake, distance half a mile, very easily in 51 seconds. In the field were Buddhist, The Don, Carnot, The Tartar, Verona and Sandy. At the same meeting he won the Hudson Stake, five furlongs, in 1:04, defeating Buddhist, Hot Scotch and The Tartar. He also captured the Tremont Stake, six furlongs, with a very slow track, in