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THE HORSE IN OREGON.

By Capt. Thomas B. Nerry.

Astoria, Ore., July 22.—As Oregon has more green grass in the year than any other state in the Union, she should naturally produce stronger and better type of horses, for it is generally conceded that grass is what makes bone and substance.

California has milder winters than Oregon, which enables the trainers to make greater progress with two-year-olds and three-year-olds, but there is an old saying among fruit-growers, "Early ripe, early rotten," which holds good particularly in this matter, for you seldom hear of any good horses of seven or eight years old in that state, except a few which, for some reason not generally given, have not been trained at an early age. The Oregon horse, on the contrary, receives little or no handling until he is four and then, with all his muscles developed and his bone thoroughly hardened, he is a campaigner worth owning.

The first trotting stallion was brought into Oregon by John P. Welch in 1860 and was named "Waterloo." He had a record of 2:45 made in Wisconsin. He was not much himself, but was good enough to set the ball a-rolling, for in the following year a man from Jacksonville went down to San Francisco and brought back a very handsome little brown stallion named "Vermont," who had a record of 2:50 made in a race against the more famous Werner's "Rattler," who afterwards trotted in 2:34.

Vermont got three performers with records of 2:30 or better. "Parrot," 2:26; "Ella Lewis," 2:29, and "Fanstiva," 2:30. He also got a big horse, "Blue Mountain Boy," that won a race at seven heats in a field of six starters, at the old Bay District track near San Francisco. No heat was trotted in 2:30, but the big brown stallion wore down every horse in the race and finished the race in 2:34. Besides these, "Vermont" got a horse called "Jim McDonough," that could beat any horse in California from the City Hall to the Cliff House, with two men in an ordinary road wagon.

"Hambletonian Mambrino" was a small but beautifully shaped bay stallion brought to Portland in 1877 by Simeon G. Reed, then vice-president of the Oregon Steam Navigation Co. He was by "Menelaus," a son of "The Hero of Chester," and his dam was by a son of that other famous sire, "Mambrino Chief." This horse was kept at Reedsville, on the West Side road, and was a success from the very start.

W. Reed had previously brought out a horse called "Autocrat" that is still living in Portland at the advanced age of 34 years, but his contribution to the trotting world was insignificant. On the contrary, "Hambletonian Mambrino" got as many fast ones as any other stallion with the same opportunities. His roll of honor includes the following:

Vanquish, 2:10; Susie S., 2:20; Jane L., 2:19½; Fred Hambleton, 2:26; Stella H., 2:29¾; Hamrock, 2:22; Carlyle Game, 2:25; Kilty Ham, 2:26.

The Coming of Altamont.

Jay Beach was post sutler at Fort Klamath up to the time of its abandonment as a military post. Having a fair supply of money at his command, he sent East in 1881 and purchased from Dr. William T. Withers, of Lexington, Ky., a brown stallion named "Altamont," together with some four or five mares, all gotten by stallions having public records. Altamont made one season at the Fort, where he got a stallion named "Morookers," who in turn got a bay horse named "Klamath" that was the leading campaigner of the Pacific Coast in 1893.

"Altamont" was rather on a small order, but about the strongest horse of his size. This is proven by the fact that while his best time to a sulky was 2:24, he actually trotted a third heat to a skeleton wagon in 2:26, something that is not true of one horse in five hundred. Following is his roll of honor:

Almonette	2:29¼
Alta	2:23½
Altar	2:16
Altona	2:26½
Althaia	2:27¼
Georgie Woodhope	2:24
Canemah	2:20½
Coqueta	2:30
Lady Bench	2:26¼
McMinnville Maid	2:21¼
Lady Daphne	2:22
Oneco	2:25
Pearl Fisher	2:25
Pricement	2:26
Stemwinder	2:25¼
Fremont	2:29¼
Wallula	2:29¼
Vinmont	2:29
Del Norte	2:14½
Malheur	2:27½
Mary A.	2:30
Tybalt	2:18½
Del Norte	2:18½
Doc Sperry	2:07
Ella T.	2:12
Klickitat Maid	2:19
Touchet	2:15
Chehalis	2:24½
Altawood	2:24½

The last seven named were pacers.

Since then importations have been more frequent and quite as valuable. The famous mare "Sonoma Girl," with a record of 2:03½ for one heat and three heats all below 2:05, has a brother called "Sonoma Boy" owned by Mr. Frank Alley, an attorney of Roseburg in Douglas County; and the same genelteman also owns another stallion called "Bonaday," by the noted Kentucky-bred horse "Bon Voyage" owned by a son of ex-Senator Clark, of Montana, who won the Kentucky Futurity at Lexington.

Paul Wessenger, the president of the Weinhard breweries, owns "Hal B.," one of the finest and fastest stallions ever brought to the state. He is a pacer with a record of 2:04½. He also owns "Culzado," a son of the great "McKinney," 2:11, who sired more horses in the 2:10 list than any living stallion.

And, Capt. C. P. McCam, of Hood River, not content with owning "Patchen Boy," who got a record of 2:10¾ in a winning race at three years old, bought the famous Kentucky stallion, "The Bondsman," for $20,000 about four months ago. So anyone can see for himself that Oregon is fast coming to the front as a big producer of fast trotting and pacing horses.

The thoroughbred horse is almost extinct in Oregon. One can recall the day when Judge Bybee's great filly "Misty Morn" won the Oregon Derby, and then went down to San Francisco where she defeated all the best three-year-olds in California. But with Judge Bybee's death a change came over the breeding of thoroughbred horses in this state. The purses hung up to be run for at our race meetings were all gobbled up by a class of cheap selling platers from California, owned and handled by a class of men who stopped at nothing in their crooked designs.

Most of the races were run and won over night, the first money going to the caucus nominee. Bybee was dead and there was no local man to take his place and compel other men to race fairly. So the sport ran down to such an extent that most of the fairs held in the state give no prizes for gallopers at all. While others limit the amount to $100 which is no inducement for the jobbers to come up here from California; and with all the tracks in that state now closed indefinitely, it is hard to say what those fellows are going to do for a living. Serves them right. They killed the goose which laid the golden egg.

Heavy draft horses have, however, attained a degree of perfection in this state far beyond the most sanguine expectations of people engaged in that branch of business. A Kentucky gentleman who visited Portland some three months ago, said to the writer:

"I never visited a city of Portland's size that could honestly compare with her in the matter of business horses. You naturally look for fine gentlemen's roadsters in a city of so much local wealth, but when you come to look at the express horses and dray horses used in the wholesale end of your city, you see what is to be seen in no other city of Portland's size. It speaks volumes for the enterprize of your breeders."

The truth is that Oregon has three big and capacious markets for all the big work horses she can produce—Portland, Seattle and San Francisco. And the horse dealers of the latter city are never slow about sending here for just such horses as they require.

Thus it will be seen that the horse has entered largely into the spirit of Oregon. This is only one of the many lessons which have been learned over again because of the Astoria Centennial Pageant, opening August 10 and closing September 9. However, it was this celebration which started the backward trend of thought and gathered up the lost strings of time.

The coming Salem Fair, September 11 to 16, will make evident the full development of the horse of today, for the best racers in the country will be there for a week's program.

FASHION HINTS

There are several out-of-the-ordinary touches to this serge suit that are very pleasing.

It could also be copied in a heavy linen. The hat is a model that is neat and practical for traveling.

A Widow's Trial.

It is not easy to be a widow; one must resume all the modesty of girlhood without being allowed even to feign its ignorance.—Mme. de Girardin.

Human Nature.

Human nature is so inherently cruel that nothing amuses the average man more than to see a poor lame duck still limping around without a job.—Columbus Journal.

Furniture Polish.

An excellent furniture polish is made by mixing two pints of linseed oil with six ounces of vinegar, three ounces of spirits of turpentine, one ounce of hydrochloric acid and two ounces of [illegible]

Miners and Tuberculosis.

It is a popular but erroneous impression that a great number of miners die from tuberculosis. In fact, deaths among miners is very seldom caused by this dread disease.

When You Think

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A Catastrophe.

A cat was being chased along the roof of a New York building. It lost its balance and fell on a boy who was standing on a balcony on the second floor. The startled boy fell in his turn, landing on a baby carriage, fortunately empty, which another boy was wheeling in the street. The first boy dislocated his wrist; the cat was killed.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

A Lost Art.

Another art has been lost! There was a time when the elegant woman took a legitimate pride in her manner of ascending a stair. In this day of elevators, if there still exist women who have the manner, there are few stairs worthy to serve as a stage on which they may exhibit it.

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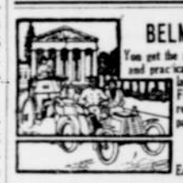
In a few isolated cases it would be better if Cupid could throw away his bow and arrow and break the monotony by swinging a club.



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