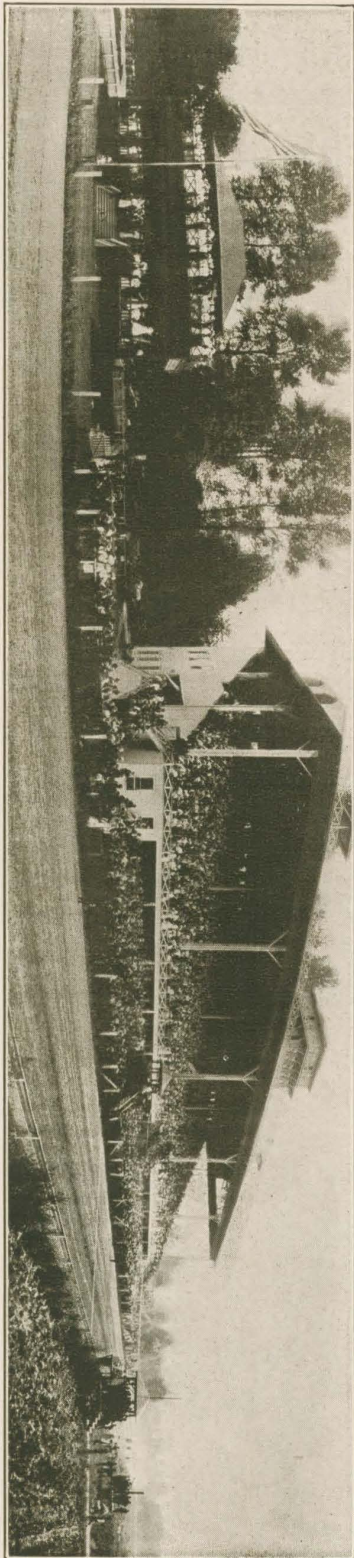


Races at The Meadows, From June 29th to September 14, Inclusive

One of the Finest Racing Tracks in the West—Important Meets are Held Each Year—\$15,000 in Improvements

Briefly described, The Meadows is a modern and up-to-date racing establishment, located in a natural horseshoe-shaped bend of the Duwamish river in the valley of that name, and close to the city of Seattle, a metropolis now of more than 200,000 population. The track is an elliptical mile track, well laid and substantially built on modern lines. It is considered, and rightly, one of the fastest tracks in the entire country, both for the running game and for harness races. The land for the plant was purchased in 1901 by A. T. Van De Vanter, Capt. E. E. Caine, James F. McE. Iroy and George Dickinson, and in that year the first work was done on the track itself and on the grandstands and other buildings. Heavy blue clay was obtained for the surfacing of the track and skilled men had charge of its construction, so that all work done was of a permanent character. The grounds, beautifully situated and ornamented by handsome natural groves of soft wood trees, growing to a considerable height, lent themselves easily to the general scheme for making the site and environments beautiful and attractive. The horsemen were provided with well-constructed stables, well drained and so situated as to enable them to care for their charges at the minimum of labor and trouble.

The grandstand and clubhouse at The Meadows were constructed by a specially equipped architect and are splendid buildings. The grandstand itself is strongly reinforced by heavy timbers and can seat comfortably 6,000 people. In front of the grandstand there is ample room for the followers of the game and ample quarters are provided on the main floor for the speculative interest in the amusement. The clubhouse and paddock are situated just south of the grandstand and convenient to that building. The clubhouse itself is a handsome structure where the members of the club, comprising the bon ton of Seattle, daily gather during the season and enjoy the great game in horseflesh known the world over as "the sport of kings."



The track was formally opened in the summer of 1902, at which time some of the best bred harness horses of the country were brought here. After that season General Manager A. T. Van De Vanter became a member of the Pacific Coast Jockey Club, which controls the racing game on this Coast. He is the only Northwestern member of the club. The season of 1903 saw principally running races, though there was a short period of harness events. These were discarded altogether in 1905. The plans for this year have not yet been fully determined upon, but it is probable there will be at least sixty days' continuous racing and this period may be lengthened to ninety days. The season usually begins the first week in June. Derby day is ordinarily early in the season, usually during the fore part of July. The Seattle Derby is an established institution and is known as a classic event, rich in profit to the winner and always bringing to the fore the best blood and skill to be found anywhere in horses and in men.

George W. Dickinson is president of the association and A. T. Van De Vanter is secretary and general manager. Mr. Van De Vanter has had for two seasons past the services of Horace Egbert as judge. Mr. Egbert is known as one of the best qualified men for this task on the Coast and his work has been exceedingly satisfactory to all concerned.

As for General Manager Van De Vanter, no Pacific Coast horseman is better known or more fully equipped for the work than he. He has been a breeder and trainer of horses for nearly a quarter of a century and is a splendid judge of horseflesh. Moreover, he is progressive and aggressive at one and the same time, the qualities insuring the success of everything he has undertaken.