Denmark with the Chief strains. Some breeders think it should be obtained by the use of Denmark sires on Chief mares and others that the sources of improvement should be expected from the reverse course of breeding. This is the problem being worked out by breeders. From all appearances it seems at present a mooted question. One thing is certain, that there have been shown in the past two or three years some splendid specimens attesting the claim that the Chief blood should be introduced through the sire, but it is noticeable that it comes through a strain backed up strongly on the dam's side by Denmark blood.

In conclusion I will say, as I am only asked for a brief statement, that many breeders are securing stallions of the Chief cross while others are introducing this blood through the dams, still keeping the Denmark blood on top in the sire, we shall see with what result in the next year or two.

Horses being prepared for the Eastern markets are trained to the walk, trot, and canter gaits, while the Westerner and Southern planter still demands his running walk and rack.

THE AMERICAN TROTTING ASSOCIATION AND ITS METHODS.

By W. H. KNIGHT, *Secretary of the Association, Chicago, Ill.*

A little over one hundred years ago a gray horse known as "Messenger" was imported to this country from England and it is almost entirely his descendants that represent the trotting horse of today and particularly through the families of "Hambletonian No. 10" and "Mambrino Chief No. 11," who were his great grandsons.

As the number of horses that could show speed at a trotting gait increased, trotting tracks, or parks as they were sometimes called, were built where matched races were trotted and finally class races were put upon the program. The interest so increased that public meetings were given, but it is only within the past fifty years that it has developed such proportions as to attract much attention.

On account of abuses that crept into the sport, honest lovers of the horse found it necessary to form an association for its regulation and protection, so in February, 1870, a voluntary association was made under the laws of Connecticut, known as the National Trotting Association, composed of the leading parks of the country and a code of laws for the government of all was adopted as the surest means of correcting the abuses and of elevating and protecting the character and standing of the American trotting turf. Its first President was Gov. Amasa Sprague of Rhode Island, a wealthy, influential lover of the horse and of honest racing. At the time of its foundation there were less than 100 members, but it grew rapidly in numbers and influence and to-day has over 500.

Owing to the rapid growth of the horse interests in the West, and to a feeling that they could be better looked after by an association more centrally located, on March 2, 1887, a meeting was held at Detroit, Michigan, at which the American Trotting Association was formed, with present headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. We have a membership of 697, located in 36 States and Territories, Canada, and British Columbia. These members are principally county, district and State fairs, and it is over the racing features of these associations that we have jurisdiction.

Our organization is composed of seven directors, and a secretary and treasurer, from which is selected a president and vice-president, and which also constitute our board of appeals for the trial of cases brought during the racing season. Our cases cover the contentions which usually arise between associations, owners of horses, and drivers as to the correct application of the rules and for fraud. The board meets twice annually—in December and in May. Evidence is usually submitted by affidavit, which is briefed by the secretary, but where parties desire they may appear in person and give oral testimony. All cases are decided in executive session. In deciding cases it is the aim of the board to reach the equities rather than a strict technical application of the rules that justice be done to all concerned, and while we have a large number of cases for trial many are settled through our efforts during the racing season.

The cost of each association for membership is annually based upon the amount of money given for trotting and pacing races and varies from \$10 as a minimum to \$100 as a maximum, the parent associations furnishing all books and blanks necessary for the conduct of each meeting, without further cost. Few meetings are given outside of membership, as associations and horsemen feel the necessity of protection which the parent association gives. All races are classified by the records of the horses competing. Horses without records, which means those which have not started in races and won heats in an announced time, start generally in the slow classes, but after having won they are classified or handicapped by their record.

During the past season our members gave 719 meetings with an aggregate of 2,273 days of trotting and pacing races. At these meetings \$2,150,915 was paid out in stakes and purses.

In conclusion let me say that speed and soundness are necessary to win races, size and good looks add to the appearance and value of the animal; and the trotting horse of to-day must race or give public exhibitions of his speed in order to show his worth and the public race meeting gives him that opportunity.