

TRAINERS ALREADY HAVE STABLES OUT

Weather Permits Open-Air Work for Thoroughbreds Earlier Than Usual.

ENTHUSIASM IS LIVELY

Horsemen Show Exceptional Interest—Fitzsimmons Preparing a String of 26 at Gravesend.

Continued warm weather has so thoroughly thawed out the ground that the racing stables which have wintered at Gravesend Bay and Belmont Park have been able to get out for training in the open weeks earlier than in several years. Every day now the thoroughbreds, which will put in a long season of campaigning, starting with the Maryland meetings, have been sent along in trial spins over local courses.

Not an empty stall remains at Gravesend. The manager of the old dismantled track, which once was the scene of some of the historical features of the turf, asserts that not in ten years have horsemen shown such enthusiasm for the sport at this time of the year. Many of the juveniles, which are to be started for the first time in races, already have proved enough class in workouts to have the confidence of their owners.

Few of the locally owned stables will be shipped to the Bowie meeting, which is to start the Eastern racing season on April 1, but practically all of them will be represented in the Havre de Grace and Pimlico meetings, which follow the Bowie events. The local owners also will not depend upon railroad transportation for shipment of their racing stock, since automobile vans have proved highly satisfactory in this regard and even better than the railroads where the distance to travel is not too far.

Fitzsimmons Trains Twenty-six.

One of the biggest stables in training at Gravesend is under the care of J. Fitzsimmons, who has twenty-six racers at work. The animals belong to the Quincy Stables, Herbert L. Pratt, R. R. Smith, and A. H. Morris. Many of them are untried two-year-olds, which were imported as yearlings from England and France. Much is expected from some of these racers by Fitzsimmons, who has clocked them at the shorter distances.

George Odom has a lot of two-year-olds getting ready to race under the colors of the Brighton Stable, as well as the old campaigner Ed Roche. Odom is giving most of his attention to the younger animals, since he believes he has a couple which will be of championship timber.

The entire string of Andrew Miller, including that veteran champion Roamer, is working out daily under the care of Jack Goldsborough at Gravesend. Roamer is as lively as a youngster, according to Goldsborough, and gives promise of being right up in the running among the handicap field again. Roamer will be sent to the post in several of the handicap races during the Maryland meetings.

There has been no illness at Gravesend this Spring, such as retarded the training of the thoroughbreds last year, and almost threatened to wipe out several stables. The coughing so common to race horses in the early part of the season has not even been heard.

Belmont Park also is the scene of

unusual activity among the trainers. Sam Hildreth has nineteen thoroughbreds in training to run under the silks of Major August Belmont. Hildreth wants to sent Lucullite to Kentucky for the Derby and also wants to start the three-year-old in the Preakness at Pimlico. However, since the dates of these two big three-year-old features are likely to conflict, it is probable that Hildreth will have to pick the Preakness. The latest advice from Kentucky is that the Derby will be run on May 11, and Pimlico tentatively has planned to run the Preakness on the same day.

Macomber String at Work.

Another big stable which is rapidly rounding into condition at Belmont Park is the A. K. Macomber string, under the handling of Walter Jennings. Macomber has one of the largest stables in the country at present, and had to lease a piece of ground at Belmont Park for his individual use. Several of his imported three-year-olds, such as War Cloud and Tracksend, are coming along in fine shape and bid fair to be important factors during the year.

One of the most enthusiastic trainers at Belmont Park is Max Hirsch, who is conditioning the horses of George W. Loft. Hirsch thinks a lot of several of the Loft string, but he waxes unusually enthusiastic when speaking about Papp. Papp has grown into a giant three-year-old. He stands 16.2 hands now, and is getting bigger almost every day. Some of the trainers assert that Papp's unusual size may handicap him in making the turns of the race tracks, but Hirsch is certain that Papp will be so much better than anything else on the tracks this season that he will be able to walk around the turns and still win. Another likely looking three-year-old of the Loft stable is Cumsah.

Reports from James Rowe, who is training the horses of Harry Payne Whitney at Brookdale Farm, Bound Brook, N. J., are that Rosie O'Grady is being primed to repeat the performance of Regret in the Kentucky Derby, and that several two-year-olds are coming along so nicely as to encourage many glowing prospects. Regret was the only filly that ever won the Derby, and Rowe hopes to duplicate that feat with Rosie O'Grady, which will be shipped to Kentucky soon for her finishing touches for the big race.