

CRUELY TO PIGEONS.

WHAT IS SAID OF A PENNSYLVANIA DECISION—RABBIT COURISING.

The decision of Judge Yerkes of the Court of Common Pleas in Bucks County, Penn., holding A. Nelson Lewis of the Philadelphia Gun Club guilty under an indictment for cruelty to animals for participating in a pigeon-shooting match Dec. 14, 1887, was announced in yesterday's *TIMES*.

John P. Haines, President of the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in this city, was shown *THE TIMES*'s dispatch yesterday afternoon and expressed satisfaction with the decision. It was, he said, a well-known case. This decision of Judge Yerkes was but the affirmation of the verdict in the lower courts, which found Lewis and others guilty and imposed a fine of \$20 each. Mr. Haines said he was glad the decision had been rendered, and expressed the opinion that it would break up the practice of shooting pigeons from traps in Pennsylvania. There was no doubt about the cruelty of the sport, and he thought public sentiment would sustain the prohibition of it. He hoped the day was not far distant when pigeon shooting from traps might also be broken up in this State. At present there was a clause in the New-York law which permitted incorporated clubs to shoot pigeons. It was as follows:

"None of the provisions of law heretofore enacted for the prevention of cruelty to animals within this State shall be construed to prohibit or interfere with shooting by members of sportsmen's clubs or incorporated societies of pigeon shooters; provided, that in each case, as soon as they can be captured or taken after being shot, such pigeons, if living, shall immediately be killed."

Mr. Haines said he did not believe such a law could now be passed in the New-York Legislature, and he hoped for its repeal at no distant day, though at present no efforts were being made to that end. The cruelty of the sport had come to be recognized, and right-thinking men did not participate in nor countenance it. He referred to the bill now before the Legislature to permit rabbit coursing on Long Island and expressed the opinion that it could not pass. It is a cruel sport, like pigeon shooting, and ought not to be legalized. Mr. Haines said he had too high an opinion of the humaneness of the members of the present Legislature to believe they would pass such a bill, and steps had already been taken to see that it did not slip through the Legislature unnoticed.

The Philadelphia *Times*, in announcing the decision of Judge Yerkes, adds that "the preliminaries of the biggest affair in the way of a pigeon-shooting contest at live birds ever brought off in this country have recently been satisfactorily completed." The match is between Charles Macalester and Dr. Knapp, and the total amount at stake is \$16,000. The match is to take place the 6th, 8th, and 10th of February, on the grounds of the Westminster Kennel Club at Babylon, L. I. The *Times* says: "The liveliest possible interest is already manifested in the contest in amateur sporting circles both in Philadelphia and New-York."

MOST IS FREE AGAIN.

THE LITTLE ANARCHIST IS READMITTED TO BAIL IN THE SUM OF \$5,000.

Presiding Justice Van Brunt of the Supreme Court yesterday, on the application of Howe & Hummel, granted a stay in the execution of the sentence of one year's imprisonment in the penitentiary pronounced on Johann Most, the Anarchist editor, for making inflammatory speeches in connection with the execution of the Chicago Anarchists. Justice Van Brunt says in his opinion: "In view of the fact that one of the Justices composing the General Term with considerable hesitancy reached the conclusion that the conviction ought to be affirmed, and in view of the novelty of the questions which are raised upon this appeal and in respect to which it is possible there may be a difference of opinion, the appeal taken by the defendant does not appear to be frivolous, but to have a reasonable ground."

The novel questions referred to by Justice Van Brunt are raised by the point made by Most's counsel, whether the courts of this State can punish a man for an offense against the laws of another State. Bail for Most was fixed, subject to the approval of the District Attorney, at \$5,000, the same amount as was required before the decision of the General Term.

Most subsequently went to the District Attorney's office and renewed his bond with Mrs. Ida Hoffman of 67 East Seventh-street.

TROUBLE ON THE BRIDGE.

A BREAK-DOWN DURING THE RUSH OF TRAFFIC LAST EVENING.

From 6 until 7 o'clock last night, just at the time when the capacity of the Brooklyn Bridge is tested to its utmost, railroad traffic on the structure was entirely suspended. A break in the switch at the New-York end of the bridge put an effectual embargo on the running of trains, even by the means of locomotives, and thousands of people were compelled to take advantage of the promenade and make their way to Brooklyn on foot, or avail themselves of the ferries.

For the first fifteen minutes after the accident occurred would-be passengers were permitted to pass through the gates and mass themselves on platforms and stairways to their intense discomfort. Then a telephonic order came from Brooklyn to shut down at the ticket boxes and gates at the New-York entrance. Incoming trains were "stalled" and stretched in a long line beyond the centre of the main span of the bridge, the passengers reaching the platform by passing through the cars, which were run close together, so as to form one continuous train.

Passengers on the outgoing trains did not fare so fortunately. Once within the cars, on the New-York siding, they were compelled to remain, whether seated or standing, in some instances for close upon an hour.

It is estimated that not less than 50,000 people walked over the bridge during the interval covered by the delay. Truckmen bound Brooklynward did a rushing business in conveying passengers at rates ranging from 10 to 25 cents per head.