

## The Russells of Stevenson, Ala.

Mr. I. P. Russell, of Stevenson, Ala., father of the well known trainer and successful campaigner, Sanders Russell introduces some remarks in their training operations at this time with the observation that if their horses were as slow as the mails, they would hardly do to ship away from the training farm. Mr. Russell's statement is borne out by the fact that when a sale advertisement of the pacing mare Queen Wilkes 2:013/4 was recently inserted in the Harness Horse, letters started coming to the farm from all parts of the U. S. A., from Alberta, Canada, from Nova Scotia. So insistent were the would-be purchasers on buying the clever daughter of The King Direct 2:031/4, that she was sold and had been shipped to Tom Beasley's stable at Marion, Ill., before the issue carrying the sale advertisement was received at the Russell home. The frequent delays, some of them like the instance Mr. Russell cites have been more numerous than is commensurate with good mail service, but urgent appeals to the postal authorities has availed us little, so there is but one explanation, namely that war conditions disrupt the mail service as well as other normal activities of the present time. Mr. Russell's observations regarding training and work in general at the favorably known Alabama farm are that, inability to get help forces them to be both trainers and grooms for their stable, but any one familiar with the work of the Alabama owner-trainers, know that every thing possible will be done to obviate the difficulties, now besetting all forms of work.

The labor situation has become so acute, that boys, little more than children have to be pressed into helping out. They have a dozen head at the present time, all coming along as well as can be expected under existing conditions. A majority of the stables roster are colts, with several three-year-old trotters marking 2:20 in their work. Probably the most admired three-year-old at present is one by Martinique 67692 son of Dillon Axworthy 2:101/4, whose dam is a sister to Sir Laurel Guy 2:05 which trained in 2:191/4-half in 1:08 under date of May 5. Another clever three-year-old trotter is by Volomite 2:031/4, which worked in about the same notch as did the Martinique. They are both entered in the three-year-old colt stakes and the conservative Alabaman says, "They may possibly get there." The Volomite entry is owned by Col. Earl Shropshire of Lexington, Ky., Mr. Shropshire also has a four-year-old sister to Earls Moody Guy 2:00 by Guy Abbey 2:063/4. which showed well last year and is thought to be quite a trotter on her present showing.

For the two-year-old trots the Russells have a two-year-old by Spencer 1:593/4, dam Tronia Wafts, dam of Tronia Britton 2:001/2, Jewelry 2:07, etc. She is a clever juvenile and both the Russells think she will do in the two-year-old trots. She is the last of the produce of the noted brood mare Tronia Wafts, and was bred by the late Col. Henry M. Bosworth, of Lexington, the dam being an honored pensioner at the Bosworth farm adjacent to Lexington, Ky.

Mr. Russell recently sold Graydon 2:071/4 by Sir Laurel Guy 2:05 to a show horse stable at Danville, Ky. The Sir Laurel Guy trotter has been a good horse for the Russell family, but will henceforth appear in the Tanbark ring, rather than in trotting classes. One of Graydon's best races was at Washington C. H., Ohio, where he won a handicap trot from a field of sixteen horses. The senior Russell will have to depend now on Mary Martinique 2:071/2, by Martinique, and a three-year-old trotter, but with gas restrictions as close as they are a large stable is a handicap rather than an advantage at the present time. Mary Martinique was 2-2-2 to Quo Vadis 2:04 in the 2:17 trot at Lexington last fall in 2:04-2:04-2:06, and as she is a 2:19 class trotter, she looks to be a good proposition in her class this season.

Mr. Russell concludes his letter with the thought that he may be too busy farming this year to get far from home base, but the splendid showing the Allied Armies are making, he has hopes

that the time may not be far distant when a man can enjoy life with the trotters.