

BIG RACING COMES BACK

The St. Leger this year was run within hailing distance of ~~forty minutes~~ ~~the~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~quarter~~ million race fans

of York Minster. The Knavesmire Course was the mecca of a quarter-million race-fans and ~~hundreds~~ ^{thousands} camped out. Even at twenty-pounds-a-night beds ~~were~~ were at a

~~the~~ ~~first~~ peacetime classic since 1939.

premium, but what was a little discomfort, weighed against seeing the first peacetime ~~classic~~ ^{leg} since 1939? ⁹ The Leger

couldn't be held at Doncaster, ~~but~~ this was the next best thing... What d'you know, sonny?... Big racing

had come back to ~~parade~~ with a bang. You could take the day off with a good conscience, and as for basic petrol, it never went so far in its life. It ~~wasn't at Doncaster,~~

but otherwise ~~it was a perfect~~ Leger. Still in ~~Yorkshire,~~ with more people on the ~~Knavesmire~~ ^{Knavesmire} Course than ever before.

The Ring complained that there wasn't a great deal of betting except on the Leger itself, but there was plenty on that. Most of it went on the Aga Khan's filly Naishapur, hoisted to favourite by the withdrawal of the Derby winner Dante. Apart from that there was a lot of big money on the King's horse Rising Light. A royal victory would have made this a Leger to remember for all time.

~~Now~~ They're in the paddock. ^{now} Only ten runners, but still not easy to pick the right one. 250,000 people feel the electric atmosphere of a big race. ^{His Majesty's} Rising Light; D. Smith up. Naishapur; champion jockey Gordon Richards in the saddle. It's getting near 2.45. In a ^{short time} ~~minute~~ they'll ~~be off.~~ ^{start.} There's a buzz of excitement all over the course.

Tommy Lavery

after
[And now, with an untidy start ~~they~~ ~~thunder~~ ~~up~~ ~~the~~ ~~course~~, a mile-and-three-quarters to go.

glowers

[Stirling Castle and Loretto ~~man~~ are the pace-makers for the first half-mile; ~~to~~ ~~each~~ ~~get~~ ~~to~~ ~~form~~ any conclusions. They're all going well ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~leaders~~ have set a hot pace.

Now they come round the bend, and it's still Stirling Castle in the lead, with Rising Light making a good race of it. At this stage it still looks as if the King's horse might do it.

(af cut in) They're in the straight now and Chamossaire comes ~~up~~ ~~to~~ ~~overhaul~~ ~~Rising~~ ~~Light~~, then Stirling Castle and now Chamossaire's in the lead and it's only a question of whether ~~he~~ ~~can~~ ~~stay~~ ~~there~~. He ~~can~~ ~~stay~~ ~~all~~ ~~right~~. ~~The~~ ~~others~~ ~~are~~ ~~tiring~~. A good two lengths ahead Chamossaire wins the St. Leger.

Well, there it is. Chamossaire disappointed his supporters in the Derby and Two Thousand Guineas, but today he's atoned for all that. A great winner of a fine race.

T. Lowery.