

Association, which we hope to see grow into something worth while. If this Department grows as it should, it will render far more easy of solution many problems now worrying the trustees of schools and the taxpayers of the country. Acting too in an advisory capacity, it should be able to assist the Department of Education. The first meeting of this Department is to be at Brandon, April 4 and 5, the program for which is to be found on page 377 of our issue of March 13th. Have your school section represented; send your brightest trustee and as the result of the conference with others he should be able to bring back some first class ideas and be able to dissolve many doubts. It appears to us that there are a good many boards of trustees in the country that would be improved and brightened by the addition of a woman trustee. It is to be hoped that the question of municipal school boards will be taken up. One reason for objections to the municipal school board is that the choice of teachers would be largely removed from the individual section. Is it desirable that a section should have an opportunity to haggle over the personality of the prospective teacher? In villages, towns and cities, such is not done, although of course there the teacher is not so well known to parents as in the country, and in the larger places it is rare to hear of a teacher being chosen on account of neighborliness or family pull with a trustee.

## HORSE

The Hackney Horse Society of Great Britain has decided to offer to the National Horse Show Association in New York a challenge cup of the value of \$500 to be first competed for at the show next November.

The supreme court has decided that open bookmaking at Canadian race-tracks is illegal. This does not preclude the "pencilers" operating at the courses as is done in England. It will be interesting to note how the law relating to bookmaking will be enforced.

The prices of work horses this spring is making a lot of people wish they had a few young colts to break in. We have to raise more of our own horses in spite of the cost of fences, and injury which barb wire works. It's interesting work anyway, raising horses, and much more profitable than buying workers each spring.

### On Handling Range Horses.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of February 13th, there appears the first of what I hope will be a series of "Personal Experiences," gained in horse ranching in Manitoba and what used to be the Northwest Territories.

The Key Ranch methods of raising colts are much at variance with the methods usually advised by your correspondents in the Old Country and Eastern Canada—Nevertheless and notwithstanding. "An ounce of experience is worth a pound of theory."

It is now just twenty years since I myself started horse raising, with a bunch of wild and woolly bronco mares, and in that time I may say that my experience with wintering colts has been much the same as that of E. A. C.

Some years ago I took my colts off the mares in the fall, and put them loose in box stalls, about four to a stall. The result was that they got lice infested and dirty, and the strong ones kicked and bit the "stuffing" out of the weaker ones. They were fed hay and oats, and here again, the stronger ones made hay while the sun shone.

I have never tried wintering colts in a corral. I think unless the corral were surrounded by brush, it would be too cold here (eastern Saskatchewan).

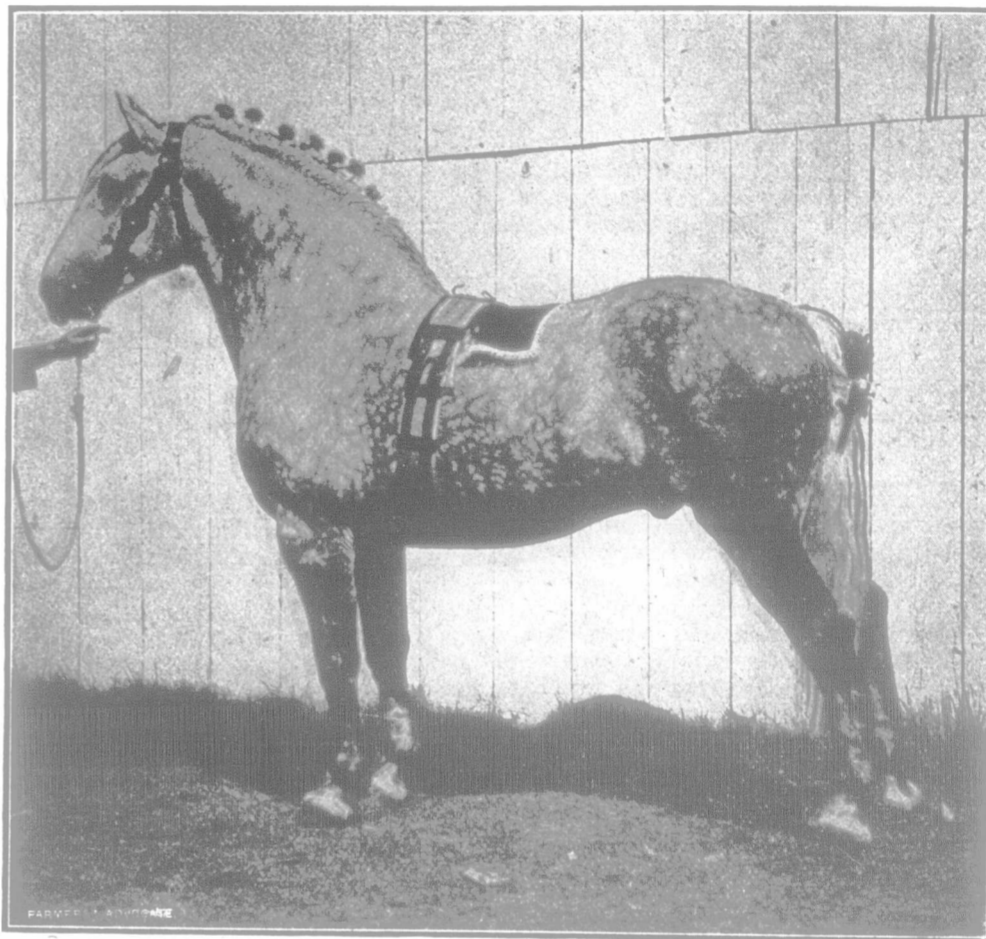
I have wintered a few colts in the stable, but these colts were put in single stalls and fed and groomed separately; then they did all right, but I could never see that they were any better than the ones which had followed the mares all winter, the only object gained being that they were quiet; and this, of course, counts for much, if the colts be light bred and intended for town drivers or saddle horses.

Many people think that the colt sucking the

mare all through the winter must be very bad for the new foal, but even new experience does not seem to bear out that idea. We invariably find that each succeeding colt from the same mare and horse is better than its predecessor. To give an example, we have a bay mare, weighing 1,250 or 1,300 lbs.. This mare was mated to a standard-bred horse, weighing in driving condition 1,170 lbs. The mare's first colt from this horse was a chestnut filly, in form and disposition like herself, weighing say, 1,200 lbs. Her next colt was a horse and in form took after the horse, his disposition following the mare's, and would weigh 1,300 lbs. Her third colt was another bay horse, like the last colt, but a tremendous improvement, disposition still following the mare, but weighed at five years old 1,530 lbs. Her last foal is a filly, lower set than her brotner; she will weigh as much when matured

and we at once know the horse's whereabouts I brought this desirable state of affairs about by sending all postmasters and interested persons within a distance of thirty miles a post card with my brand printed on it, and asked them to tack it up, and should any stock so branded stray into their district, to notify me on a post card provided and self-addressed.

Lots of people say, "What a pity your horses are branded;" but after all, I never lost a sale through a horse being branded. Few people do not know that because a horse is branded he is not necessarily a bronco. I am told that at every second hunt meet in the Old Country there are several branded horses. As people get to know our Western-bred horses better, I think not only will they not object to a brand, but will get to regard the brand on a horse as a guarantee that the horse has been



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and a better all round animal. None of these colts ever saw the inside of a stable until they were broken at four years old, and sucked the mare till a few days before the new foal arrived, when the mare weaned them herself.

I have no doubt that it would be a good thing to wean and winter a young mare's first foal, as these mares are generally very thin in the fall, but this would be more for the mare's good than for the good of the foal.

With regard to weaning colts, we have found far the best way is to keep the foal in, and let the mare go with the bunch; of course she will have to be driven away a few times, and the colt must be kept out of sight in the stable. For some strange reason the milk will not bother the mare if this course be followed. Should you do the reverse, and let the colt out and keep the mare in, the "fun" will then only begin; if not milked the mare's bag will get sore, and milking range mares is fraught with as much general amusement as is milking range cows, an occupation which will always provide entertainment and amusement enough to enliven even the dullest of dull days. When the colt is let out, after a week or ten days, it will be found that the mare will have nothing to do with it.

With regard to branding colts, I think it is almost indispensable. For a number of years I myself refused to have anything to do with it, but horses kept disappearing and we never could tell whether they had gone the way of all flesh, or had merely been absorbed into some other bunch, so I tried ear-buttons. They proved a failure, some of them coming out; others got caught in brush or fences and split the horses ears. I now brand everything and wonder how we ever managed to get along at all before we branded. Horses will occasionally leave their bunch, especially two-year-old fillies in the spring. If these be not branded you may never hear of them again. Now every one within forty miles knows our brand (B, bar over, bar beta).

raised under natural conditions, and is therefore tougher and hardier than one whose growth has been forced when young, thereby cutting off years of usefulness at the end of his life.

I take it that all horses are like trees. All soft woods grow fast, and mature quickly. The valuable hard woods are all slow of growth, and so I think it is with horses. The horse who has been rushed as a colt is nearly mature at three years old, and I don't think will ever be of much account afterwards. On the other hand the colt which gets enough to eat, even supposing it is only prairie grass, and has to rustle for it, grows more slowly, but in the end is much stronger, pound for pound.

At a year old we castrate our colts. This I think is a year too young, but is unavoidable, as not only would they be in trouble with our own stock, but if left till two years old would become candidates for entry in the "Estray" list of the *Gazette*.

This operation I have performed in every known way: with clamps, string, torsion, ecraseur, and emasculator, thrown on the ground with all four feet tied, one foot tied, and standing on their feet, with merely a twitch on their noses. I have used all kinds of antiseptics and none at all; and in eighteen years have never lost a colt! And yet they tell me there is no such thing as luck!

I may say that Dr. McLoughry of Moosomin gave me two hints about castrating colts on their feet which I have found very useful. The first was that "a little kicking does no particular harm" and the second was, never to start operating with a knife, "unless it was sharp enough to shave your arm."

I have already told the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, in a former article, how we "whip break" our colts. I think I have told everything of interest except how we handle our stallions and break our colts to ride and drive. However, this article is now much