

# CANADIAN BREEDER

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### THE CANADIAN BREEDER AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

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For line, each insertion, 20 cents.

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TORONTO.

S. BEATTY, MANAGER.

Toronto, Friday, July 31st, 1885.

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#### "BREAKING" COLTS.

"Educating" is a better word than "breaking" when applied to colts reared by intelligent and humane horsemen. Though many a colt is really "broken" in training there is seldom, if ever, any necessity for such a course. Take a "sucker" when he is too young to have any very pronounced opinions of his own, and there will be found but little trouble in making him understand that his master is really his best friend. When this has been accomplished no further trouble need be anticipated so far as an intelligent colt is concerned. Unfortunately, occasionally it happens that a horse is met with that has been born a fool, and of such an

animal it is difficult if not impossible to make a horse that can ever be handled with any degree of safety. It often happens that a really intelligent horse becomes possessed of a vice that is troublesome and dangerous, but such a case never presents the difficulties which characterize that of a horse that has been born a fool. As long as a horse has intelligence he can be educated, no matter how strongly unfounded prejudice may mislead him. More than 99 per cent. of the foals that are dropped have quite enough intelligence to enable them to get through the world pleasantly and satisfactorily, but the reason that so many horses are addicted to troublesome and dangerous vices is to be found in faulty education.

Too often the system of handling colts is something as follows:—

The young thing is allowed to run with his dam and to make no human acquaintances. All he knows about boys and men is that whenever they can get near him they hit him with a whip or make some (to him) horrid noise that thoroughly terrifies him. He very quickly comes to look upon boys and men as the most dangerous and troublesome enemies of the equine race in general and of himself in particular. This state of affairs continues till he is two or three years old. Then some day he finds himself being chased about a paddock and worried till he is half dead with fright and fatigue, and finally from sheer exhaustion he is compelled to allow himself to be handled. He does not know what is wanted of him, and all that he learns about it comes in the shape of bitter experience. After trying every other course to escape punishment and fright with disastrous results, he gives himself over in sheer desperation to a sort of sullen despair, and allows himself to be pushed about by his tormentors or hauled about by another horse that is harnessed with him, just because he has given up all hope of escaping the persecutions of his enemies. His spirit is broken, and he is pronounced broken to harness. He is now obedient so far as he knows how to be, but he is so because he does not know anything else, and not from any desire to be anything else, and not from any desire to sire on his part, to do what is right. Such

a horse may do what is required of him, but he is liable to run away if suddenly frightened, to kick if anything touches his heels, and, in short, to do almost anything that is objectionable in the very emergency when his good behavior would be most highly prized by his master. This is what may properly be styled "breaking" a colt.

If a man wants an "educated" horse he should begin by winning his confidence during the foal's babyhood, the sooner the better. It does not much matter what the youngster is taught during his first summer so long as he is thoroughly familiarised with the halter and accustomed to being handled freely (though always kindly and with gentleness). He soon learns to regard those who handle and feed him with the warmest friendship, and his highest ambition will be to merit their approval as evidenced by a kind word, a caress, or some little dainty of which he happens to be particularly fond. As he grows a little older he should be accustomed to the bit, to the harness, and to other appliances to be used when he shall have arrived at a proper age to go into business. In this way the youngster really grows into his work. He is taught to carry his head properly, to draw, to turn, to back, to be mounted, harnessed, and unharnessed, all without any painful or unpleasant processes. He grows up to be, not the cowed slave, but the trusted well-tried friend of his master. All that he does he does cheerfully and pleasantly; in short, he is an "educated" horse and not a "broken" one.

#### SOME ADVANTAGES ARISING FROM SOILING CATTLE.

Every year brings the farmer of our older provinces nearer to a parallel position with the old country farmer. Of course there are now, and always will be, very material differences between the Canadian and the English farmer, but just now the farmers and stock raisers of the North West are assuming position and importance which the Ontario and Quebec farmer can no longer afford to ignore. In the grain-growing sections of Manitoba and the North West, where the land is richly elevated and costs the farmer little or nothing, and