

Letting colts or work horses rough it through the winter is not a gain, but a decided loss to the owner. No colt grows into a better horse by spending his winters in the barn-yard, and no horse after the autumn's work is more hardened for that of the spring, because he fed night and day from the straw-stack with the canopy of the heavens his only cover and shelter from the rains, snows, sleet and driving blasts of a northern winter. Good shelter saves feed, aids in keeping the stock in condition, and is in every way profitable.

Keep the draft as low as possible, but not so low as to cause injury to the shoulder point by collar pressure. King says in dealing with the attachment of the traces to the hames at the shoulder: "To enable a horse to utilize his full weight to best advantage in draft, it is important that the attachment of the traces at the collar should be as low as the comfort of the animal and other conditions will permit. When the traces are low at the shoulder there is less leverage for the draft to raise the horse off his front feet, and hence his weight counts for more. For the same reason a horse low on his feet, and with a relatively long body has greater leverage for his weight in draft."

Bring Out the Horses.

Those who have been privileged to visit the large horse shows in the old land are frequently heard to remark that the small breeders take a large portion of the prize money, that the owners of a few animals often with only one entry are very numerous, and that some of the very best Clydesdales in Scotland come from these small studs. How different have been our large exhibitions on this side of the Atlantic the past few years. In the open classes of every prominent draft breed the fight almost invariably simmers down to a contest between the entries of the large breeders and importers. Even in the classes for Canadian-bred stock, horses from the large stables move to the front. This has occurred with such regularity that many of the young breeders—the men with one or two good mares, young stallions or foals have become discouraged, and leave their stock at home while they go to the fair and size up the "other fellow's" horses.

This is casting no reflections upon the breeders and importers who operate on an extensive scale. They are doing a great work for horse breeding in Canada. Someone had to launch both time and money or our horses would never have reached the high place which they now occupy. Importers and breeders have accomplished this. We now have some of the best of the various breeds, and are in a position to breed upon a larger scale. Foundation stock of necessity had to be imported. There is still room for more imported stock, and new blood will be necessary year after year, but there is no reason why we cannot breed the good ones now and it is being done, but more interest must be instilled into the mare owner or the owner of a small number of pure-bred individuals.

There is nothing quite so inspiring as a real good horse show where everything is done for the interests of the breed—where the horse gets the award, and not the man holding it. There is nothing which encourages the young breeder or the man operating on a comparatively small scale more than winning red and blue ribbons, and the money prizes accompanying them. It is a great incentive for these men. They are sure to increase their business and their enthusiasm is surely infectious. The next neighbor seeing his friend's good work enters into the game also. Soon the whole community is stirred, and dozens of the smaller owners exhibit where one was in line in the beginning. This looks very rosy, but this according to all accounts happens in Scotland where smooth-faced youths, early in their teens, lead the colt to the show to compete against those entered by their gray-haired elders, and those of the distinguished breeders. What an honor the boy feels as he holds his colt before the judge. What a thrill a win sends through his frame. He goes home determined to try again, and next year perhaps plans to bring out two or three in place of one, and thus his interest grows. He may bend all his efforts again on a single entry, seeking to win the highest possible prize by showing an outstanding individual. It matters not whether he increases his entries quantitatively or qualitatively he makes progress, and because he, with a small beginning and still operating on a small scale, is successful, others are encouraged and stimulated to successful efforts.

Our exhibitions are of a high order, and grow better every year, but if some means could be found to get more horses from the amateur stables, a great work in the interests of horse breeding would be accomplished. Interest must be stimulated by some means. Judging classes for young men at the fall fairs should, and we believe will have a good effect. It will help to inspire confidence in the younger generation. It will

cause them to put more critical study upon breed characteristics (desirable and undesirable points). Short courses in stock judging as they are carried on at the O. A. C., and by the County Representatives, will have an effect. It is a matter of educating the young to the possibilities before them, just as the accomplishment of all great agricultural undertakings is hastened by a wider and deeper understanding of underlying principles. Successful horsemen, like successful men in any other walk in life, must understand their business, in other words must know a horse. To learn to know a horse, interest and instruction are necessary. Horsemen, especially our younger horsemen, should be given greater encouragement to enter the ring, first by promoting an interest in the judging by inducing them to watch it closely and critically, then by colt shows for amateurs, or by some other means which our horse breeders' associations should be able to devise, encourage them to compete in the open classes. Make them understand that it is not the number of horses entered in which the merit lies, but in the quality of the exhibit.

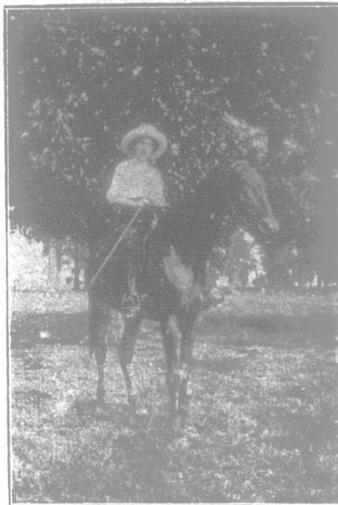
A single entry, if it is of a high order, is just as creditable to the beginner as the scores of the show-yard veteran. When the beginner brings his colt, insure his coming back again by good, fair, just, treatment. If he is to make a horseman of calibre he will not grumble at just defeat, but will put forth an extra effort to bring out a better entry another year. But if he has the goods and the judge shows favoritism and he loses out, the chances are that he will be disheartened. The show ring is no place for egotism. It is no place for sore heads. The showman must be able to see the faults as well as the good points of his own as well as of his competitor's animal. Fair, honest judging, more classes for the amateur, and a better knowledge of horses, should bring more horses into the ring, and more owned by the younger and less experienced showmen.

Girls, Ride Horseback.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the great rush for motor cars now going on many farmers are investing in them, and many more, especially the young people, are wishing for them. While this may be all right, when the expense is not too great, still the motor car is as yet a rich man's luxury, and the rank and file of the farmers must do without them.

I would like to call the attention of the young people, especially the girls, to a possible pleasure within the reach of almost every farm girl or boy; one that is even more fascinating



Who Wants an Auto?

than motoring. I refer to riding on horseback. If you have a colt with a strain of light blood in him, break him to the saddle and see what pleasure you will have.

This illustration shows Miss Agnes McGregor, of Toronto, on her favorite colt, Lady Betty. Spending a few weeks on the McGregor Homestead, Halton Co., Ontario, she induced her uncles D. and John B. McGregor to break in this colt. As shown in the photograph, the divided skirt is worn, securing comfort to the rider, and Miss McGregor spent many happy hours cantering over the country roads. Don't sigh for a motor, girls, get a divided skirt, get a line on a colt and enjoy yourselves.

Halton Co., Ont.

ROB ROY.

Plowing with Four Horses.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed in a September issue of The Farmer's Advocate, R. S. asked for information regarding the working of four horses on a double-plow without driving one on the plowed ground, and in answering him you did not give him much encouragement. Now, I do not know who wrote the reply, but I have seen the same question asked in The Farmer's Advocate before, and always accompanied with a similar reply. Until this summer I always believed the explanation you give, but now I am persuaded the answer is wrong.

Last summer necessity compelled me to purchase a two-furrow riding plow. It is made by a very well-known Canadian firm, and turns two twelve-inch furrows. I never have tried to drive fewer than four horses on it, and it gives perfect satisfaction. I did all my plowing last spring, also a field of sod in July (heavy land, too), and my skim-plowing this fall, and have had the four horses on the job as much as six days at a time without a change, and I have not had the first appearance of a sore shoulder or chafed side or leg on any one of my horses. This statement can easily be verified by several of my neighbors who have seen me do the work I speak of. If you have the right kind of a plow you need have no trouble in working four good-sized horses on it without driving one on the plowed ground. I have four good average-sized horses, two of them would weigh 1,500 lbs. each, the other pair each between 1,200 and 1,300, and all of them of medium type, not very blocky and not up-standing. Just here let me state that when I am at work there is always enough open space between my horses to allow a couple of hundred pounds more flesh on each horse without crowding. I place the bridle almost directly in front of the left beam, a little to the left of centering on the beam. At first I expected this would pull the plow cornerwise, but it does not. I can't explain what keeps it running straight, but it seems to run quite true. In regard to the criticism regarding side-draft, I may say that my horses walk very slightly sidewise, but so little that it is scarcely noticeable and not enough to cause them any discomfort. This is caused by the large double-tree being rather short, but as there is room to adjust the bridle still farther to the left, I could use a longer double-tree if necessary. This side-draft does not tend to pull the furrow-wheel out of its place. When I first tried the plow I put the off-horse on the plowed ground, and had the bridle in front of the right beam, and the furrow-wheel would travel about the center of the furrow, thus the front plow did not turn its full width, but as soon as I put the off-horse in the furrow the furrow-wheel stayed up to the land, or nearly so, and the front plow took its proper width. This furrow-wheel can be adjusted (by means of a convenient little lever) to cut across the furrow at any necessary angle to keep the plow from crowding too far to the land side, but this is scarcely necessary as the plow runs about straight.

Huron Co., Ont.

T. W. PICKELL.

LIVE STOCK.

Increase the steer's ration as the feeding period advances.

Use the currycomb freely on the fattening cattle. It pays.

Keep the feed passages free from litter and the entire stable clean.

Feed the fall calves milk while it is warm. Cold milk causes scours.

Nearly five dollars per hundredweight difference between the price of cattle on Chicago and on Toronto markets recently.

Ram lambs and shearing rams require more feed proportionately than ewe lambs and shearing ewes. They are more restless.

Pigs properly managed are one of the most profitable classes of live stock. The outlay necessary is comparatively small and returns are quick and remunerative.

Turn off the farrow cow and fill her stall with a regular breeder. Feed is not so cheap that there is profit in keeping cows which conceive one year in two.

Do not force the pig to take too much water in his food in cold weather. It requires consid-

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