

### Early Training of Colts.

A young horseman of Huron County, in writing of the early training of colts, says: "Few things are more neglected by farmers than colt breaking." It is an easy matter if the young chap be taken in hand in good time and the process carried on slowly. First accustom him to the bit by putting on a bridle for a few times, and allowing his coltship to roam at will in the yard. After a while the harness may be safely introduced, and ere his acquaintance with this addition is complete he may be hitched to a cart, great care being exercised that everything about the harness and rig is solid, for now, as at no other time, is a misunderstanding easily arrived at which may cause unpleasantness to the driver in future. A whip should not be used, if avoidable, on this occasion, and the first drive should be short, so as not to tire him too much. A good time to begin this work is when the colt is two years old, and at four his education should be complete. It is much better to pursue this course than allow him to grow up and not undertake to give any training until there is constant work to be done."

[Ed.—Our own experience has been that it is better to handle the colt continually from youth. The lines laid down by Young Horsemen are very good as far as they go, and we would be pleased to have similar letters from other young men who have an ambition to some day stand in the front ranks of the horsemen of this country. Take an interest in the colts, teach them to lead and show on the halter while yet depending on their mother; continue this education and at a year old let the bridle be a part of the paraphernalia. Teach to drive nicely, and when barely two years have been reached hitch to a cart, but do not tire your friend on any occasion. Treat kindly and do everything in your power to increase the confidence which the promising youngster should have in his trainer, and when the days of colthood have been passed you will have something to be proud of.]

## STOCK.

### Norfolk Union Exhibition.

#### A MODEL SHOW.

As an illustration of what good management, when coupled with energy and enterprise, is capable of doing in the solution of that widely discussed problem, "Improvement of Shows," the Norfolk Union Exhibition, held in the town of Simcoe, October 14th to 16th, was by far the best example to be seen anywhere in Ontario this season. For several years the Agricultural Society, represented by an equal number of directors from the north and south ridings of this county, has spared no effort to present to the public each fall an exhibition clean in every respect, and calculated only to educate and enlighten those interested in the various branches of agriculture.

With such worthy objects in view, the name of the Norfolk Union has become known wherever model shows are considered, and when the writer, as representative of the "Farmer's Advocate," visited this progressive institution at its last meeting, a fortnight ago, it was found that the good reports heretofore circulated were by no means exaggerated. As the situation was looked into, it was at once apparent that everyone in connection with the show meant business. The officers, from the president down, knew what they had to do, and they did it. Every department was completely organized and in charge of a superintendent, each of whom appeared to have been appointed solely on account of his ability to give satisfaction.

That this show should be more liberally patronized from year to year, is not to be wondered at. One of the most important factors in the success of any exhibition is the selecting of good judges, and in this the Norfolk Union people have been leaders. Specialists on different classes of live stock and general farm produce have always been chosen, regardless of expense, and treated in the most courteous manner. This year the directors held an informal reception on the evening previous to the principal day of the show, at which the judges and a few visitors of more or less note were invited; the object being to get acquainted and make the strangers feel, as they truly did, that for genuine hospitality Simcoe is without a peer. Dominion Live Stock Commissioner Hodson and Superintendent Creelman, of Institute fame, were present and gave short addresses on the object of exhibitions and their improvement. The former emphasized particularly the necessity for uniformity of ideal amongst expert judges; and the latter, the need of more educational features at shows. It was intimated by President Donley that the interesting little meeting held that night was intended merely as a nucleus of a big public gathering which would henceforth be held on the second night of their annual fair to discuss questions of real

significance to farmers, and create an even greater interest in the exhibition of farm produce.

For some time this show has occupied three days, on the first of which everything except live stock is obliged to be on the ground. On the second day the exhibits are always open for inspection by the public, and in the afternoon the horses entered for special prizes are inspected in front of the grand-stand by the judge. There was quite a respectable turnout this year on this, the children's day. The band, of which Simcoe has reason to boast, was present and enlivened the proceedings very much, making everyone appear happy. On the first floor of the main building was to be seen a very creditable display of fruit, flowers, and dairy products. The latter were all enclosed within a large glass case, which prevented damage from dust or meddlesome fingers, and at same time afforded a splendid opportunity for outward examination. Upon going upstairs, the principal space was found to be occupied with a show of art, the most commendable we have seen in this Province outside of Toronto or London. In an adjoining building, buggies and cutters, numbering upwards of one hundred, told what Simcoe was doing in the manufacturing of vehicles. Next in order came the apartment for grain, roots and vegetables. Potatoes and corn were especially in evidence, but all other classes were well shown. The poultry building stood next, and in it about 300 cases, containing almost twice that number of birds, representing all the leading breeds of chickens, geese, turkeys, ducks, as well as pigeons, guinea fowl, rabbits, and even the historic Irish magpie.

It was not until Thursday, however, that a revelation came to those who had never before seen Norfolk's "Model Fair." The day was fine, although somewhat cool, and early in the forenoon the people began pouring in, the 25 cent gate fee being sufficient ere the afternoon was done to swell the receipts to the handsome sum of \$1,228.43. The horse barns soon overflowed, and when the books were closed 467 entries had been made. About ten o'clock carriage brood mares were called, and as no less than eleven lined up, horsemen from a distance were inclined to ask, "From whence cometh this display?" It was easily answered when remembered that no more horsey county exists in Canada. Good as this lot was, and truly amongst them was much quality, they were soon forgotten when into the circle came a string of foals to the number of twenty, all broken to halter and some trained to step like aged performers. Could it be that Toronto Industrial or the Western Fair had ever had an exhibit of carriage foals like this? It was certain they had never, and further, that their combined entries in 1902 would not equal this little show away down in Simcoe. In fact, any of the breeding sections for carriage would have been creditable to either of the big fairs mentioned. In roadsters, hunters, high-steppers, and heavy drafts, too, they were also well up to the mark, while in several of the harness classes marvels of perfection were shown, with competition to be wondered at. It is certain from what was seen that the farmers in that country have an ideal in breeding. They know what they want and are mating their mares to get it. Never did the writer see, at one exhibition, so many youngsters that could get their feet up high and do it so nicely. Future shows will continue to see them, and those who are their breeders will be justly rewarded. The horse department was especially well managed, and to Superintendent W. F. Kydd much credit is due.

In cattle, the competition was generally keen. Dairy stock of all the leading breeds, including Guernseys, was represented, Holsteins being perhaps in the majority, with Ayrshires next. As this is largely a butter- and cheese-making country, the beef breeds were not strong. Some fair Shorthorns were out, but, as a rule, were not in show condition.

The sheep exhibit was distinguished by having several prominent Toronto and London exhibitors. Altogether, about 160 were shown, but the splendid new covered pens erected this season would have accommodated several more. The hogs were also enjoying new apartments, the addition being a shed about 300 feet long; a capital place for his porcine majesty, for which a fair share of the thousand dollars set apart for building improvements this year was contributed. Yorkshires, numbering 35, were in the majority, with Berkshires and Tamworths following in the order named.

In the shape of attractions, there was not a thing but the show itself, and the people didn't want anything else. Miss Smith, of Hamilton, was there to lecture to the ladies on domestic science, in a commodious big tent, and Prof. Graham, Guelph, at the poultry building on dressing chickens for market, each of which had appreciative audiences, but as for the faker, or huxter, he was not to be seen, nor would he be allowed within the gates of Norfolk Union for a minute. This society, for whom J. T. Murphy is the efficient secretary, has rules to run a show and they stick to them in such a way that every-

one knows they mean it and little trouble is forthcoming. Never, indeed, have we seen a more peaceable and happy crowd of people who met to enjoy themselves, and never did we see a crowd wait longer on the grounds in the evening to appreciate the show of horses within the ring. It all goes to show what may be accomplished by running things on right lines, and aiming to educate the people on something useful. Would that those who believe horse-racing, skirt-dancing and other degrading features are necessary to draw a crowd and ensure a successful exhibition, could be induced to peep into the affairs of such a model association as the Norfolk Union.

### The Horrors of a Cattle Ship.

Having decided several weeks ago to make a trip from England to South Africa on a first-class steamer, where, in company with gentlemen, every attention that money could afford was to be had, it first became my duty to cross to the Old Land by means of a cattle boat, in charge of stock. So novel and, indeed, horrifying was that experience that I herewith give you in part what I trust may serve as a warning to enterprising young men who think of crossing the Atlantic on what, without exaggeration, might be painted as Hades Inferno.

Starting from Toronto with three loads of distillery bulls, I found myself seated on top of a car, with one hand holding on for dear life and the other clutching a valise of clothes. A quick run was made to Montreal, where we arrived in a heavy downpour of rain, and after a wait of six hours, re-shipment to Portland took place, which, with a short inspection of the fine steamer Norseman, on which we were destined to put in ten days of the greatest hardship of a lifetime, completed the second day of our trip. Our charge being made up of 1,300 cattle and 600 sheep, we decided, on account of the latter, to take the open deck, but little did we realize what was in store. All together, sixty men went on board, including medical and divinity students, young farmers, mechanics, a prominent Toronto cattle dealer, and others destined to see Edward VII. crowned. There was also in that company much scum of the earth, represented in characters of the jail-bird type. Words fail to describe the conduct of these ruffians, whose language, most vile, picked up from the docks of Liverpool and stock-yards of Chicago, when coupled with their merciless acts of brutality, brought forth sympathy for those who were so unfortunate as to incur their disfavor. From any who foolishly responded to their entreaties for money they would continue to insist for more, and even punish their benefactors when further consideration was not forthcoming. It is surprising that greater protection from the officers in charge is not afforded to those who are peacefully inclined.

The first duty of the day was to rise at four o'clock and, without breakfast, clean out the feeding troughs and water the sheep, which required most of the time until eight, when the first meal was served. This consisted of a preparation most abhorrible, in which beef, or even horse meat, is unknown. One dose is sufficient for anyone. The only way to overcome this difficulty is with the aid of a little money to curry favor with the cook and baker.

The sleeping apartment was a large berth containing forty iron beds with straw sacking, hard from long-continued use and filled with vermin of a most obnoxious character. We preferred a quiet corner, where, on some hay and wrapped in a blanket, an occasional snooze was enjoyed. So great was the hardship to be endured that some who had been engaged to work were forced to buy their freedom, which they did at a fee of \$5.00 each.

A very favorite pastime of the scoundrels above referred to was to drop a bale of hay or a bag of meal weighing 200 lbs. on any man's back who was passing the hatchway. To call him early, a pail of cold water was commonly used. Such are the cruel practices carried on, and surely there ought to be some means by which this scandal could be prosecuted. Men, I know, are loath to complain, and no doubt scores of others could be obtained who would vouch for the truth of these statements. I feel that a strong representation should be made to the authorities to stop this, an abuse from which our export cattle trade suffers severely, and through which the country is maligned; all owing to the blackguard foremen who make money out of the ship's provisions by selling to deceived persons who make a journey in a cattle boat.

SECOND CLASS.

York Co., Ont.

### Everybody Likes the Farmer's Knife.

I received the knife and was very much pleased with it. I think it was well worth my trouble of getting the two subscribers. I will try to get more subscribers for you. JOS. PETERSON.  
Brockville Co., Ont.