

Training the Saddle Horse

From Kentucky have come many good saddle horses and runners. Mr. Chas. L. Bailey, of that State, gives his views on training the saddle horse as follows:

A saddle horse is one that can be ridden with a light hand on either the curb or snaffle, or both.

He should guide by the neck, be responsive to heel and hand, so that he can be readily collected and made to go in form.

A well-trained horse goes without pulling or yawing his head, and can walk well and fast, trot handily, flexing both knees and hocks at equal height, this giving ease in posting and not tiring the back.

The horse should set off on a quiet, easy canter when asked—any horse can gallop—and lead with either foot at the will of the rider. If these characteristics can be found in connection with a finished conformation, one might say that he owned a typical saddle horse.

The layman has but a small conception of the time, trouble, patience, perseverance and skill required to educate a saddle horse.

Horses are like people—some learn more readily than others—but no horse can be properly mouthed and thoroughly trained in less than a year, some requiring even longer.

When a horse comes into my school his lessons begin with a plain snaffle bit, regardless of any previous experience the horse may have had. With this bit his jaws are thoroughly flexed and supplied, so that he responds and yields to the slightest pressure on bit and rein.

He is taught to back (not forced) and to stand while being mounted. In six weeks the bit and bridle, properly the double bridle, is put on, and the same lessons are given over again.

After the horse has been accustomed to the double bridle, lessons in walk, trot and canter begin. What is meant by flexing and suppling of the neck and jaw of a horse cannot be defined on paper.

It might be comprehended by illustration, but much more clearly by actual observation of the work when being done by skilled and competent hands.

Anyhow, this system is separate from anything and everything like force, and is directly opposite to that of Kentucky trainers, which they term "setting the head," by pulling his nose in with the curb and forcing him against it with the spurs, which results in the horse carrying himself in bad instead of good form.

A horse thus taught is fighting the bit more or less, which unbalances his action and detracts from his comfort to the rider.

A woman's saddle horse is the most difficult to obtain, however great a price one may be willing to pay, because the horse must closely approximate perfection.

For, owing to her side seat and her comparative lack of strength, a woman has but little control over a horse, thus rendering it imperative that her horse should be of even temper, with great courage and perfect manners, and a light mane and level trot, so that she can post easily or sit close, as she may select.

Another stamp of horse very rare is what is termed the weight carrier; and it is a mistaken idea that beef and bone are the sole essentials of a weight-carrying horse. More depends on how the animal is put together.

The leg should be wide and thin, the sinews of whipcord texture, shoulders oblique, with great depth of girth and short back. A horse so conformed

should cleverly carry 19 per cent. of his weight.

A well-bred, a well-trained saddle horse is not only your servant, but becomes your companion and is first of all physicians.

Sheep for Tread Power

Forest Henry describes the use of sheep on a tread power for separating milk, as follows:

"Of late we have been using a sheep power for turning the separator and find it a complete success. We use a sheep that weighs around 150 pounds and would not recommend one any smaller. I expected some trouble and found it in training one for the work. In ten days, however, he would run and jump into the power of his own accord on being turned loose. I think, though, it is more for the feed that he finds in the little box just in front of the power than it is for the fun he gets in treading it. We don't care which, so long as he does the work. The great thing in training a sheep for this is to keep your temper and use your ingenuity in getting him to work. For a few days we were compelled to set a fork behind ours in such a manner that if he worked back he would get pricked. He soon learned that the best place for him was up to his place, so he did not come back many times against the fork and never hard enough to draw blood. We find that the tread power runs the separator much more steadily than it is possible by hand. Altogether we find the separator with the power the best paying machine on the farm."

Heaves in Horses

Speaking of heaves in horses, Wallace Farmer in a recent issue said: "In mild and recent cases the heaves may often be cured entirely by turning the horse out to pasture for two or three months. If it is necessary, however, to work a horse affected with this trouble, he can be relieved greatly by feeding no hay except at night, and then only a very small amount of clean and bright hay, entirely free from dust. If there is any danger of dust it is well to dampen it, but only bright hay should be given. Roots will be found helpful; beets, turnips, potatoes, or anything of that sort that the horse will eat. The amount of water should be limited as much as possible, and no horse with heaves should be given water for one or two hours previous to going to work. Dr. Law recommends a rice in five-grain doses daily, and continued from a month to two months, as especially valuable, and says that the bowels must be kept easy by laxatives if necessary. By treatment of this sort a heavey horse can be greatly relieved. When the disease first comes on it will pay to turn the horse to grass, with the hope of effecting a cure at once and before the disease progresses to the extent where it becomes incurable."

The North-West Lien Act

In the North-West Territories they have a very good lien act that might with advantage be copied in some of the older provinces, especially in Ontario. Some of its chief provisions are as follows: "(3) Every person, firm or company standing or travelling any stallion for profit or gain in the North-West Territories shall cause the name, description and pedigree of such stallion to be enrolled in the department and shall procure a certificate of such enrollment as hereafter provided. "(4) The owner of any stallion shall post up and keep affixed during the

whole of the season, copies of the certificate of such stallion issued under the next preceding section in a conspicuous place both within and upon the outside of the main door leading into every stable or building where the said stallion stands regularly for public service."

Three different forms are provided on which the certificate of a stallion shall be filled in accordance as the animal is (1) a pure-bred and registered in a stud book approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture; (2) the offspring of sire and dam not of pure breeding; (3) the offspring of pure-bred sire and dam, but not of the same breed. By this arrangement the certificate shows the exact breeding of the stallion, and the farmer can ascertain in a moment what kind of a stallion is being offered him. Other important sections of the act are:

"(8) Every bill, poster or advertisement issued by the owner of any stallion enrolled under this Ordinance, or used by him for advertising such stallion shall contain a copy of its certificate of enrolment.

"(10) The owner of any stallion holding a certificate of enrolment under this Ordinance under section 5 of this Ordinance (that relating to the pure-breds) or his agent may file in the office of the registration clerk of the registration district for mortgages and other transfers of personal property in which the owner or person in charge of any mare upon which such stallion performs service resides, within twelve months after such service is performed, a statutory declaration setting forth:

1. The amount of service fee;
2. That the same is unpaid;
3. The fact of such service;
4. A reasonable description of such mare; and
5. The name and residence of the owner of such mare.

"(11) The owner of such stallion upon filing such statutory declaration and complying with the provisions of this Ordinance shall have a lien for the amount of said service fee and costs as hereinafter provided upon the colt or filly the offspring of any such stallion by reason of the service in respect of which such statutory declaration is filed, which lien shall take and have priority over any and all writs of execution, chattel mortgages, bills of sale, claims and encumbrances whatsoever.

"(12) If payment of the service fee is not made before the first day of January in the year following the year in which the colt or filly is born, the owner of said stallion or his duly authorized agent may at any time before the first day of May following take possession of the colt or filly upon which he has such lien as aforesaid wherever the same may be found and may proceed to sell the same by public auction after giving the person in whose possession the said colt or filly was when taken ten days' notice in writing of such intention to sell which notice may be effectually given to such person by delivering the same to him personally or by posting it upon the door of such person's last known place of residence in the North-West Territories.

"(13) The proceeds of sale shall be applied first in payment of the reasonable expenses of the taking of possession, giving of notice and conduct of sale, not in any case to exceed \$10 in all, and next in payment of said service fee, and the balance shall be paid forthwith by the owner of the stallion to the person from whom such possession colt or filly was taken.

"(14) Violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be an offence, and whoever is convicted shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding \$25.