

principles of breaking a horse, though as a rule they can all stick on a horse's back, and some of them are quite accomplished rough-riders. The consequence is that the wretched colt, which probably comes of quiet ancestry and has lived all its life almost a hand-fed existence, has rather a rough time of it before it is declared to be well and truly broken. To begin with, owing to the fact that the boys are burning with impatience to try their skill, and that the farmer is in a hurry for another saddle or harness horse, the colt is generally caught at two years old, instead of at three or four—consequently he requires all the more gentle handling, but he very seldom gets it. He is roped and haltered, and dragged about the yard by a long rope; "teaching him to lead," they call it. At this time he runs a great risk of rearing up and (through unskilful handling of the rope) of falling over and breaking his neck or crippling himself on the stockyard fence; but if he escapes this fate he is tied up to the fence and taught "not to break bridles."

That is to say, his tormentors—you can hardly call them his breakers—having fastened him securely to a post by a green-hide halter, do their best to make him "pull back," and so realize his inability to escape. Sacks are flapped in his face, tins beaten under his nose, whips cracked over and under him, hats and sheep skins and saddle cloths thrown at him—everything possible done to make him pull back on the halter and admit the futility of resistance. The length of treatment and its after effects depend upon his temper. The nervous, high-strung colt leaps in terror at every clang of a tin or flip of a cloth, pulls back desperately and then plunges forward to ease the strain on his jaw, his eyes flashing, his nostrils red and wide, his whole body a-quiver with fear and excitement. The intelligent, well-bred horse, in spite of his terror, will pull back only once or twice, then realizing the situation will stand up with a loose rope and refuse to attempt to escape which he knows is futile; but the under-bred or bad-tempered brute will sulk for hours, lying back, hind legs well under him and ears laid flat, tugging desperately at the unyielding rope. The more things are flung at him the more he pulls; till the great yard post quivers with the strain, and the horse's jaw is deeply cut by the strands of the raw-hide. I have seen a red trench to the depth of over half an inch cut into the jaw by a round rope halter, showing the enormous strain at such times, and the amount of pain which a sulky horse will bear rather than accept defeat. Unfortunately the youth of the type I am trying to describe differentiates not at all between one class of horse and another. He serves all in the same fashion, confident that his methods are correct; and the longer a horse pulls the longer he is tortured. On rare occasions the rope breaks, and that is about the worst thing that could happen to the colt, for it encourages him to think that he has won his point; and afterwards when he is tied up with a stronger halter he tries more determinedly than ever to burst his bonds.

At last by the help of starvation and lack of water even the most determined puller is subdued, and the amateur horse-breaker, spreading vaseline on the deep wounds which the rope has made, considers that he has won both a moral and material victory, and taught the two-year-old that it must never pull back, even when tied by the lightest of bridles. As a matter of fact this rough treatment almost invariably fails in its object and the colt, though beaten for the time, will take the first chance, when tied up in front of the township hotel, of breaking his bridle to the disgust of his owner. The next proceeding is to put the tackling on. This tackling is as often as not a collection of old broken straps patched and bound with string and wire, rotted and hardened by long exposure to the weather. When the mouthing bit is inserted in the colt's mouth it may happen that one of the reins is shorter than the other by reason of an old breakage. "Oh, never mind," says somebody, "it will do the turn!" And so the unfortunate horse is tied up with one side of the bit pulled into his mouth and the other side dragged halfway up to his ear. Mouthing, under such circumstances, is hardly likely to be a success.

These selection horses are generally quieter than those which have run in the large station paddocks, but there is always a great fuss made about backing them, and if the colt makes a plunge or two he is labelled "buck-jumper," and the young selector gains a spurious reputation for courage by riding him into the township with a green-hide halter under the bridle and the rope of it tied in coils round his neck.

This kind of horse-breaker has little or no idea of teaching a horse manners or paces; so long as the colt will shuffle along at a back-breaking joggle, and canter at a good pace, and wheel around to the latch of a gate, his education is considered complete. His faults are glossed over, his virtues exaggerated and expatiated upon in every township bar; he is taught to carry a lady and to prance prettily under the spur, and he becomes what is known as a "fancy hack"—an abomination to every good horseman.

Many a promising, well-bred horse is spoiled by such treatment as this; and many a high-couraged one, after throwing his breaker once or twice, is turned out as a dangerous brute and sold to the first Indian buyer who is attracted by his good looks—sold as broken to saddle. No wonder his breaking is commented upon when he reaches the land of his destination!

As the back country becomes more and more closely settled, horse-breakers become more prone to realize that, if they are to get the best out of the horses they keep, and the best prices for those they sell, they must break their colts more in accordance with well-proved English and European tradition. Hundreds of good horses are rendered worse than useless every year by indifferent breaking.

By reason of its exceptional advantages of climate and natural pasture Australia is destined to be the paradise of the horse breeder; and it is the duty of the Australian stockman to see that he deserves no reproach as to the manner in which his horses are mouthed and handled. He has a large number of quite good horsemen to choose from, and there is no reason why his horse-breakers should not be the best in the world.

The buck-jumper has practically disappeared from the pastures of Australia, and with him should depart those rough and ready methods of horse-breaking which suited the superficial requirements of the pioneers, but which are strangely out of place in these days of close settlement and scientific and well-ordered management.

Bowden, Scotland.

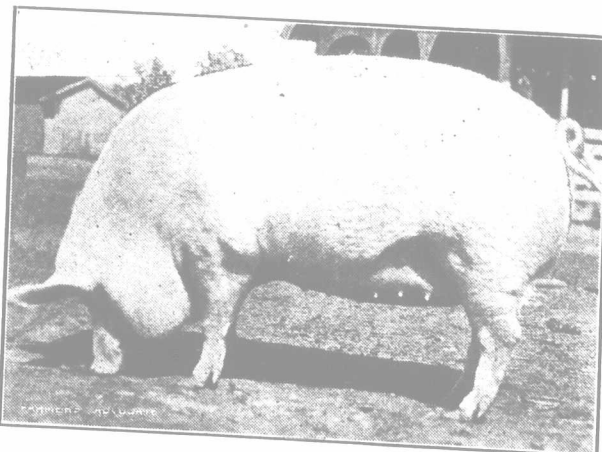
WILL H. OGILVIE.

LIVE STOCK

Beginning in Pig Breeding.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Difference of opinion, certainly difference in practice, prevails as to the best way to commence pig breeding. Some prefer to purchase an in-pig sow, or gilt, because it enables them to get to work without waiting, and they believe they are saving some trouble and getting more for their money. This is, however, not always the case, for the effects of bad management in the hands of the former owner may become apparent in the possession of the new one, when the sow comes to farrow. The management of the sow at the time of parturition has, of course, an important bearing on her welfare and on that of her



The Champion Yorkshire.

Best sow at Toronto. Owned by J. Featherston & Son, Streetsville, Ont.

offspring, but the kind of treatment she gets during gestation has even a greater influence.

When an in-pig sow is purchased, something is risked, and all that can be done is to feed her judiciously during the time that has to elapse before farrowing time, but with a gilt that is home-bred, or purchased young with a view of her being employed for breeding purposes, much may be done by careful management to secure a good time at farrowing, a strong, healthy litter of pigs and a good supply of milk for them.

It is rather a moot point whether it is best for the novice to purchase an in-pig sow, a gilt ready for breeding, or to buy young sow pigs and bring them along until old enough to put to the boar. In the latter case, although the expense of feeding and attendance and the risk of loss from accident or disease, may bring the cost to about the same thing, an opportunity is afforded of feeding and training them on the most approved principles to secure the best possible results.

The selection of the breed of pig to keep, which is often a great source of trouble to the amateur, must necessarily be left to the individual taste or judgment, founded on local knowledge, but the age at which to breed is a subject on which something may be said to advantage. Early breeding is now the fashion, and it has followed closely on the heels of early maturity and sexual precocity. Some breeds mature

earlier than others, but I consider that in none of them are the sows fit to send to the boar at less than nine months old, which is sometimes done simply because oestrus has made its appearance. The practice is to be strongly deprecated. The animal herself is immature, her growth and development, and, therefore, her future usefulness are affected by the drain on her strength during gestation and lactation, while the offspring are generally puny and ill-nourished. If, after mating early, she is heavily fed to keep up her strength and assist her to nourish her future offspring, there is often trouble at parturition, owing to the development of the fetus exceeding the capacity of the genital passages.

Where the sow is not intended to be permanently retained for breeding purposes it may answer fairly well to breed early, but my contention is that if a sow is good enough to breed from she is good enough to keep, and I do not consider it best to start breeding until the sow is twelve months old. There is no doubt but that within certain limits a sow becomes a better mother with each succeeding litter, bringing finer, stronger pigs, and having a better supply of milk on which to nourish them. If the sow is a good one she ought to be permanently retained as a breeding animal. Of course irregular breeders, vicious sows and inferior milkers are to be ruthlessly weeded out, but a really good and careful mother should be kept breeding as long as she continues to do so regularly and brings a fair number of even pigs, for which she provides plenty of milk. Where the mating of gilts is concerned it is better to be three months behind than three months too early, if the object in view is a useful sow that will not only attain her own natural size, but produce good, quick-growing pigs.

Condition is a matter not to be overlooked, for it is of the utmost importance in the breeding animal. Breeding condition is quite a different thing from butcher's condition or show condition, and it should be recognized that the fit condition for breeding is the condition of carrying no more fat than accompanies good health and vigorous growth. Many of the breeding difficulties, such as the non-appearance of the oestrus and the failure to conceive, are due to the animal being too fat. The principal quality to be desired is growth, and this is better brought about by feeding on nitrogenous foods, with plenty of exercise, than by stuffing with fattening material in close confinement. This treatment holds also during the pregnant period, for nitrogenous foods and exercise are essential to the well-being of every pregnant animal and the proper development of her prospective offspring.

It is difficult to pay special attention to individual sows where a large herd of breeding stock is kept, but I know from experience that it is not difficult, by a little kindness and consideration, to change a sullen and intractable animal into an unusually gentle one, and where only a few sows are kept this certainly pays. Those who have had no experience with pigs may believe them to be unsympathetic animals, utterly devoid of intelligence and concerned only with eating and sleeping, but those who have taken the trouble to cultivate their acquaintance know better. It may not matter so much about being friendly with the fattening hog, but it may make a considerable difference whether or not the owner or attendant is on good terms with the breeding sow, for if the animal is vicious and dangerous to approach or will not brook handling, it may go hard with her should parturition prove difficult. The sow that resents the slightest interference at such time or with her offspring is a complete nuisance. It is this class of animal that kills and eats her pigs, and will scarcely tolerate the presence of even her feeder in the farrowing pen. Fear is often the chief factor in the so-called vices of all animals. If a sow is noticed and spoken to at feeding times, or occasionally rubbed down the back, it will render her familiar with handling and assure her of kind intentions.

Johnson Co., Ill.

W. H. UNDERWOOD.

Grow Beef, Don't Make it.

Good herdsmen agree that a calf should never be allowed to lose any of its first flesh, and that loss due to a halt or retrograde step is difficult to regain. Many stock raisers, however, think the calf not worth bothering with, and postpone the special care and attention it should receive while young to a later date, but a time when it will not be transformed into as many pounds of flesh as during the first six months of the calf's life. Stockmen are not plodding away nowadays as they were in former years. However, a good root acreage, a high silo well filled, lots of clover hay and chop, and a liking for stock will combine to grow beef that will be very acceptable to the hungry multitudes. Fall calves are not

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