

THE HORSE.

The in-foal mare should be allowed a liberal amount of exercise if a strong, rugged colt is to be looked for.

Idleness is the enemy of the heavy horse in winter. Plan the winter's routine so the team will appear daily on the program.

The yearlings and two-year-olds require a good place to spend the night and stormy days, but the out-door paddock and open air are constitution builders for the young stock.

Weight is not the only thing to be considered in the draft horse. Years ago, light horses executed the same labor that is being done now by animals one-half as large again. It is a question of quality, constitution and stamina, and when this is found in combination with substance, the individual is a winner.

Training the Young Horses.

The terms "training" and "breaking" are often used interchangeably to designate the practice of preparing and teaching the young horse to become a useful servant for man. Yet there is a difference in the meaning of these two words. Horses do not reason. They cannot form conclusions. Their apparently intelligent actions are the outcome of habit and previous experiences which always have their contemporary associations. It is necessary, therefore, that their early experiences should be, to a certain extent, determined by man who has, it is said, the power of reason. When the animal is thus brought into connection with a series of events that are not annoying to the horse, and accustom him to do certain things at certain times that minister to the needs of man's exploitations, then the horse is being "trained." However, after a young horse has put his weight into the collar when his shoulder is sore and he quickly comes back, the seed is being sown that develops into a balky horse. When he is whipped by some object which at first gives him fright and he associates the pain of the punishment with the object in question, untold evils are gaining a foothold in the horse's mind. When these wrongs and many others are to be corrected, then the term "breaking" may properly be used.

Breaking the spirit of a horse does not train him. He should be in first-class condition when handled, for improvement in his general condition may necessitate a second schooling period for the young animal. Let the developments of his experiences be gradual. It is unwise to neglect the young ones till some fine day when they are two years old, and then bridle and harness them and expect them to do all they are asked to do and be afraid of nothing. By that time they should be acquainted with the bridle and bit. They should know how to back and not object to straps and harness being placed upon them. By coaxing and encouraging they will become accustomed to robes and top buggies which are usually objects of fright for the young horse. Have them touch them with their nose and learn there is no harm in them before they are attached to a carriage, and unthinkingly the driver or other inmate exposes them to the horse's gaze. Umbrellas are the cause of many accidents, but when the horse is young they will soon see the nonsense of entertaining any fear of them. Raise and lower the umbrella around their head, and get them accustomed to paper and noises. This part of the horse's education should be imparted before he is introduced to the shafts or team wagon.

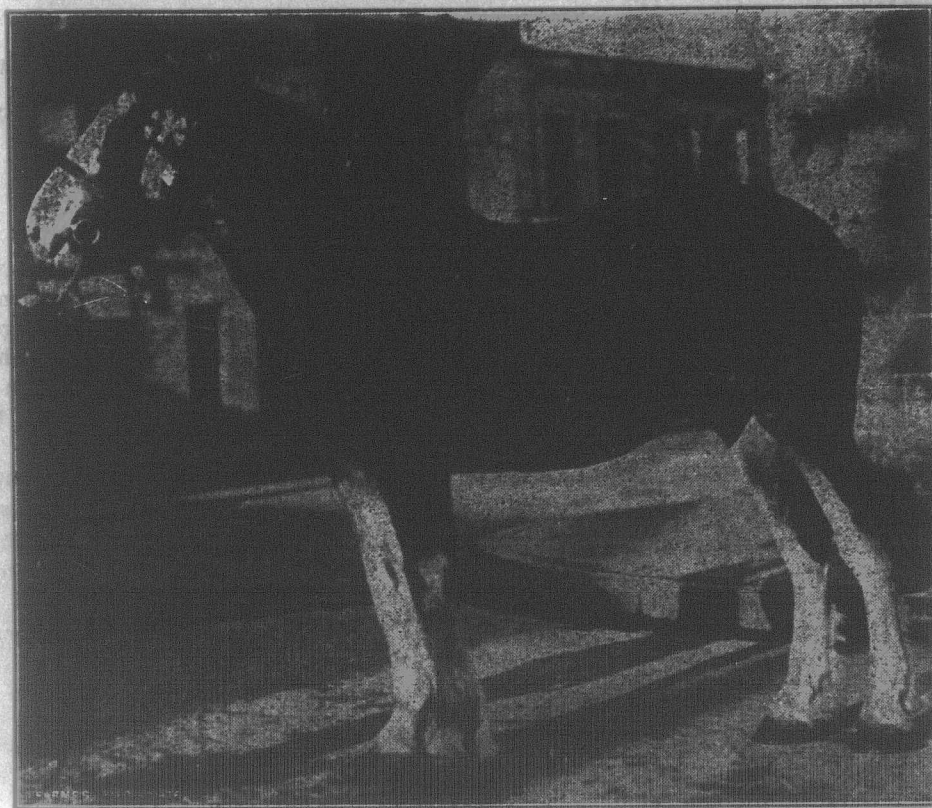
If it is a heavy horse and he is hitched double, it is well to put him on the off side and have the high horse active and well trained. Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the advisability of teaching the young horse to walk fast. Many horses are constantly nagged into a trot because they walk so slowly. Furthermore, much farm work is done at the walk, and if a man plows with a 16-inch plow and the team walks at the rate of two miles per hour he will plow about three acres per day, but if the team walk at the rate of three miles per hour almost five acres will be turned. These will not average areas under ordinary conditions, but show the comparative amounts of labor done at different rates of speed. Encourage the horse to do his best in training and when he breaks into a trot steady him down to a walk, but do not keep him at it too long for he will weary and resent the instructions.

Light horses are often trained to the very highest attainments, but the draft horse plods away in the field or less fashionable resorts than parks and boulevards. Too often the heavy colt is given into the hands of incompetent teamsters, whose best management is little less than maltreatment when compared with that of practical horsemen. It is obvious to all that the un-

trained colt should not be overloaded, and neither at first should he be hitched to a plow, harrow or anything with such a constant heavy draft. The strain and sometimes jerking of the plow will break the spirit of the unhardened horse, and probably sore his shoulder. Hitch him beside an active mover, one that will stay on the collar till he hears "whoa," and attach them to a bulky yet unheavy load in order to convey to the young horse's mind that he can pull anything loose at both ends.

One cannot escape noting how a young horse will pass, without fear, objects which instill the older horse with fright. Many times a few words of encouragement will take the young horse by when chastisement will leave an impression on his mind that pain is to be associated with objects of its kind.

Let the first handling of the colt be a training or teaching, bearing in mind that good habits must be established or he will later exhibit symptoms of vice and evil.



Glen Ivry.

Champion Canadian-bred Clydesdale stallion at the Provincial Winter Fair. Exhibited by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont.

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

Some six weeks have elapsed since I last wrote a letter for "The Farmer's Advocate", and possibly that has not been quite fair to readers who care to hear at first hand what is going on in the Old Country. We have had a very open winter up to date, the only cold snap coming a week ago and lasting not more than three days. We are having plenty of rain and furious storms, but within little more than a fortnight of the New Year all the frost and snow experienced counts for very little. The blizzard which wrought such havoc on the Canadian lakes has not come our way at all, and, what is sometimes called the old-fashioned Christmas, has apparently gone never to return. Our most severe weather comes generally after the New Year in accordance with an ancient saw,

"When the day lengthens,
The cauld strengthens."

but even at its worst a bad winter now is never very bad. Many years have passed since we had a really severe and lengthened frost, and snowstorms of intensity and duration are not much in memory. The openness of the weather is all in favor of the pastoral farmer. Sheep, stock do well in such a season, and it is rather curious to hear from the turnip-growing areas mild complaints that the season in the eastern part of Scotland has been rather dry. These complaints are not very serious, and unless some unheard-of disaster should befall during the next fortnight it may be safely affirmed that taken altogether the year 1913 was one of the best the British farmer has experienced for many years.

The rural world is, at present, in a ferment over certain proposals affecting land, and the wages, and housing of the agricultural laborer. That gentleman has a vote, and the politicians, as an election looms in view, are out to catch it. They are offering the laborer better wages, better houses and more holidays. In some parts of England the wages or earnings of the agricultural laborer are scandalously low. No man with any desire to speak the truth can deny this. Wherever competing industries are not in opera-

tion the agricultural laborer who elects to remain on the land is paid a non-competitive wage. That means that he is paid somewhere about 15 shillings per week on which he is expected to live like a human being and rear a family. Of course, the man who accepts this condition of things is not characterized by enterprise. He does not read, and he is not ambitious. The man born and reared amidst such surroundings, who reads and has learned something about the great world beyond, won't have this sort of life. He clears out, and either finds his way into the cities, there to swell the already congested ranks of unskilled labor, or if more ambitious he crosses the ocean and settles in lands where there is greater room. The man who remains at home breeds his own kind, and consequently the 15 shilling per week laborer puts in a 15 shilling per week kind of labor. Scottish farmers who have migrated south have told us that two of their Scots laborers would do as much as three of their English laborers, and, in the nature of

the case, other results could not be looked for. The Scots laborer gets 21 shillings per week as against his English neighbor's 15 shillings. He feeds better and is better housed, and, as a result, he puts in a much better day's work.

The net result of the agitation now going on will undoubtedly be to increase the cost of production to the farmer, and this is recognized by the politicians. They, therefore, propose to give the farmer security of tenure with effective compensation for disturbance, and a Land Court to fix a fair rent. In principle these things have already been recognized as expedient by law. The Crofter Legislation of Scotland included all these principles, and no one denies its beneficial effect upon the area of country in which the legislation was effective. The same principles have been extended in application to the whole of Scotland, but only in so far as tenancies of £50 an-

nual rent and under, and of 50 acres or under, are concerned. The proposals now launched include the application of these principles to the whole rented land of England, and eventually we presume of Scotland also. Of course, it is inevitable that such proposals should excite the opposition of landowners. They of necessity involve the curtailing of their long-cherished legal rights, and they cannot be blamed if they view such proposals with mingled feelings of anger and dismay. At the same time there are estates on which all of these proposals have voluntarily been in operation for years, and it is not claimed that these estates are the worst managed or the proprietors are worse off than their neighbors. Indeed, as a rule, it is entirely the other way about. It may safely be affirmed that the meting out of justice to the laborer and farmer cannot possibly mean injustice to the landowner. It is, however, certain that here we are in for lively times, and results may be evolved which will abolish all parties.

Potatoes are a very important crop in Scottish farming. This year there was little disease among the tubers when they were lifted, but reports regarding their condition in the pits are by no means so satisfactory. The result is a strong demand for a new disease-resisting potato, and this seems to have been found in a variety called Arran Chief, brought out by a Mr. W. Kelvie, at Whiting Bay, in Arran, and now being put upon the market by several of the firms which make a specialty of supplying the seed potato market. At Birmingham, Edinburgh and London winter shows there was a spirited demand for Arran Chief, and so long as this variety maintains disease-resisting properties it will be increasingly grown. The favorite main crop or late variety up to this time has been what is called the Up-to-Date. It has certainly held the field for a much longer period than any other variety of a like nature. Potatoes would have yielded big profits this year were it not for the presence in isolated spots of what is known as the Wart disease. Its presence in these spots cannot be denied, and the United States ports are closed against our surplus stock, which would certainly have gone there in plenty, to the advantage of the American consumer. The position of the country with respect to this disease is not easily understood by friends over seas. It is only found in cottagers' gardens, and not