

JULY 8, 1909

HORSES.

Correspondence Invited.

There are those who hold that, leaving service fees out of consideration, it costs no more to raise a three-year-old colt than a three-year-old steer. We believe it is an optimistic view. The ever-present risk with both mare and foal is a factor that may not be ignored. Then, too, in the way of stabling and attention, a colt is rather more exacting than a calf, while his ration may not be advantageously economized to the same extent by the use of corn silage, clover, alfalfa, oil cake and other feeds. Nevertheless, the comparison affords a suggestive basis for calculation, and the views of horsemen upon the following points are invited:

1. Starting with the dam, considering risk, cost of service, difference in amount of work performed by a brood mare, as compared with a yeld mare or gelding, in this way arrive at the average cost of a living foal at the time of weaning.

2. Calculating the amount and value of feed consumed, estimate the cost of (a) the first winter's keep, (b) the second summer's keep, (c) the second winter's keep, (d) the third summer's keep, (e) the third winter's keep. Cost of attention, stabling, breaking, etc., should be allowed, but against this the colt should be credited with its value as a worker up to three years of age.

3. According to your calculations, what is the total cost of raising (a) a colt of the heavy breeds, (b) a colt of the light-legged breeds, up to three years of age? What should be the average selling price, and what the profit?

Hackney Championship at Olympia

Not all the biggest and greatest things in the world originate in the giant Republic to the south. The International Horse Show, which last month held its third annual renewal at Olympia, London, Eng., is an achievement which, for scope of ambition, originality and boldness of conception, and success of achievement, wins worldwide recognition, patronage and approval. For the £12,000 offered in prizes, 2,500 entries competed, while the average daily receipts from sale of tickets mounted away up into the thousands of pounds. Some details of exhibits and awards appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate" of July 1st. Elsewhere we present photogravures of the male and female Hackney champions. Antonius, the stallion champion, is a chestnut son of Polonius, from Towthorpe Iris. He belongs to Sir Walter Gilbey, and was the London junior champion. Adbolton St. Mary, the female sweepstakes, is a dark chestnut, got by St. Thomas, from Nellie Horsley, and stands 15 hands 3 inches. She is described as "a grand type of mare, going brilliantly, and staying well." In capturing the rosette, she repeated her honor of the London Show.

Cost of Raising a Colt.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

At one of the horse exchanges in Toronto recently some horse enthusiasts were "swapping" opinions. Among other things that came before this tribunal was the cost of raising a horse. The majority were of the opinion that, leaving the service fee out of consideration, it cost no more to raise a horse than to raise a first-class steer. A steer that would top the market at three years of age would sell for \$80 to \$90. A good colt, particularly of the draft-horse or general-purpose type, would, in three years' time, or a little more, be worth \$150. In this way they put up a pretty good argument in favor of the farmer raising horses in preference to steers.

It cannot be said, however, that these horsemen were giving unprejudiced opinions. They had been scouring the country for weeks previous, endeavoring to buy horses from farmers at a price that would enable them to make a profit on the deal when the horses were resold at the exchanges. Not being able to do this to their liking, they endeavored to show by the above comparison that the farmer was standing in his own light, and not taking advantage of the opportunity afforded him of making a big profit out of horse-raising. In other words, farmers were asking too much for their horses, considering the cost of raising them.

But is there anything in their contention? If their claim that it costs as much to raise a good steer for market as it does to raise a colt to marketable age is approximately correct, it is worthy of some consideration. The class of horses chiefly raised by our farmers will do enough work on the farm after three years of age to pay for their keep. For the purposes of comparison, therefore, the cost of raising a steer and a colt until three years of age would be a fair basis to work on. To raise a good steer, he should be well fed and well cared for from the beginning. To make the comparison a fair one, we would

have to apply the same condition in raising the colt. There are, no doubt, many colts raised in the country that cost but little for expensive feed. But we take it that to raise a good colt it must be well cared for and well fed from its birth.

To get at the exact cost of the ration a colt should have until it is three years of age is a little difficult. The experience of practical horsemen on this point would be valuable.

McConnell, an English authority, gives several rations for horses. For large farm work horses he recommends: oats, 15 lbs.; beans, 2 lbs.; straw chaff, 5 lbs., and hay, 10 lbs. per day. The army ration for English cavalry in camp is: oats, 12

ture, about 25 lbs. (there would not be much winter pasture in Canada), and a summer ration of oats, 2½ lbs.; bran, 2½ lbs., and pasture, about 50 lbs.

From these data it may be possible to approximate the cost of feeding a colt for three years, though it would have to be modified to suit local conditions. Say the colt consumes \$5.00 worth of food besides milk up till weaning time, then taking McConnell's winter and summer rations, not counting pasture, valuing bran at \$20, and hay at \$10 per ton, we have a total cost of feed of \$81.90 for three winters and two summers, of six months each, or a total cost for raising a

colt to three years of age, not including nourishment from dam, of \$86.90. This may be too high for this country, though the values placed on oats, bran and hay are about the average for the past year or two. Pasture is worth something; but even if we leave this out of consideration, the cost of raising a three-year-old colt is such that if it cost the same to raise a good steer, every cattle-raiser in this country is sinking a small fortune every year. It is quite possible that a colt can be raised fairly well at a much lower cost.

The cost of raising a steer might be figured out in the same way. By taking the rations recommended for the different periods of growth, an approximate estimate might be arrived at, but that would make this article too long and bring down upon us the wrath of the editor. There is as much variation in the methods followed in raising cattle as there is in the kinds of cattle which reach the market. What is wanted is some accurate data as to the cost of raising a good three-year-old steer ready for market. It will, we think, be found to be much lower than our horse friends place it at. This would not mean, however, that the profit in raising steers is greater than in raising horses.

"CHRONICLE."

Nothing is more certain than that we must have horsepower; and even when mechanical power is cheaper to buy than horses, the latter may still have the advantage, for the reason that it is home-produced. In this sense, the farmer who raises

horses becomes the manufacturer of his own motive power, and in producing it has about as large a margin of profit as the manufacturers of mechanical traction.

American Clydesdale men do not seem entirely disheartened. A recent issue of the Scottish Farmer reports considerable shipments to Iowa and Wisconsin.

It is the steady, quiet horse that can do the biggest day's work when the weather is hot.



Antonius.

Two-year-old Hackney stallion. First and champion at the International Horse Show, Olympia, London, Eng., 1909. Owned and exhibited by Sir Walter Gilbey.



Adbolton St. Mary.

Champion Hackney female, International Horse Show, Olympia, London, Eng., 1909. Owned and exhibited by A. W. Hickling.

lbs.; hay, 12 lbs., and straw, 8 lbs. Dick gives a ration for an idle horse of 5 lbs. oats and 12 lbs. hay per day. McConnell gives a summer ration for horses in England of: oats, 15 lbs.; straw chaff, 5 lbs., and pasture, about 56 lbs. The same rations as some of the above might be used for young colts, but in smaller quantities, with a medium proportion of nitrogenous ingredients, as young growing animals require foods rich in flesh-formers; 4 or 5 lbs. of crushed oats and bran, mixed, while on grass, is recommended by some. McConnell gives a winter ration for young colts, of oats, 5 lbs.; bran, 1 lb.; hay, 5 lbs., and pas-