

Breaking the Colt to Ride.

The colt should be well halter-broken and accustomed to being tied in a stall, and before introducing the saddle the youngster should be tied between two rings or posts, with sufficient freedom to move backward and forward freely. The saddle should then be held forward to his head so that he can see and smell it, at the same time patting him and talking to him. Very soon he should move quietly up to the left side, push the stirrups well up and fold the girths across the top of the saddle. After

weight of the body upon it. He should insert the left foot in the stirrup, taking it out and in frequently, so as to get the colt to understand what the noise means. When he has learned this in the stall he will remember it in the open, and will not heed the jingling of the boot in the stirrup afterwards. When he is quiet under this treatment, the breaker must get his foot in the stirrup, raise the body slowly and gradually up, and lean across the back of the colt without putting the leg across him. He should continue doing this for half an hour, from both sides of the colt, and then slip his right leg quietly over him. He should settle the body well down in the saddle, and move the arms and legs continuously about him. He should move them cautiously at first, and gradually increase the motion according to the behavior of the colt. He should mount and dismount often on both sides of him, and never appear to be in a hurry by wishing to accomplish in ten minutes what it will take an hour and a half to execute properly. This may be continued for a few days, and when the colt is fairly accustomed to the weight and appearance of the rider he should be mounted in the open.

The best system is to take the colt into the center of a field, and in addition to the reins, a long coil of fine, strong rope should be attached to the halter, so that in any case he can be prevented from running away by keeping hold of the rope. The rope can be loosely coiled up and suspended on the left arm of the rider. Generally a half-hour's coursing on the long rein will quiet him down to stand perfectly steady. The breaker should then take the reins along with a full handful of mane in the left hand, and place the right hand on the off side of the saddle, with the whip lying horizontally under the palm; insert the left foot in the

stirrup, raise the body gradually up, and whenever the balance is reached slip the leg quietly but swiftly across him, and insert the foot in the stirrup. He should settle the body well down in the saddle, keep a cool head and always be ready for an emergency. That is the advice given by J. P. F. Bell, in the *Live Stock Journal*.

In putting the colt into motion, the breaker should keep his hands well down on the front of the saddle and urge him gently with the heels. If the colt does not incline to start, the left rein should be gently drawn upon, and at the same time pressing the left leg against him. A walk is fast enough until the colt has become accustomed to the rider's movements. No attempt at guiding him in a straight line, nor in any particular direction, should be made at first. If the colt should plunge or rear, the breaker must bend well forward on his neck, slacken the reins, seize him by the mane, and as soon as he descends from his evolution push him forward and keep him in motion. If he should buck and kick, he should take him well in hand and stick the knees close into the saddle flaps. He should warn him in stern accents to desist, at the same time giving him an occasional hard pull with the rein; and if the rider maintains his seat, the colt will soon cease all attempts to dislodge him, and move along in a quiet and tractable manner. It is not well to over-weary the colt in the first few lessons, and as he is taken out each day for a time the same precautions and preparation for mounting should be made. Patience and judgment must be exercised until trainer and colt have confidence in the other, when the breaking portion of the colt's education will have been completed.

Stock Judges Furnished by the Northwest Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture of the Northwest Territories has so far been fairly successful in its scheme of providing local agricultural societies with live-stock judges. One of the chief difficulties was in getting the societies to so arrange the dates of their fairs that circuits could be formed whereby judges could attend a number of them without loss of time. The Department has utilized the services of the following well-known breeders: Jas. Bray,

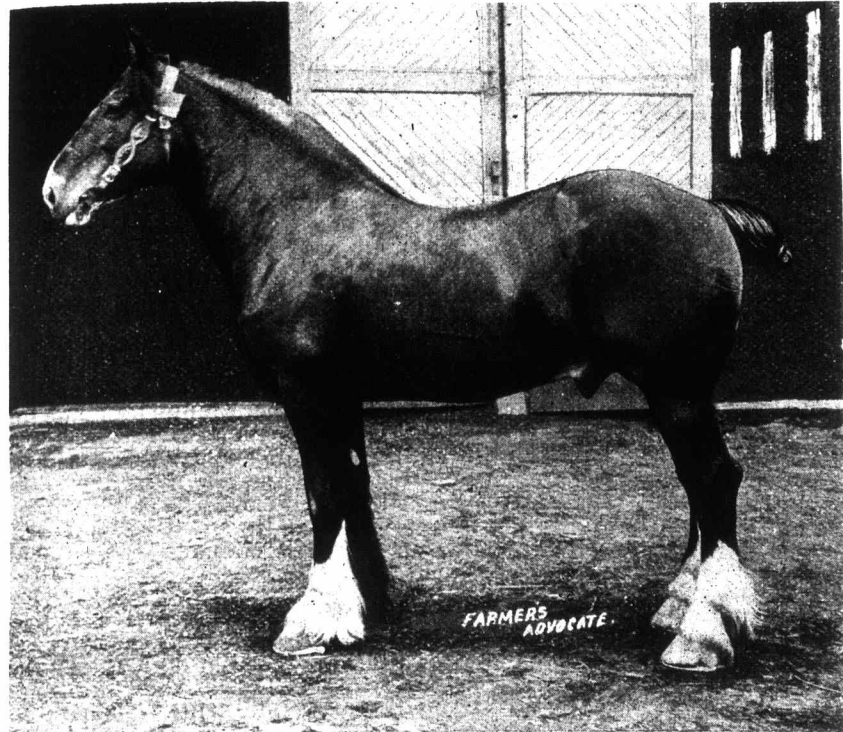
Longburn, Man.; J. A. Turner, Millarville, Alta.; John E. Smith, Brandon; Jos. B. Jickling, Carman; Walter Lynch, Westbourne; W. W. Fraser, Emerson; and Prof. Thos. Shaw, of the Minnesota Agricultural College, was secured to act as judge at the Fort Qu'Appelle fair, in August.

While securing for the smaller fairs competent judges, the scheme relieves the societies of the onus and expense of supplying them.

Feeding Ensilage.

BY F. S. PEER, IN HIS NEW BOOK ON SOILING.
AMOUNT OF RATION.

Ensilage is not a perfect food, we are told by the chemist, and to make it so requires (per cubic foot) a few pounds of bran, crushed oats, oil-cake meal, or one feeding a day of cured oats and peas or clover hay. As to the amount of grain to be given with two feedings of ensilage and one of clover hay, that depends entirely on what we are feeding for, the dry cattle and young things will thrive on ensilage morning and evening, and clover hay or oats or peas at noon. If it is desirable to make winter butter, a ration of the above mixture in the following proportions will be found about right: Three parts bran, two parts crushed oats, and one part of oil-cake meal (old process preferred). My experiments with so-called balanced rations have not been as satisfactory in practice as in theory. I am quite satisfied with the above feed. As to the amount of silage to feed morning and night, give all they will eat up clean. The feeder will soon learn how much to give of grain or silage. The best rule is to keep giving grain as long as a cow responds to it. When you have reached that point you have found your animal's capacity, and there stop. You will require a pair of scales to weigh each milking, a Babcock to make occasional tests. With these at hand, you can easily find a cow's capacity. To this she should be fed to make her most economical. No one can make a cast-iron feeding ration. Only an intelligent feeder with scales and test at hand can find a cow's capacity, and you will be surprised to find that two quarts of the above mixture a day is one cow's limit, and sixteen quarts a day can be taken care of by a cow standing next to her. Balanced rations are no doubt all right theoretically, but there comes in capacity of the cow, strength of machinery. A small cow may be, and they generally are, better and more economical feeders than large ones. It takes, we are told, two per cent. of the live weight a day of hay or its equivalent to sustain life. A cow weighing 1,000 pounds will require twenty pounds that go to run the machine. A cow weighing 1,500 pounds requires thirty pounds a day, ten pounds a day more to support that extra 500 pounds of carcass. Ten pounds a day could be put to better use by being fed to the 1,000-pound cow. Ten pounds a day is 3,500 pounds a year, or one and three-quarters tons of hay or its equivalent. At \$12 a ton this equals \$42 a year, just to support that extra 500 pounds of carcass that is no earthly use to the cow or owner until she goes to the block. A 1,500-pound cow must yield \$20 a year more than a 1,000-pound cow to pay as well, all other things being equal. This is no fancy sketch. It is a question easily demonstrated, and when a breeder or a dairyman begins culling out his cattle to those that pay the best for the amount of food consumed, he will, as a



SCOTTISH ARCHER.

Imported Clydesdale stallion, winner of first prize at Aberdeen as a three-year-old, and first at the Western Fair, London, 1900, as over four years. Sired by Sirdar 4711.

OWNED BY HOGATE & SON, TORONTO.

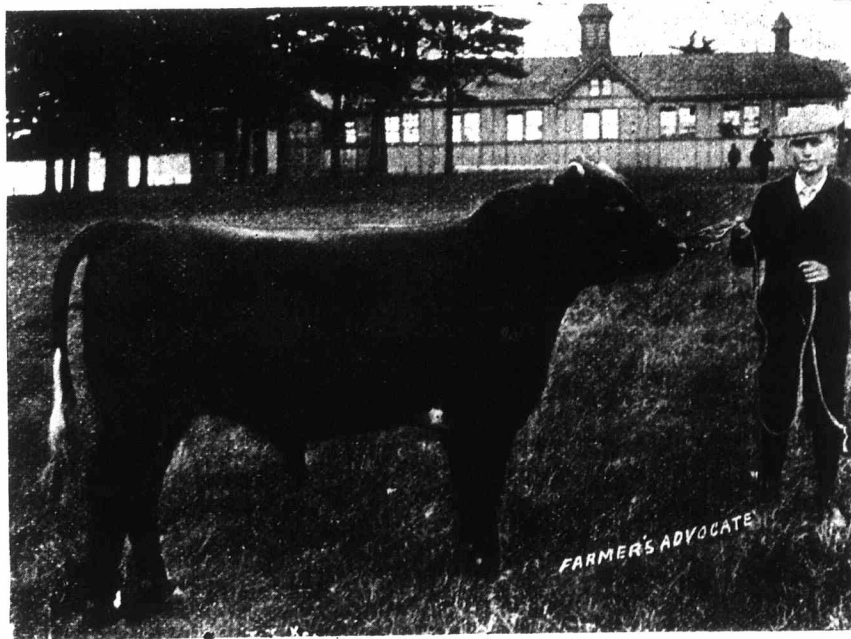
handling the colt for a few minutes the saddle can be gently slipped over him and set squarely on his back. Then slip the girths quietly from the top of the saddle and buckle them up, not very firmly at first. Every movement should be made quietly, deliberately and with ease and confidence. The colt will soon become accustomed to the appearance and feeling of the saddle. It should be frequently put on and taken off his back, first from one side and then from the other, till he shows no signs of nervousness, when the flaps should be beaten gently at first to familiarize him with the noise.

Then saddle mounting lessons should be given for three or four consecutive days, when the pupil should receive lessons in turning to the bit. This can be accomplished by walking close to the near side and reaching the right hand over the withers to use the off rein, while the left is worked by the other hand, making him move backward and forward and turned in all directions. The colt should be led in the open by a long rein, and taken along public roads to familiarize him with travelling objects, etc.

The halter should always be left on the head below the bridle, and the shank should pass between the fore legs and be securely fixed to the saddle girths, and when the colt throws up his head the pressure comes upon his nose, which does not check him so severely as when the strap is attached to the rings of the bit. In addition to this, the colt should wear a crupper attached to the saddle, and it is sometimes found an advantage to fix a chain to this just above the colt's quarters. This chain should be about eight feet long, so that it will dangle about his flanks and legs so as to remove any ticklishness he may possess.

The colt should be frequently driven round in a circle, first to the right and then to the left, and never too long at a time. The driving reins should be about ten yards long and should pass from the colt's mouth along through the stirrups, which should be fastened well up to the colt's sides to the girths. In this manner the driver can guide the colt in all directions with the greatest ease. It is well to send him round at a trot and a canter, sweating him a little, but not tiring him. In running him to the left the right-hand rein can be used as a whip, and *vice versa* when running to the right. The breaker should always stop the colt when the direction of his course is reversed, and induce him to walk close up, when he should be encouraged by fondling, and kind, assuring words. Walking, trotting, cantering and galloping are all distinct paces, and should be done separately.

When the colt that is to be ridden has been driven about the fields and roads for a few days he should be mounted. While we recommend mounting proper in the open, it is well to accustom the colt to the weight and appearance of the rider in the stall. The colt should be turned in the stall, and loosely fixed to rings on either side. The breaker must work quietly about him for some time, catching the saddle by the right side, and lean the



FIRST-PRIZE BOY AND BULL CALF.

James A. Watt, aged 14, winner of first prize in the judging competition of beef breeds at the Western Fair, London, open to farmers or farmers' sons under 25 years. Royal Wonder, first-prize Shorthorn bull calf under one year at Toronto and London, 1900.

PROPERTY OF W. B. WATT, SALEM, ONT.

rule, discard more cows that weigh over 1,000 pounds than under. So much for feeding. No rule can be given. Each cow must answer for herself.

COST OF PRODUCTION.

On this subject there is a very wide difference in the estimates sent in to the agricultural papers, all