

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,  
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is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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pays to study, by every available means, the why and wherefore of each operation in the day's work, in order to improvement. This will invest it with an interest that it never possessed before. To take pride in one's work will almost certainly insure its successful performance. In nine cases out of ten, he who does the best for "the boss," will do the best for himself. At this season it is well to recall that, while dollars are useful, dollars are not the best thing in life. The spirit of thoughtfulness for others will do much to make the wheels of life turn smoothly. The fathers, by reason of advancing years, cannot toil as they once did, and it becomes the younger men to relax somewhat the burdens of the older, and in the days to come, one will usually discern, on looking back over the road of life, that there was gain, rather than loss, in keeping a rein upon the restlessness of youth for the sake of others.

### "Get Going, My Boy."

An Ontario farmer has three sons in the North-West. Writing to one of them recently, he penned the following: "Of course, most of us in starting, have to work for someone else. But, speaking generally, there is nothing in it, unless, as the one out of ten thousand, you reach a point where you direct the movements of others, and receive a proportionately high salary. Now, my boy, if you could start off with my experience of life, and your youthful vigor, taking advantage of the many opportunities presenting themselves, in a very few years you might be doing things. Just as long as you fill a laborer's position, no matter what the laborer's wages are, you work for less than would support you. That is, supposing the average laborer's time to be 30 years, which I am inclined to doubt, he could not save enough to keep him for the next ten. Why? Because human labor (and life) are the cheapest things on earth. Always so many who can only labor. Mr. Jones, who returned from England last week, told me he was glad to get away. So much being, as when he was, so many out of work. At the moment, in Canada, such is not the

case; but I can recall when it was, and history repeats itself. Of all the trades, the man who tills the soil suffers, in the long run, least of all. Undoubtedly, during the 'good times,' the man who farms—the farmer—seems to gather things together the easiest. Much of that is due, however, to the farmer's indifference and the ease with which he spends his money. I am saying all this, because I would like to see you heading out for yourself at the earliest moment. Yes, I know that working for someone else relieves one of anxiety. But it is the planning for oneself, and anxiety as to the outcome, with more planning to insure success, that brings out whatever is effective in one. To work for someone else is to be just a horse. If you'll look around, you'll probably notice that the fellow who is doing things is not on someone else's payroll. Don't have to be called to work by the sound of somebody else's whistle or bell too long. Read this a few times; let it sink into your brain. Get going, my boy."

### A Christmas Suggestion.

For a friend or neighbor engaged or any way interested in agriculture, there is only one present that will be more appreciated and do him more good than a copy of "The Farmer's Advocate" Christmas Number. That one superior present would be a paid-up subscription to the paper for a year or more. Your present will thus begin with a handsome Christmas issue, and continue for 52 consecutive weeks, bearing your friend a weekly remembrance that cannot fail to stimulate his interest in agriculture, and if he be a farmer, help to make him a better farmer than he otherwise would be.

### Stallion Syndicates.

Defects of stallion syndicates have been pointed out by our correspondents. Despite the fact that in all too many cases syndicates have proven to be disastrous impositions on those honest farmers who put up their good money, inexperienced persons should not take it for granted that syndicates are altogether undesirable.

Much depends on the method of syndicating. If an unscrupulous horse-owner undertakes the formation of a syndicate, and turns over an inferior stallion to unsuspecting farmers, then all is wrong. There probably are a few firms syndicating stallions whose intentions are honorable, but, generally speaking, the proper way is for the farmers of a district to form their own syndicate, and then allow one or more of their most capable and responsible members to arrange for the purchase of a stallion of merit.

Experience shows that the ideal way of forming stallion syndicates—or any other organization—is for one or two or several men of the district interested in the enterprise to devote time and energy to perfect the organization, and then make a purchase, having the animal scrutinized by an expert horseman, and subject to passing as registered in the National Live-stock Records. Practically all the breeds represented in Canada now have records at Ottawa, in connection with the National system. Inquiries regarding pedigrees of pure-bred stock recognized in Canadian books are always promptly attended to if sent to National Live-stock Records, Ottawa. If these precautions are taken, the stallion syndicate generally can be termed a success. Of course, there is a chance that a sound horse, of good appearance may prove to be an uncertain breeder. In many districts this plan has worked out well, and a general improvement in horsedlesh has been the result.

Canada requires more horses, and in many districts horses of better quality. The introduction of superior sires is the means of bringing about this desirable state of affairs. If private persons will not bring in the proper kind of stallions, farmers can make no mistake in the formation of a syndicate in a businesslike way. It is

the syndicate promoted by an outsider, with an ulterior purpose, that has brought the system so often into disrepute.

## HORSES.

### Training the Colt.

FIRST-PRIZE ARTICLE IN THE COLT-TRAINING-ESSAY COMPETITION.

By many the term "breaking" is used when referring to the education of the colt. My experience, however, has led me to conclude that the word "training" is more applicable, for this is what the colt requires; and if this training or educating be properly accomplished, there will be no need of "breaking" the colt, as breaking is only required when the colt has, through faulty training, acquired some trait of which he must be broken.

With extended experience, we find that colts are of varying dispositions. Not only is this apparent in colts of different breeding, but also among those of the same breed. Accordingly, we must at times vary our system somewhat.

My first conception of the art of training the colt was to hitch him with an older horse or two colts together, without any previous preparation, and expect him, by some way not easily explained, to grasp his whole education at once and go to work. I have since learned that such a course is out-of-date, and, while in a few cases we may get along if our colt be not a highly-bred, nervous animal—and we should know our colt well enough not to take any such chances—the results are not as good as when some time and care have been spent in gradually training the colt for such an experience.

As I always have my colts taught to lead (and as very few fail to accomplish this much of the colt's training satisfactorily, at least), and to allow me to pick up their feet, and to have their legs handled during the first twelve months of their life, I need hardly include this in their training proper, which is the "breaking" so often spoken of by many, given to the otherwise green and unhandled colt at two or, generally, three years of age.

As regards this later training of the colt at this more advanced age, it is difficult to offer definite and infallible rules, for the colt has developed a will and considerable strength, which he has always, thus far, used in obedience to his will. My first rule to observe, in starting to train the colt, is to practice patience, kindness and firmness always. In the first lessons, do not use harsh words, or the whip, unless absolutely necessary. A second rule which I always observe is that, under whatever conditions we are training the colt, we should have whatever harness we are using—and if he be hitched, the rig to which he is hitched—so strong that there will be no danger of anything breaking if the colt should offer any resistance, or make a sudden plunge or any movement unexpectedly. This is very important, as the colt very readily learns during the first lessons, and so should not be able to free himself of any part of the harness, or to win out over his trainer, who is endeavoring to gain mastery, through some part of the equipment giving way.

With the colt halter-broken, and accustomed to my handling him in the stable, I proceed to give him considerable training in the stable in a roomy box stall before taking him outside or hitching him. I always aim at introducing each part of his training very gradually, and having him learn each lesson well. The first step is to get him accustomed to the bit—a very important step, for a horse, in after years, with a poor mouth is not desirable. For the purpose I use a light, open bridle and an ordinary straight bit, putting this on him and turning him in a box stall for a short period of time at first, and gradually lengthening the periods. He soon learns to wear the bit quite naturally, and is now ready to have a little pressure applied to it, which teaches him to submit to the reins later. Accordingly, I now put a set of single harness (omitting the reins) on him, fastening all parts very securely so he cannot get them off or become tangled in them. Then I fasten a short rein from the rings on the back-pad, along each side of his neck, forward, fastening to the rings of the bit on each side, making a part of this rein elastic, and tying it so as to exert very little pressure on the bit at first, to be gradually increased until he learns to wear this harness without fighting the bit or plunging. I give him two lessons, of an hour or two duration, twice daily for a week, and by this time he has learned to wear the harness quite naturally. Now, this training accustoms the colt to the pressure of the rein, and the touch of the different parts of the harness to his body, and to be harnessed, bitted and unharnessed, and is a very decided step accomplished in his training.

I now like to take him outside with the harness on, keeping inside of some enclosed yard, and give him his first lesson in driving, unhitched.