

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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The Syndicate Stallion Evil: A Remedy.

The syndicate stallion business has been so fully dealt with in past issues of the "Farmer's Advocate" that some readers have expressed themselves as being weary of the subject. The purchase and patronage of good stallions, however, is one of vast importance to this country, and too much light, in our opinion, cannot be thrown upon this matter. No horseman could visit the fairs of this country and see the class of stallions that have been brought in during the last year without being convinced that there was great need of education somewhere. While a few syndicates have paid a large sum and secured an individual of high merit, the great majority have given enormous figures for medium horses, or animals of very inferior quality. It is not to be expected, of course, that everyone buying a stallion will make a good bargain, but why have so many been deluded into paying two or three prices? Has it been the work of glib-tongued salesmen, or have those who did the buying been lacking in a knowledge of horseflesh? From investigation it would appear that both these factors have been largely responsible for existing conditions. They are closely allied, inasmuch as the former can only operate successfully where the latter to some extent exists.

True as it is that all men are not fitted to become good judges of horses, it is equally true that everyone who is interested in the subject may have his knowledge improved, provided the proper course be taken.

The success of the live-stock judging schools held in Winnipeg and Brandon last winter, and the general appreciation which has been given practical demonstrations in animal form held elsewhere under the auspices of the Farmers' Institutes in the Territories and Manitoba, is ample evidence of what may be done through this channel. There is no other source in this country to-day whereby those who desire to become better judges of live stock can receive the same value as through these judging schools and institutes, when properly managed.

In view, therefore, of the importance of the horse-breeding as well as that of other live-stock industries, the Farmers' Institutes should

be utilized at every point throughout this country where an interest is taken in stock-raising. Everyone cannot afford the time nor expense of going to such points as Winnipeg and Brandon for a week or more, but they can afford a day at the nearest town where a crowd may be gathered. The "Farmer's Advocate" believes that the importance of this subject demands that the Farmers' Institute system in Manitoba, and to some extent in the West, should make it a special topic for the coming season. Certain firms that made a business of handling scrub stallions last year are, to our knowledge, preparing to operate again, and those who will have occasion to buy hereafter should be afforded every opportunity of acquiring that knowledge which will elevate them beyond the mercy of irresponsible dealers.

Mechanical Power on the Farm.

No subject is more discussed amongst progressive farmers than the application of mechanical power to the every-day work of the farm, and no subject is more worthy of consideration and active effort. It is, moreover, a subject which is fraught with great possibilities for the inventive brain. Threshing, as it is carried out at present, does not give absolute satisfaction. And while, from lack of the ideal threshing outfit within their choice, farmers take an undecided stand in the matter, it is felt by many farmers that the unsatisfactory state of present conditions will, of necessity, compel a change. The broken weather of the present harvest and fall has to a greater extent than usual demonstrated that our system has great disadvantages all 'round. The farmer is a good deal at the mercy of the thresherman, who is in turn at the mercy of his gang, and all three are at the mercy of the weather.

The latter condition will always exist in all matters relating to farming, but there is no reason why the former circumstances should continue. True, the ideal mechanical power for doing farm work has not yet arrived. The general feeling amongst farmers is that small threshing outfits that can be worked by the usual farm and harvest hands without outside help, is the machine wanted. Such a machine has not yet been put on the market, but progress in that direction has made great strides, and is yearly coming nearer a solution of the problem. The gasoline engine is, perhaps, the mechanical power which bids fair in the meantime to outlive all others. It has advantages of portability, of comparative safety from raising fire, and of readiness for use at short notice. It can be employed inside the barn without any inconvenience to cut hay or straw, to chop grain, to turn the lathe or the grindstone, and to saw the wood for the house fire and for other purposes for which sawing wood may be required. All these are matters of great importance, and where there is a large herd of cattle, entailing much labor, the employment of mechanical power would be a paying investment. From being a drudgery, the chores would become an interesting and methodical occupation, and in competent hands general tidiness could be maintained, and all necessary repairs could be executed.

Another great privilege which would follow the possession of mechanical power is that the threshing of fodder could be done as the animals required it. Oat and barley straw could go through the mill straight from the stack to the manger, and it would astonish some farmers to find the virtue it possesses in that process, as would be demonstrated in the relish shown for it by the cattle. Where steam, gasoline or any of the mechanical powers are beyond the means of the young farmer, a good substitute may be had in a three or four horse tread-power. A portable tread which can be hauled about by a team and used inside the barn to crush or chop, and outside in fine weather to thresh, would prove a great boon. Some are of the opinion that all farm work will yet be done by mechanical power. We do not believe, however, that it has yet put forward any claims to supplant the horse in the plow or the binder, but for doing chores and heavy, laborious work, it has undoubtedly established strong claims.

Horses.

Farm Horses Untrained.

The horse as the helpmate of man is an institution as old as the world itself. Tubal Cain is said in legend of romance to have captured the first horse, and in Scotland there is a brotherhood of horsemen in whose unwritten records, imparted to every new member of the society, is a supposed authentic tale of the means used and the manner adopted to capture him. As a duly sworn member of this mystic brotherhood, the writer is precluded from giving a narration of the tale—as imparted with variations in each lodge of the society. It may be mentioned, however, that the different accounts appear to be purely speculative. They are based upon common sense, and the latest method of the V-shaped fence with the angle opening into a catching pen is a pretty close adaptation of some of the methods related in those legendary tales. The society was in some districts a strong force in the agricultural sphere, and it was the great ambition of every farm boy to become affiliated with the brotherhood.

Though the society was often laid open to the charge of doing a good deal of harm by encouraging the experimenting of training methods on young horses, and putting power into the hands of young and inexperienced boys to make such experiments, yet its aims were of an educative nature, and kindness to the horse and care in his feeding and general management were its fundamental principles.

Many members of the brotherhood must have emigrated to Canada, yet so far as the writer can learn the constitution of the society does not exist here. With its absence is noticeable the lack of training in our farm horses, for in our matter-of-fact race after the mighty dollar, we do not take time to train our horses to do anything more than guiding their instincts, and by main force of the lines and bit directing them to do, after a fashion, what we require of them. All pride in the manner of handling our horses seems to have gone out of the bustle of our Western life, and it is the opinion of many that the horse himself soon will be only required to do the meaner work on the farm; that he must give place to powers that are greater than he, and more subservient to the control of man.

The Horse and His Rivals.

We have been sometimes advised that the breeding of horses is a precarious occupation, one liable to become any day unprofitable. Such doctrine, though not as old as the horse himself, is certainly ancient history. When railways were first built the cry was raised, and the days of the horse were numbered. On many occasions since, much editorial and contributed wisdom has been expended in the same advice, and still the horse continues to improve in type, to wax strong and grow fat, and to multiply and increase in numbers.

Every new invention in the mechanical engineering world which puts up something on the road that will "go," is said to be going to put the horse out of business. Such theories have done a lot of good, chiefly by proving their own falsity and letting us know how to treat them in the future, on the basis of their turning out the same as they have done in the past. When our railroads were in their infancy, and progress was being made in the building of them, it was universally believed that as they would from time to time be completed the demand and use for the horse would decrease in inverse ratio. Matters materialized otherwise, however, and instead of supplanting the horse, railways have increased the sphere of his usefulness. To-day we have the prototype of those theorists warning breeders of horses that the automobile is invading his realm, and that that marvel of ingenuity will supersede the horse and send him back to the waste places of the earth to live on stunted herbs and deteriorate until he will again travel for subsistence on five-toed feet. The writer would not advise former horse breeders to devote all their time and attention to the one occupation of producing horses, but on the other hand, whatever the theorists say, let them continue to breed them, and so long as they are produced with good feet and legs, and pleasing conformation, there will be always a place for them, no matter how the automobile may in the meantime improve.

The other day an organ-grinder and his monkey were performing in front of a public-house, the monkey being armed with a short stick to keep back the crowd. A half-drunk man came out of the public-house, and made direct for the organ. The monkey at once gave him a slap with the stick, when the man, not noticing it was a monkey, said: "Get out, ye young brat. What are ye daen striking folk aulder than yersel', man; I cud be yer father."

Care of S

That the re influenced to a and attention stud seasons, mon practice exercise after before the free and harmful. his best in the physical conditi that his muscu tems be not al and in order t tion, it is nece during the eigh he is not requ breeding stal are kept and g service, there docks in which few hours ever and under such sufficient exer organs in an other hand, w owned, often i put out on a r which is the r in many cases, the required s stand in a bo until the next meantime his r his digestive a more or less w a consequence, and become in brought to a weeks' attentio under conditio speak.

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