

The Farm

Breaking the Colt.

We believe that seven out of ten colts bred on farms are broken to harness during the winter, as that time affords more leisure, and the sleigh is perhaps the best to hitch to for the first few times. Some colts require very little training to accustom them to going in harness, but in order to handle a high-spirited, wild colt successfully the driver must possess four qualifications in a high degree: Kindness, patience, firmness, and perseverance. He must remember that the colt is a dumb brute, without the faculty of reasoning, but is governed by instinct. No colt however gentle should be hitched to anything until there has been some preliminary training. Haltering, bridling, checking, harnessing, and handling should all have been done a number of times before he is attempted to be hitched to a vehicle. It is well to teach the colt to drive beside some old trusty horse before being hitched up. One man should not attempt this work alone, as unforeseen troubles are likely to arise during the first few lessons. The right side is the proper one on which to hitch the colt. A level-headed assistant can usually prevent any tangling up or wild leaping by the use of a "side line," which is simply a plough line fastened to the inside ring of the bit, then passed under the jaw, and through the ring of the right side. It is not necessary to even tighten the line except the colt attempt to go beyond his place or become unmanageable without it.

Before hitching, the wagon or sled should be run out where there is plenty of room, so that there need be no turning at first. There is no better place than a sod field for the first few lessons to the sleigh. The team should be coupled by the lines and driven about with the neckyoke on for a little time before the traces are attached. Always hitch the old horse first, and when all is ready for a start attach the colt's traces, and be off without further waiting. Have a good, strong, calm-headed man in the sleigh to handle the lines, but the best horseman should lead the colt at first. Keep perfectly cool whatever happens, and never, under any circumstances, lose your temper, but ever remember that the colt cannot be expected to understand what is demanded of him until he is taught. Many people expect more from a colt than they would look for in a human foreigner, who has to learn new ways. Nearly every spirited colt does something alarming before he is thoroughly broken. A colt that goes off like an old horse is not likely to ever make a record-breaker. Ambition and courage are both commendable qualities, and often show themselves in the colt by his attempts to run, rear, lunge, and even kick at first. Cool-headed firmness, with kindness and patience, will make him a tractable, willing servant, of which his owner will be proud. After having gotten the colt to go along in a horse manner, the lessons in labor should be given gradually. If driving on the road is to be his occupation, he should never at first be driven until much fatigued, and it is also better to go round a block coming home some other way than that upon which he left home. If the colt is to be a farm work horse, such light jobs as hauling manure, wood, and the like will readily prepare him for his bread-earning.—Farmer's Advocate.

The Management of Foals.

The first winter is the critical period of a colt's history. Too seldom do we see at this season the weanlings frolicking playfully as they did in the fall before being weaned. A great quantity of food is not all that the foal requires, but management is highly necessary if the youngster is to pay for raising. If the foal is well cared

for during the first winter, the expense of the following three years need be comparatively light to make him a good horse; but if he be neglected, and consequently half-starved during his first winter, he will be more expensive to keep in succeeding winters, and will miss the mark altogether of being a really good horse.

A foal always does better with one or more companion foals. Bran, oats, roots, hay and water, and dry, clean bedding in comfortable, roomy quarters are also conducive to his best thriving. Small feeds regularly given three or four times a day will give better results than lavish feeding, when some of the last feed will require to be taken from the manger. A daily run in a roomy yard, having a smooth surface free from ice, will do much to develop muscle and promote vigor. Underfed or neglected the foal, and you ruin both horse and pocket. Be liberal to the foal, and when he is a yearling and a two-year-old he will be strong enough to look after himself, and live cheaply and well with ordinary management. It is infinitely better to raise no horse at all than a mediocre animal, for which only a pittance can be obtained when he is old enough to sell.—Farmer's Advocate.

Cure for a Balky Horse.

While in nine cases out of ten a balky horse is made so by his breaker, yet not infrequently a bad specimen finds its way into the hands of a good horseman, who is not to blame for the evil habit. He may draw like a hero through all sorts of bad roads, and on some occasion, with a light load on a good road in some public place where an exhibition of his obstinacy would be most exasperating to his driver, he stops, throws his head over his mate's neck and stands there. Just what is best to do upon such an occasion is not easily determined, except the driver knows a remedy more than ordinarily effective. A writer in the Kentucky Stock Farm records a line of treatment for which much is claimed. It is this: "To a short piece of stick tie a piece of stout packing twine; tie the free end around the animals neck, and then begin to wind the twine around his ear. Draw the string fairly tight for several winds, then push the stick inside the brow band of the bridle, when the offender will wriggle his ear vigorously, shake his head impatiently, and very soon begin to walk away with his load as though he had entirely forgotten that he had balked. The theory of the cure is that a horse can think of only one thing at a time, and the string on his ear takes his whole attention away from his balk."—Ex.

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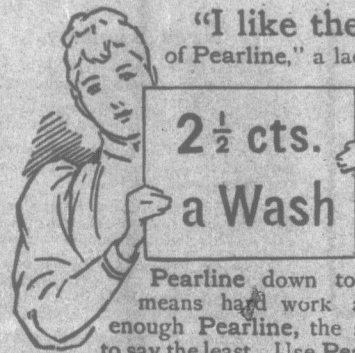
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