

Pack, Packing and Pack Saddles*(Concluded from page 717)*

loads or special kinds of packing equipment. To be a thoroughly competent packer one must know at least one good single man Diamond and a good double or two-man Diamond. These will be the hitches used for the usual run of pack work.

In addition one should be able to tie such hitches as are best adapted to packing on a riding saddle, on a bare horse and without a cinch hook. This will enable one to meet practically any packing emergency. Such other hitches as are particularly useful for special loads may be learned but will not be remembered unless used from time to time. The best guide for packers in print is 'Camp and Trail' by Stewart Edward White.

Looking after the Horse.

Finally there is to be considered the care of the pack horse himself. It is here that the real test of the packer's skill is met. To make up good well balanced packs, to place them properly, to tie one's hitches quickly and firmly are all necessary for good packing. But all these may be acquired without gaining the first knowledge of how to keep pack horses from getting sore backs and without this last knowledge a packer is useless for any long distance travel. Many factors enter into the care of pack horses and few can be acquired except by experience. For one thing, it is much easier to prevent sores than heal any that have formed. Therefore, avoid, if possible, all horses which have on their backs or behind the fore legs signs of previous back or cinch galls. A sore that may be weeks in healing can easily develop in a few hours. Therefore, it is well when starting out with new horses to unpack at noon during the first couple of days and, of course, to make only short runs. Watch all packs and under the cinches carefully and at the first sign of wear treat at once with Bickmores Gall Cure. Cinch galls can often be healed while continuing to use the horse by crossing the two cinches of a double cinch saddle. The comparative rest secured by transferring a riding saddle to a pack horse threatened with a sore back will often effect a cure. But at the basis of the whole question are good clean blankets, well fitted saddles, proper packing and eternal vigilance.

Finally there is the question of feed. Pack trains almost always depend simply on grass. No matter what its quality this is insufficient to keep a horse in good flesh if he is doing work throughout the day. On

long hard trips it must be anticipated that some falling off in weight will occur therefore horses should be in the best possible condition on starting. In order to secure the maximum of feeding time, the entire day's journey should be completed without unpacking or even stopping for lunch. If a lunch is required it should be eaten in the saddle. In the morning do not tie horses up until ready to saddle and pack immediately. Don't loiter on the trail. Push through to the next camp and unpack without delay. In other words, arrange the day's routine so as to have the horses

under packs the least possible length of time. The usual maximum day's travel in mountain country with fair trails, grass feed for stock and packs of 100 to 150 pounds is 15 miles. This should take from 5 to 6 hours giving ample time in the late afternoon for work about camp, piling, taking of photographs or such other recreations as the country affords. If this is not enough, take a day off now and then. But remember that the only way to rest a pack horse is to take his pack off and that stopping or loitering on the trail is simply inviting trouble on a long trip.

*Everybody Smokes***OLD CHUM**CANADA'S FAVORITE
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