

to all. Of course, there is a certain class of men who prefer to work by the day and these will generally find all the work they can do on the larger farms and on some of the very small farms, where the owners have not enough work for a man even by the month. These men on the small farms and those on the very large farms can profitably hire by the day. Of course, this only applies to extra summer labor for either of these classes of farm; the large farm must have considerable help the year round and of course, most proprietors try to hire their men under these conditions.

It is always advisable to have agreements drawn up and signed, and then there can be no misunderstandings between parties. It sometimes looks superfluous, but it is safer for both parties to the transaction if each man has a copy of his agreement. He knows just what is expected of him and there can be no disputes. Where it is possible to do so, the married man by the year is the man to hire, and where houses are not provided and single men hired, the farmer would do well to plan his work to keep these men winter and summer. Once a man is let go to the city for the winter, it is difficult to get him back to the country, and this has been responsible for a good deal of the dearth of farm help at the present time. Men have been hired for seven or eight months, and then turned loose and very often these men do not feel that they should be out of work all winter and leave for city factories, where work is available the year round, this very often to their own detriment and certainly to the detriment of agriculture in general.

THE HORSE.

The horses will take more salt while at the spring work. Keep a good supply before them at all times.

A steady gait in the fields accomplishes more in the end than sharp spurts and long rests and is easier on the horses.

Straw may be getting scarce at this season of the year, but even though some of the other stock is forced to put up with a scantier bed, give the working horses a liberal supply.

Keep the stable well ventilated during the spring season, but avoid direct drafts on the working animals. Colds often result from the raw night winds blowing directly on the sweaty coats of the tired animals.

Read the article in this issue on the care of the new-born foal. There is always something new to be learned about this subject and the most delicate animal which the farmer has to raise is, as a general thing, the foal.

When beginning the horses on the land, rest them at short intervals and lift the collars from off their shoulders and rub the shoulders down well with the hand. This removes sweat and dirt and goes a long way towards preventing ugly sores.

During the heavy work of spring seeding teamsters should remember that it is not good practice to give grain to over-tired animals as soon as they come into the stable. Give them a little hay at first, allow them to cool off and rest before feeding their grain ration.

This is the season when scratches are quite prevalent and many of the horses are noticed to stamp because of itchy legs. As a prevention with horses predisposed to this trouble, take a little time to dry the legs and fetlocks each night when they come to the stable.

Too much water, especially very cold water, given to an over-heated animal coming in from work, may produce colic or other digestive derangements. By all means, however, give the warm, tired horse a few swallows when coming in which will aid in cooling him off, moisten his parched mouth and throat and induce him to eat dry feed more readily.

Curing the Kicking Habit.

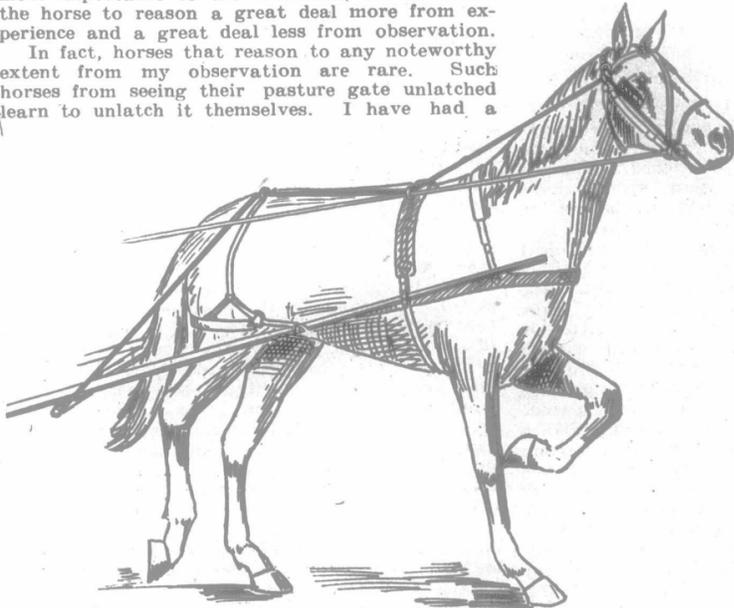
We have had several enquiries recently regarding kicking and switching in horses. The accompanying illustration and the article on the subject, written by W. H. Underwood, and published in "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg, Man., may prove of value in training young horses and curing kickers.

During the greater portion of my life it has fallen to my lot to have a great deal to do with horses. Some of the things I have been able to learn in this long schooling may be useful to

others. Every horse owner, however carefully he may select his stock, is certain to be confronted by emergencies which will try his patience and fortitude and in which, if he does not know just what to do, the horse will come off a winner.

The first essential in handling horses is to know the equine nature and its limitations. It has been shown pretty conclusively that the mind of the horse, like that of other animals, does not differ from that of man in kind but in degree. But the fact that it does differ a great deal in degree imposes a limitation that is of the utmost importance to the horseman, for it causes the horse to reason a great deal more from experience and a great deal less from observation.

In fact, horses that reason to any noteworthy extent from my observation are rare. Such horses from seeing their pasture gate unlatched learn to unlatch it themselves. I have had a



An Apparatus for Breaking a Kicking Horse.

horse that would not only do this but would also open the door of the feed room, pull out the slide in the grain chute with his teeth and help himself. These cases are unusual, however. The majority of horses see their pasture gate unlatched a thousand times without attempting to open it themselves, even though a simple thrust of the nose would do it. On the other hand, the little colt whose experiences in being halter-broken have taught him that he cannot break his halter rope, submits thereafter to being tied by a rope that he could easily break. Reasoning wholly by experience, he believes that a slender

without making the slightest progress toward breaking up the habit. If he realizes what he is being punished for—and it would seem in some cases as if he must—the punishment is still ineffectual, for he has learned by experience of his power to defy you, and as long as a horse realizes his power in any wrong direction he will not come to terms. The only way is to show him that it is in your power not only to handle him as if he were a toy, but to handle him very roughly, if you so desire. This must first be

shown in a general way, and then be applied to the particular habit that he may have contracted.

Let us now take what is generally and justly considered one of the worst of all vices—kicking in harness. The first lesson a kicker should have has no direct bearing upon the vice itself, but is simply an attempt at general subjection. There are few things that accomplish this purpose so well as laying a horse down a few times. The means that I have found entirely satisfactory are as follows:

Having first selected a suitable place where he will not hurt himself, put on him a bridle and surcingle and strap up his near forefoot with a breeching strap—the short loop around his foot between hoof and fetlock and the long one over the upper part of his leg. Fasten one end of a long strap to the

off forefoot below the fetlock, pass the other one up through the surcingle and take it in your right hand, the bridle-rein being in your left. Push the horse sidewise and the moment he steps pull sharply on the strap. This will bring him to his knees. If he is a horse of any spirit he will generally make a valiant fight against this treatment, often springing high and plunging desperately, but, having the use of only his hind legs, he soon becomes wearied and rests with his knees on the ground. Now pull his head toward you and he will fall over the other way. By simply holding down his head he can be kept on the ground as long as desired.

Though all this may sound very simple there is more to it than appears. If the horse be a large and strong one it will be wiser to have an assistant who may hold the horse's head by a long line attached to the bit while you handle only the foot strap.

After the horse has lain on the ground for a few minutes—long enough, say, to have taken in the situation fully—release the straps and let him get up. Then repeat the whole process several times until the horse ceases to make such resistance. By this time he will have lost much of his self-confidence—which is just what you have been working for—and will be in fit condition to be harnessed.

In harnessing proceed as follows:

Have ready a strap one and a half inches wide and eight inches long, with a ring sewed strongly into each end. Attach this firmly to the top of the bridle so that the rings shall hang just over the rosettes. Have an extra bit—a straight one, not jointed—in the horse's mouth. Fasten an iron ring securely to the back strap of the harness just where it is crossed by the strap that supports the breeching. Now take a firmly laid cord, about the thickness of your little finger, and tie one end round the off shaft just back of the crossbar, run the other end up through the ring on the back strap, forward through the off terret, thence through the ring above the off rosette, down through the off ring of the extra bit, over the horse's nose, through the near ring of the extra bit, up through the ring on the back strap and tie to the near shaft back of the crossbar, just as was done on the off side. Adjust so that the horse's head will be kept about where it would be held by an ordinary check-rein. Tie a string over the horse's nose to where the cord passes over the horse's nose to keep it from slipping off.

With this device the horse cannot possibly kick, for every time that he attempts it his nose will be jerked up into the air in a way that has a very chastening effect upon him. The horse should be driven each day with this rigging on, seeing that he does his duty, but being quiet and gentle with him. After a time he will make no further attempt to kick. He should not be trusted too soon, however. Keep this rigging in use until you feel thoroughly sure of his reformation; then substitute a check-rein for it, formed



Bright Morn 2nd.

A great-grandson of Baron's Pride, owned by Norman Hisey, Stayner, Ont.

cord will hold him. But by some accident he some day breaks the rope; then if he fully realizes what he has done—which does not always occur—he has learned by experience a new thing, and will thereafter try the strength of every halter with which he is tied.

In breaking a horse of any vice it is necessary always to take advantage of the limitation in his mind that makes him reason almost wholly from experience, and to convince him that after all your will is superior to his and that he has no alternative but to obey you, and do so gently and quietly. In teaching him this lesson punishment has virtually no effect. Let us suppose that the horse has kicked a buggy to pieces. You may whip him as severely as you please