

Horses in the Making.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The question of breaking a colt is one of great importance to the Canadian farmer. My method of handling a draft colt, from the time it is foaled till it is fit to go to the field thoroughly broken to all harness, has proven satisfactory. In the first place, I start as soon as the colt is born, and keep steadily at it until I have him fully under my control. After the colt has got rightly on his feet, and is playing around the large, roomy box stall which it and its mother have, I begin operations. First, I fondle around the colt's head and neck, so as to get him to know I am not going to do him any harm, and it does not take many days for him to realize this. Next, I get a good strong halter and a fair length of a run strap. If he acts anyways ugly, do not abuse him, but watch a chance and get your arms around his neck. Any able-bodied man can hold a colt a week or two old till he can slip a halter on his head. If he still acts ugly, I advise not to attempt too much in one day, but go back at the task the next day, and you will have no trouble in catching your colt. I always leave the halter on him, with the run strap detached. The second day, when you have a firm hold of your colt, hold him until he finds out you are master, but do not make any demonstration that you have conquered him; just be quiet and gentle with him, and give him a lump of sugar or salt each time you work him. Now, when you have taught him to stand, you have accomplished one valuable point in breaking a colt.

Next, I put on the run strap, and try to get him to follow me around the stall. As a general rule, he goes backward, instead of forward, but just let him go around for a few times, and he will likely tire of it. If he doesn't show signs of tiring, try to turn him around several times. I have not had one case where I could not lead them in two hours' time. Now, when you have got him to lead, take him out every day and give him a lesson. Continue this until you have him thoroughly broken to run by your side or in front of you on the line, or any way you want him, but in doing so always have him to understand when you say "whoa," and "get up," or "come on," or some other familiar phrase that the colt has got used to, but be sure to use the same words each time, for it must be remembered that the colt is a young pupil, when we consider how much we have to accomplish with a colt of, say, two months old.

After leading and running, and such like, I tie him beside his mother to a good stout manger. Of course, he will pull and fly back, but, after struggling for a while he will most always give up. Then he may be untied, and left to roam around the stall till the next day, when he should be tied up again. I repeat this every day until I am confident that he will stand like an old horse, and I have never had any trouble with halter-breaking colts since I have adopted this method.

Starting with the second year, he should be handled the same as when a colt, except that the bridle and bit should be used, instead of the halter. I continue this treatment till he is two years old, when he should be made acquainted with the harness. Before harnessing him, I put on a back-band and crupper strap, and check him up and let him out into the yard to get his mouth hardened somewhat before I start to drive him. When he has had this treatment for a couple of months, I harness him alongside of a good steady-walking horse, and drive them around without hitching them to any vehicle for a day or two. If he goes well (and he nearly always does), you may hitch the team to a sleigh or wagon—I prefer a sleigh, as it is generally easier turned around, and you are not in much danger of being hurt if you are thrown out, in case of any mishap.

Now, you have your colt broken to drive nicely, but do not imagine he is fit to go to work, as he is just past two years old, and should not do more than easy work till he is three years. Even then he should be handled with care till his shoulders are hardened and his mouth in good shape. If this method is followed, your colt will be well enough broken for any person with "horse sense" to handle him in any kind of harness, and hitched to any implement or vehicle.

J. C. HALL.
Peel Co., Ont.

Plagues Whole Family.

I have taken your paper for the past year, and must say that all of our family are very much pleased with it, and often wonder how we ever did without it so long. I am enclosing the names of two new subscribers. Wishing you all the compliments of the season. Will you please send the new subscribers the Christmas number.

THOS. CHALMERS.
Lennox and Addington, Ont.

Harness Racing, 1908.

The Eel, a gray horse, owned by F. W. En-tricken, of Tavistock, Ont., and trained and driven by Dan McKwen, has proved himself the best Canadian light-harness racer and money-maker of the season, and his record has not been equalled in America, except by Minor Heir 1.59½. He commenced the season green, hence eligible to the slow classes, and finished with a pacing record of 2.02½. His breeding and early history, as well as his wonderful performances of the season of 1908, appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate" a few weeks ago. After making creditable wins on the ice as a green pacer last year, and winning at the early Canadian meetings, he was taken across the border, where he beat such good horses as George Gano, Hal Raven, Billy B., The Liar, Baron Gratton, Hedgewood Boy, Ecstatic, and, on several occasions, Minor Heir. Minor Heir, an American horse, and the Eel, were both green when the season commenced. Previous to this year, the world's record for a green pacer (i. e., one that commenced the season without a mark), was 2.03½, made by the little chestnut gelding, My Star, in 1906. This mark has been sent glimmering by the two wonderful horses under discussion, which have proved themselves superior to all other "maidens" ever known, and also superior to all other pacers of the season, including the free-for-allers. As these two have been rivals on the American track, a record of their battles may prove interesting.

Minor Heir is by Heir-at-Law 2.05½, out of Kitty Clover, by Redwald 2.23½. He is owned by P. C. Isaacs, of Stoyestown, Pa., trained and driven by Charles Dean. He won as follows:

Peoria, Ill., July 4th—Purse, \$600; heats, 1-1-1; time, 2.05½, 2.11½, 2.07½.
Peoria, Ill., July 11th—\$500; 1-1-1; 2.11½, 2.07½; 2.05½.
Terre Haute, Ind., July 17th—\$3,000; 1-1-2-3-1; 2.01½, 2.01, 2.05½, 2.08, 2.07.
Pekin, Ill., July 21st—\$500; 1-1-5-1; 2.08½, 2.12½; 2.08½; 2.08.
Detroit, Mich., July 28th—\$5,000; 8-1-1-1; 2.03, 2.04½, 2.05, 2.04½.
Kalamazoo, Mich., August 3rd—\$2,000; 1-1-1; 2.03, 2.06½; 2.02½.
Galesburg, Ill., August 14th—Exhibition to beat 2.01; time, 2.00½.
Davenport, Iowa, August 14th—Exhibition to beat 2.01; time, 2.02.
Dubuque, Iowa, August 26th—Exhibition to beat 2.03½; time, 2.02½.
Hamline, Minn., Sept. 4th—Exhibition to beat 2.00; time, 2.00½.
Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 10th—Purse, \$2,500; to beat 2.00½; time, 1.59½.
Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 14th—To beat 2.00½; time, 2.01½.
Peoria, Ill., Sept. 17th—Purse, \$2,000; to beat 2.00½; time, 2.00½.
Lexington, Ky., October 15th—To beat 1.59½; time, 2.00½.
Aurora, Ill., Oct. 21st (half-mile track)—To beat 2.06½; time, 2.05.
The Eel won as follows:
Buffalo, N. Y., August 14th—Stake, \$5,000; heats, 1-1-1; 2.06½, 2.06½, 2.09½.
Poughkeepsie, N. Y., August 18th—Purse, \$1,500; 1-1-1; 2.02½, 2.05, 2.06.
Readville, Mass., August 29th—Purse, \$3,000; 1-1-1; 2.04½, 2.05½, 2.05.
Hartford, Conn., Sept. 8th—Stake, \$5,000; 1-1-1; 2.05, 2.05½, 2.05.
Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 16th—Stake, \$5,000; 1-1-1; 2.04½, 2.02½, 2.03½.
Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 21st—Stake, \$4,000; 1-1-1; 2.02½, 2.02½, 2.04½.
Lexington, Ky., October 12th—Stake, \$2,000; 1-1-1; 2.05, 2.05½, 2.04½.
Minor Heir, in races, paced 32 heats, of which he won 19, the average time being 2.05.48; his slowest, 2.12½. Against time, he paced 10 heats in the average time of 2.01.35. These include one over a half-mile track in 2.05. His average time in 9 exhibition heats, over mile tracks, was 2.00.85.

The Eel made 11 different appearances, all in races, of which he won 8, was second twice, and third once. In these races, he started in 43 heats, and won 31. His fastest winning heat was in 2.02½, and his slowest in 2.08. The average time of his 31 winning heats was 2.04.86, and his gross earnings in the neighborhood of \$20,000. In many of these races he competed with Minor Heir, and others of the best American pacers.

Our Western Provinces are not at all behind in the harness-racing game. The bay gelding, The Zoo, a trotter owned by A. E. Wilson, of Killarney, Man., has been successful in good company. His most noted performance, probably, was the winning of the 2.17 trotting event, with ten good horses behind him, in 2.09½, 2.10, 2.10, at the Columbus Grand Circuit meeting.

Anna V. Brino, 2.15½, by Millbrino, out of Veta Red, owned by Wm. Burnside, of Kincardine, Ont., was a brilliant success both last season and this.

Wildbrino, A. T. R., 10073, 2.19½, by Hambrino, out of Molly, by Wildwood, the sire of Anna V. Brino, is one of the greatest sires of speed owned in Canada.

Another good Canadian representative of the light-harness horse is Othello, by Prince Edward, which, driven by Fairbanks, won the 2.10 trot at Lansing, Mich., in 2.12½, 2.14½, 2.10½.

While speaking of new celebrities, we must not forget that wonderful little black mare, Darkey Hal, by Star Hal, out of Brownie. This little mare was owned, trained and raced during her 3 and 4 year-old form, with variable success, by Walter Herod, of Guelph. During these years, her opportunities for doing herself justice were not great. Mr. Swartz, of Wingham, thought he saw indications of great things in her, and he purchased her. In a few weeks his driver raced her to a mark close to two minutes on the Windsor track. She then went across the border and competed with the best American horses in the Grand Circuit, and continued to uphold Canada's reputation. She won some good races this season, but met with an accident which necessitated sending her home, but still she figures in the list of the large money-earners of the season just closed. No doubt she will be heard from again next year. Mr. Swartz also owns a four-year-old half-brother of hers, Hall Boy, by Hal B., out of Brownie, that is said to be very fast, but has not yet been started, as he has been used in the stud. When this fellow is ready to face the starter, we will be surprised if he does not retain the reputation of Hal B. as a sire and Brownie as a dam of extreme speed. "WHIP."

Making Money from Raising Colts.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In breeding draft colts to get them heavy enough to command higher prices, the dams must be 1,500 pounds and upwards, of large, drafty appearance, free from hereditary unsoundness, and good feeders. It is difficult to get mares with perfect conformation and action. I have used draft mares for breeders with slight irregularities, providing I can get the right kind of sires.

The sires must be large, and good walkers, bringing the feet up perfectly square and throwing them out in front of them boldly, showing the iron at every step. Feet must be large, wide at heels, and strong walls. The legs must be absolutely free from any natural blemishes, and of good flat, hard bone, not inclined to be round or gummy. The quantity of hair makes but little difference, if the bone is strong. The body should have a massive appearance, with neck set well up, short back and long quarters, and not less than seventeen hands high, and from 1,900 pounds upwards when in fair condition. Horses of this kind, mated with good drafty mares, are pretty sure to produce high-priced colts.

The colts should be liberally fed in winter, and be given plenty of exercise, being out every day except when it is raining. If the night quarters are cold, they are better than hot basement barns with poor ventilation. Turn them out early in spring, and be sure the pasture is not overstocked all summer. If the rough grass is long enough in the fall, they can run out till deep snow comes. Get them halter-broken and used to harness during winter, and they will be ready to hitch up with broken horses any time after two and a half years old, and do nearly any kind of farm work.

A great deal depends on manners and style of going in draft as well as harness colts, and if always driven properly, taught to be good walkers, and showing good action on the halter, that is all that is required. I have sold geldings handled like this to men who fit and show drafters at the age of three years and over, at \$250 to \$300.

In buying colts to fit and sell again, of any of the draft breeds, I prefer geldings to mares, as they are much easier sold for city work. A margin of \$50 to \$100 for feeding and handling can be derived. In feeding a draft gelding that has been worked hard, it takes time, rather than very heavy feeding, to make him up. Put him in a roomy box stall, with a plank out edgewise, about four feet from the floor, to prevent him rubbing his tail out. If you see any sign of itch in mane, tail or legs, brush out often, and keep stables clean, and it will soon disappear. All the exercise needed beside the box stall is a run on the halter, to make him go well. Clean thoroughly twice a day, and increase the exercise before offering for sale. If the horse has done well with the rest he has had, and has size and quality, no trouble will be found in disposing of him at a good profit.

In case of mud fever or very itchy skin, I have had best results with raw linseed oil and sulphur mixed together, well rubbed in as often as required.

In breeding light horses, you are apt to have more misfits than in draft, except you are very careful in selecting mares for breeders, and sires afterwards. It is absolutely useless to breed from blemished stock on either side. The odds