

## Horses.

### Training the Show-ring Horse.

In our Western hurry and rush this is a subject which has, in the past, received far too little attention. We hitch up the colt alongside two or three broken horses, and no matter how timid and wild he may be, so long as he can be held reasonably near his proper place by means of the bit and the harness the driver is satisfied. Few of our farm horses obey the driver's commands without the aid of the lines. Horse training is looked upon as an accomplishment, and not at all as a necessary education. It is true that where one man looks after from four to six horses it is impossible to train them to the same degree as where the man looks after only two. Still, a great deal can be done by paying attention to the matter, and nothing can give more pleasure to a horseman than to see a horse developing intelligence and obeying readily and with pleasure the commands of his master. Training can scarcely be commenced too soon. The colt should, if possible, be handled from birth, and if he is intended to be shown at fairs as a foal at foot, he should be broken to the halter and trained to walk and trot alongside his dam when six weeks old; and even when there is no such intention the training will do a great deal of good and save many an outburst of temper on the part of his future drivers. The slovenly manner in which some horses are handled at the local agricultural fairs is nothing short of a disgrace to our horsemen. When they get behind a team in a wagon or farm implement they manage by means of the lines and muscular strength to drive and turn them in a clumsy fashion, and there, very often, all horsemanship and training ends.

Pace is a most important point in the winning of prizes, a point which bears upon and controls joint and neck action. Few judges would decide the points to be awarded for these parts without first seeing the horse in action, and many horses wear a yellow or white ticket when they ought to carry a red or blue one, all because they are not taught to bear themselves in action. Training will make a marvellous improvement in the most awkward horse, and to the animal of naturally good action it will impart a firmness of tread and bearing which amounts to as near perfection as can be obtained. From a spectacular point of view alone, the effect of good training is well worth the trouble involved, for it is an old-established axiom, highly popular among sailors and horsemen, that nothing can excel in beauty the graceful motion of ships and horses. This axiom will gain little confirmation from the onlookers at our local Western fairs, for it is a matter to which little or no attention seems to be paid. Nothing can look more awkward than most of our horse parades. Sometimes the groom gets out four or five feet in front of the horse and pulls at the halter-shank as if he were dragging the animal along by main strength, and the animal, seeming to think that a certain amount of resistance is expected of it, reciprocates by allowing its muzzle to be pulled forward and ambles after its leader with the most unnatural gait possible. In turning, the groom pulls the horse round inwards instead of turning it outwards as he ought to do, and the home journey of semi tug-o'-war is again made.

A properly-trained horse never pulls back on the halter. His actions are controlled and regulated by the signs and whispers of the groom, and to the onlooker it appears to the manor born. Horsemanship is one of the arts that conceals art. The onlooker should know nothing of the interchange of intelligence between the man and the horse. The groom in showing the paces of a horse should take up and maintain a position with his breast in line with the animal's shoulders. The halter-shank should be held just sufficiently tight to keep the halter close to the face of the horse, and should not be pulled on except in an emergency. The groom ought to keep just far enough away from the horse to allow his own freedom of action, and his hold of the halter should be regulated with the same object in view. Another point deserving attention is the dress of the groom. When a groom appears on the parade ground attired in untidy, slovenly garb, he and his master are offering open insult both to the executive of the fairs and to the general public, and it is a spectacle which is too often presented to us. A tidy and appropriately-dressed groom is surely a fitting accompaniment to a proportionate and fine-looking horse.

The important subject of training is one that should be studied with the greatest care and practiced under the tuition of older hands by every boy on our farms. The best book we know dealing with the subject—and it deals with it in a masterful and practical manner—is "Rarey's Book on Horse-training and Horse-taming," which may be procured through any bookseller. We recommend the study of it to all our boys on the farms, and we hope to see soon a better state of matters in the handling of horses at our summer fairs.

Brandon

OLD HORSEMAN.

### Examination of Horses as to Soundness.

(Continued.)

Having examined the mouth, the examiner will pass his hand carefully and slowly upwards and backwards in the maxillary space (the space between the branches of the lower jaw), to ascertain if there be any hardening or enlargement of the submaxillary glands. Such a condition of these glands must always be looked upon with suspicion, as symptomatic of chronic catarrh or



For the farmer or farmer's son making the highest total score in live-stock judging at the Winnipeg Industrial Fair, 1903.

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nasal gleet, or if the glands be enlarged, hardened and adherent to the bone, it indicates glanders. He must then look carefully at the throat and observe whether there is an enlargement of the glands, either below the ear or in connection with the anterior aspect of the windpipe; an enlargement of these glands, while not symptomatic of any serious disease, is still undesirable, and may be considered an unsoundness. He will then place his finger on the jugular vein to ascertain whether it is pervious, which can be told by the vein raising between the point of pressure and the throat. The vein may be obliterated and the animal show no untoward symptoms, but if he should be turned out on pasture or fed off the floor there would soon be enormous swelling of the head and throat; hence a horse with an

obliterated jugular vein is decidedly unsound. He will then carefully examine the withers for existing or symptoms of pre-existing fistula, either of which should condemn him as unsound. Then examine the shoulder for tumors, abscesses or raw surfaces, any of which constitute temporary unsoundness. Passing downwards, examine the elbow for tumors or abscesses (called capped elbow), then pass down to the knee, looking for abnormalities on the forearm. The knee should be carefully examined for bony enlargements, broken knees, or scars that may indicate the previous existence of this condition. (It must be understood that the term "broken knees" does not necessarily refer to a fracture; bruises, cuts, etc., that occur from an animal stumbling and falling on his knees; the injury being more or less serious, all go under the name of "broken knees.") Symptoms of present or pre-existent broken knees must always be looked upon as a serious matter, as it indicates a tendency to stumble, and the condition may reoccur at any time. The inner aspect of the joint and the limb below the joint should be examined for swelling, soreness or thickening of the tissues, which indicate speedy cut (the knocking of the limb with the opposite foot); this habit, which is usually due to the conformation of the pasterns and feet, causes tumors or abscesses, and is liable to cause the horse to stumble. While an animal may have undesirable conformation of any point and still be sound, any abnormality that is caused by reason of that conformation must be considered an unsoundness. Passing the hand and eye carefully down the cannon bone he feels and looks for splints. A splint if small, single, and not quite close to the joint, is not usually considered an unsoundness, but if quite large, double (that is, appearing on both the inner and outer aspect of the limb), or so near the joint that there is danger of the articulation becoming involved, it should be considered an unsoundness. Next the fetlock joint should be examined for abnormalities, the most common of which are bursal enlargements, commonly called windgalls. These, if small and soft, are not considered serious, but if large and tense are very liable to cause lameness, and, hence, are an unsoundness; bony enlargements in this region must also condemn a horse. Between the fetlock and the hoof we must examine carefully for ringbone. A ringbone does not necessarily entirely surround the pastern, it may be apparent only on one or both sides, or may extend all around. We must remember that on each side of the lower extremity of the fetlock bone there is a normal protuberance, which is quite apparent in hot-blooded horses with little or no long hair in this region. These protuberances must not be mistaken for ringbone. The existence of a ringbone, whether or not lameness be shown, must be considered an unsoundness. We next examine for sidebone. This is a conversion into bone of the lateral cartilages, which are two irregularly-shaped cartilages surmounting the wings of the bone of the foot, one on each side. They can be easily felt just above the heels and extending along either side of the foot



GRAIN-GROWERS' DELEGATES AT OTTAWA.

1. W. R. Motherwell, Abernethy, Assa.; 2. J. B. Gillespie, Saltoun, Assa.; 3. R. C. Henders, Culross, Man.; 4. D. C. McCuaig, Portage la Prairie, Man.