

Raising a Colt Cheaply.

What does it cost to raise a colt? According to what we read in "The Farmer's Advocate" lately, there are some very expensive colts raised. Mr. Stericker, in the issue of Sept. 2, claims that it costs \$150. Let us examine some of his figures. In the case of giving the mare a rest at foaling time, he estimates the cost at \$35, giving her two weeks' rest before and two weeks' more after foaling, or in all 24 working days. Now a livery horse can be hired for \$1.00 a day or less for a term of that length, and we all know that these horses are the most expensive working horses to hire, so we can clip about \$15 off that \$35 and still be erring on the expensive side. But why let the mare run idle for two weeks before foaling? For forty years in this country men have had the best results from working the mare right up to the time of foaling. In fact, if I could make the circumstances to suit, I would have the mare show uneasiness when I put her in the stall at supper time and took the harness off her, and when I hurried out after supper would be greeted with a colt's white face. Then when bedtime comes, everything is all right and I can sleep without anxiety, knowing that both mare and colt are all right in a clean box stall; or, better still, out in the pasture when the ground is warm—about May 24th or June 1st. By working the mare till foaling time that takes another \$10 off the \$35. If the mare has been well wintered and is in good heart, the two weeks' rest after foaling may be shortened to ten days, and a farm horse is not worth more than half the nominal rent of a livery horse, so the expense due to the idleness of the mare is about \$5.00. With regard to her feed during that time, most mares eat whether they are raising a foal or not, or whether they are working or not, so that item is not to be considered.

Mr. Kydd, in the issue of September 9th, gives a very fair estimate of the cost of food, but why should he consider the cost of food for the third year? A colt from the time he is 2½ years old till he is 3 years old will easily earn his third year's keep. In the matter of insurance, why should we insure for 11 months and not the first two years of the colt's life? Is a colt immune from accident during that time? Fact is, so few follow this practice that it is not fair to consider it in estimating the cost of raising a colt—generally speaking. I consider the following figures pretty nearly correct, but the oats and bran may often be fed in smaller quantities, and thus the total cost would be some less.

First year—	
Service fee	\$ 15.00
Int. on same	.90
Mare's idle period	5.00
Oats for mare till weaning, about \$1.50 of 1888	1.50
Winter, 6 months—	
Clover hay, at \$10 a ton; fed 1 lb. per day for each 100 lbs. of colt.	\$4.50 to 5.50
Bran and oats, mixed, 1 to 4, and fed 1 lb. per day for each 100 lbs. of colt	6.00 to 9.00
Feeds (in f.d.), at 10c, a bushel	.60
Cost of salt if he needs it	1.00
Halter	.75
Total	\$35.25 to \$39.25
Second year—	
Int. on \$15.00	\$ 0.90
Pasture, at \$1.00 a month	6.00
Clover hay, fed for 6 months, at same rate	\$7.00 to 9.00
Roots at same rate	1.00
Bran and oats, fed at same rate for six months	\$8.00 to \$10.00
Total	\$22.90 to \$26.90
Total for two years	\$58.15 to \$66.15

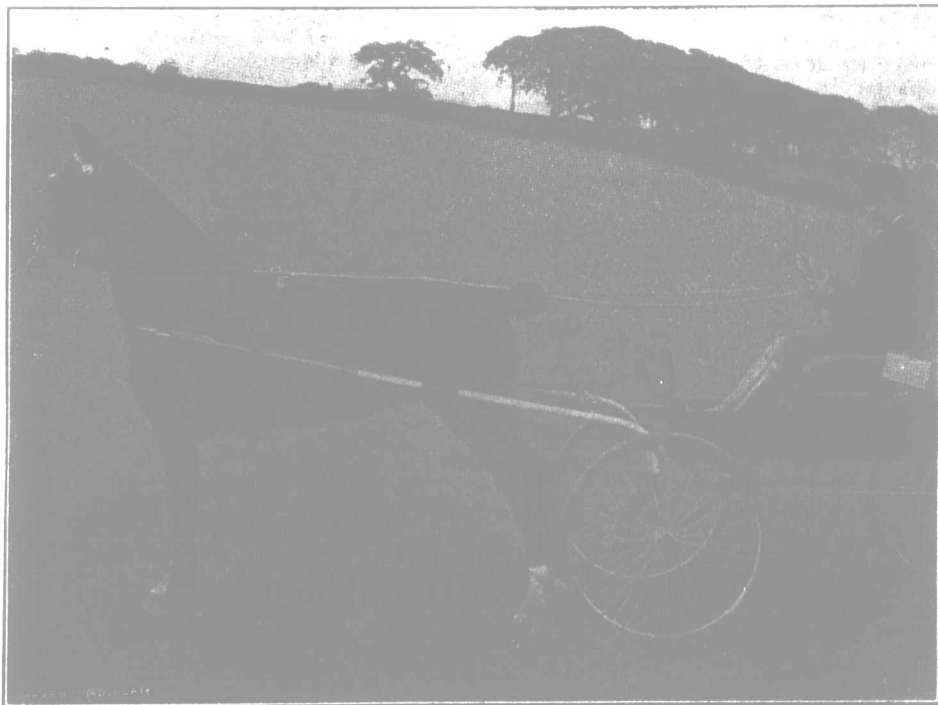
This estimate considers that hay is fed all the time during the period that the colt is stabled. Farmers can feed about half that much hay, along with good clean straw, thus reducing the cost, and the colt is all the better for it. In case of a colt being intelligently handled and fed on a farm, he can readily be sold at three years old for \$200, and his actual cost not exceed \$50; and this refers to the roadster as well as the draft horse. The roadster does not eat as much, but the risk against blemish is greater, so the cost is in reality about the same. One farmer who sells his colts at two to three years old for \$175.00 to \$225.00 right along says: "It doesn't cost any more to raise a colt than it does to raise a calf." He might also add: "It is far less trouble and more satisfaction."

A. DOUGLAS CAMERON.

Horse Stabling in Former Days.

The harness used on the farm horses of the Lothians a century and a half ago was simple to the point of barbarism, according to George Robertson, who wrote his "Rural Recollections" in 1829. "The ropes or sheets (chains they had none) in those times for drawing the plows were not infrequently made from the hair cut from the horse's own mane, or from his tail, and they lasted admirably well. They were spun and twisted and plaited by the men's own hands; and a horse generally furnished as much of the raw material from year to year as served himself. Goggles or blinders there were none. In cases of a lazy beast, or of one that was apt to scare at side objects, the driver made a small patch of straw, fixed in the head-stall to serve the purpose. For bits they had branks to keep unruly brutes in order; these were pieces of hard wood, of a due curvature, that were applied to the cheeks of the animal, a little above the nostrils, to which the halter was fixed noosewise, which had a very powerful command and kept the animal in great check. The whole harness of a four-horse plow would not exceed 5s. in the year."

Mr. Robertson thus describes the way horses and cows were kept: "In the stables the horses were somewhat more cared for in putting up. The trevise betwixt two and two was generally introduced, as also the curry comb. And though the heck and manger were getting more into a sufficient kind of construction, yet the higher-spirited nags had room to exert their authority over the more timid in the same stall, especially at corn time; and frequently were men and master under the necessity of running out into the stable to ridd their quarrels and see justice done among them."



Latest News (19294).

Hackney mare, Foaled 1903. Winner of third prize, Hackney Show, London, England. First at Kilmarnock and Paisley. First and championship, Highland Society's Show, 1909. Imported and owned by Graham & Renfrew, Bedford Park, Ont. Sire Special Post.

Producing White Hair.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

White feet in horses, or spots on the forehead—how to produce a match. Take a piece of Osmaburg (coarse linen cloth, originally made in Germany) the size of the white on the corresponding foot; spread it with warm pitch and apply it around the foot, tying it afterwards to keep it on in the right position. Let it remain on three days. By that time it will bring off the hair clean, and make the skin a little tender. Then take elixir of vitriol (a small quantity), anoint the parts two or three times, or use a common weed called smartweed, a small handful, bruise it, and add to it about a half a pint of water. Use it as a wash until the soreness is removed, when the hair will grow entirely white.

If this will do the work on the feet, of which I have not a doubt, it will do the same on the forehead, and in either case will do the horse no harm.

[Note.—Our correspondent has not tried the above formula for changing the color of hair, but has faith in it, and intends to try it for himself. Our veterinary adviser questions the efficacy of the treatment for the purpose, and thinks that the testimony of someone who has tried it will be necessary before the public will be convinced. He agrees that no permanent injury would result, but that there would be considerable distress during the action of the application. The results, however, in many cases, would justify the means, if the facts are as stated.—Editor.]

Breed More Good Horses Here.

It is rather disconcerting in a way, that of the horses at our leading exhibitions, notably Clydesdales, Shires and Hackneys, the open classes particularly of stallions, should be so uniformly filled with imported animals. Make full allowance for the fact that Canadian representatives of the two heavy breeds mentioned show principally in the class for Canadian-bred heavy drafts, where competition is restricted, still the fact that, counting every registered horse on the exhibition grounds, only a few of the best are Canadian-bred, is not exactly flattering to Canadian conditions or horsemanship. Years out of mind our importers have been crossing the ocean, bringing out stallions by the score and by the hundred, good stallions too, as the winnings of many at Old Country exhibitions conclusively prove. Of course, we have never had Baron's Pride, or a few of the other best breeding Scotch and English horses, but we have assuredly got good ones. Why, then, have we not made a better showing in our breeding operations? The first answer will be, "For lack of enough high-class mares." And why not more of these? Presumably because our farmers and breeders have not been willing to pay the price, and the leading firms of horsemen have found the prices obtainable for stallions and the liberal prizes offered at the shows an inducement to import rather than to pursue the slower and less lucrative business of breeding. And it must be admitted that some farmers who are breeding with tolerable success in a small way, fight shy of the leading fairs because of an impression, warranted or otherwise, that a fair deal is denied the exhibitor who has not a hand on the ropes. Others consider it is not worth their while to go to the expense of fitting and exhibiting.

But after this much has been said, it still seems difficult to account satisfactorily for the relatively slim showing of first-class Canadian-bred colts and fillies, more especially in view of the liberal studbook rule which has admitted four and five cross fillies and colts to registration, and which, with the number of good horses coming to the country for so many years past, should by this time have resulted in the grading up to studbook requirements of a large number of superior and typical animals, this saying nothing at all of the considerable importation of registered fillies, some of which have been of a fair degree of merit. As illustrating the class of stock one might expect to result from these importations,

reference may without invidiousness be made again to the three superlative individuals (including probably the best filly of the breed ever shown in the Dominion) exhibited in the Shire class this fall at London, by a farmer who had raised them all from a filly purchased four years ago from an importer, and mated for three successive years to a good pure-bred stallion.

It is that sort of enterprise we should like to see more of, and while it must be conceded that the horse business draws many a blank, with but an occasional prize, still there are opportunities in it if one will select good, sound, even females of quality, breed them to a sound, even horse, reasonably correct in conformation, and also showing character and quality, and then feed the foals well the first two years, especially, to secure development, combining with feed plenty of exercise, attention to the feet and limbs, training, etc.

The material we have in the country already should produce more classy horses than it does, and if greater attention were paid to bringing them out with flash and good manners, home-bred stock would make a more impressive showing than it does.

It is worth considering, also, whether it would not be well to increase the female premiums in both open and Canadian-bred classes at the leading shows. This, with a square deal to all exhibitors, new and old, would do something to strengthen the weak link in our horse-breeding industry, and hasten the day when we will breed the great majority of our own pure-bred sires, instead of importing them eternally from England,