

THE HORSE.

The Life of a Horse.

The life of real usefulness of a horse is very short. The buyer wants a horse from five to nine years old. Younger than this limit he has not reached the age at which he will stand strenuous exertion and yet he will do considerable farm work. Older than nine years his value on the market grows rapidly smaller as the years pass. When the horse's age requires two figures to express, his value very often requires only two figures. The real life of a horse, then, is only about five years. The value of anything is what it will sell for in dollars and cents. The horse brings the most of these when from five to nine years old. The careful farmer horse-breeder will not have many old horses other than brood mare's around him. It does not pay to turn off a good brood mare but geldings should go at the time they will bring the best prices—usually from five to seven years old and never older than nine years. But, you say someone must keep them. True, but there will always be someone ready to keep the older horses and to buy them at a low price so let him have them. Make use of the colts up to five years old but dispose of the horses before they are too old.

The Colt Must Earn His Keep.

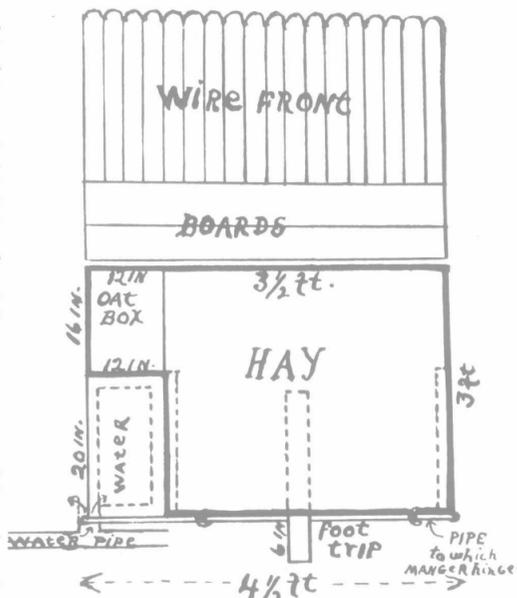
It costs money to raise a horse to selling age. The beef raiser can turn off his stock as baby beef, if he so desires, at from twelve to fifteen months old or he can finish it at from two or three years of age if he wishes to grow it first. The pig breeder and sheepman get quick returns—six months to two years. But the horseman must keep his colt until five years of age if he wishes to make the most out of horse breeding. The Remount Commission will not buy a horse under five years of age. The city dealer does not want a younger horse. The big dray companies cannot use colts and the only profit for the farmer in raising colts is in feeding them well, breaking in at two and three years old and making them do farm work for their keep while growing to maturity. Care must be taken not to over-feed or to over-work but greater care is generally needed to avoid under-feeding coupled with too much heavy work. The three-year-old or the four-year-old is not suited to heavy work on city streets. They are immature and will not stand the every-day strain of pulling heavy loads. Consequently they are not bought and the farmer is called upon to feed them high-priced feed for five years before the best market opens for his animals. Horse-breeding, then, to be made return the profits it should be carried on as a development scheme; the colts must be raised, broken and matured and while this is in progress they must be called upon to pay their way through work done. There is no place like the general farm to raise colts and no man has a better chance with them than the general farmer. But he must remember that it is a five-year job and should lay his plans to keep the colt busy from the time he is old enough to work. The colt makes a more satisfactory mature horse and he pleases his buyer better. He is not so soft and flabby as the horse matured in idleness.

A Handy Swing-Manger and Watering System.

An idea for a simple, cheap and suitable horse manger with water underneath the oat box has been developed by J. B. Thomson, a Middlesex Co., Ontario, farmer and is in use in his horse stables. The entire manger is hinged at the bottom to a rigid pipe and swings on it out into the feed alley in front of the horses and when swung open remains at a convenient angle for feeding while the back of the manger is straight with the rigid top of the alley partition thus keeping the horse back while feed is being put in place. A two-by-four scantling is fastened to the bottom of the manger and projects about six inches out into the feed manger. When feeding the horses the attendant goes along and puts his foot on each of these projecting scantlings. This tips all the mangers out into the passage ready for the feed which is then put in them and they are returned to place and the horses get their feed.

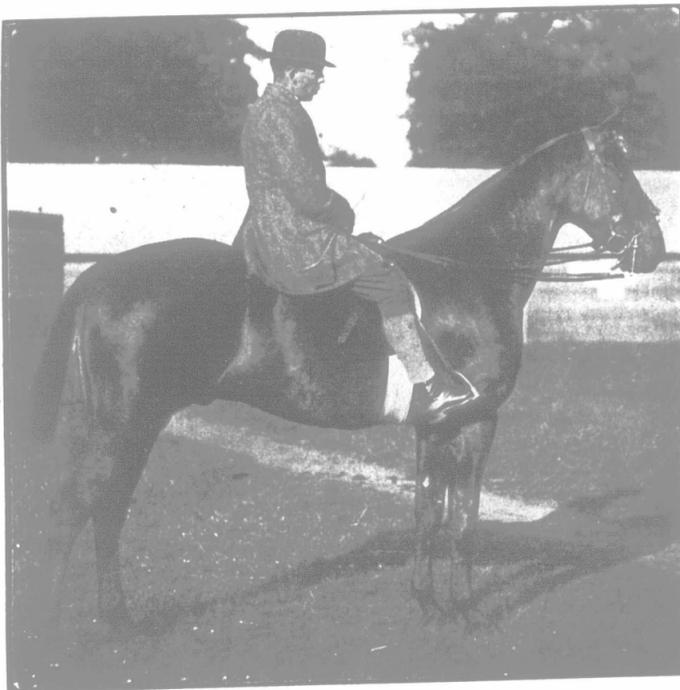
This is not the only good feature of them however. In the corner under the oat box is placed a cement trough or receptacle in which water remains all the time. When the manger is in place this is covered and clean. When it is tilted into the aisle the horse has an opportunity to drink. He gets his chance at the water before

getting his feed, which is advisable, and the horses may be watered frequently with practically no trouble and it is surprising how often they will drink if given the opportunity. The cement water boxes are twenty inches high, about a foot wide and made to fit exactly under the wooden oat box as shown in the illustration. The walls of this water trough, if we may call it such, are four inches thick at the bottom tapering to three inches at the top and made of cement and fine gravel and sand 1 to 4. They are placed in adjoining stall corners so that one feed pipe from



Swing Manger and Watering System.
The manger, as described in article, swings out into the feed passage, uncovering water basin under oat box. Illustration shows front of manger as it appears from feed alley.

the water pipe which runs along the front, directly below the mangers, supplies two receptacles with water. They are kept full all the time by use of a float in a small galvanized tank in the stable kept supplied from the larger tank pumped into by windmill. The whole makes a cheap and very



Hunter Gelding.

This horse was champion at the Bath and West Show. The Hunter is now in great demand in Britain.

handy arrangement and one any farmer can put in himself. The illustration shows a view of the arrangement from the feed alley. Above is placed heavy wire as shown. This might be better if iron rods had been used but the wire is all right provided a good solid scantling or strip is placed top and bottom to stiffen it. Mr. Thomson is well pleased with his watering system; the only change he would make, if any, would be to narrow the water basin down to eight inches in width.

LIVE STOCK.

Ability Required in Stock Feeding.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A few years ago a young man who was about to graduate from a certain university was offered a position at one thousand dollars per year, which he promptly refused. "Why," said he, "a man could make that much money raising hogs." His idea was that his knowledge and training should command a much greater recompense, than that of a regular hog raiser. He assumed that it required only ordinary ability to bring into marketable condition a herd of 75 or 100 good bacon hogs, and that the \$5.00 to \$10.00 per hundred would be for the most part clear gain.

Such is the view held by many people, beside university men. They have heard the pig spoken of as the money-maker and I have known cases where the revenue from the pigs on an ordinary farm amounted to \$400, and even one thousand dollars per year. Of course, there was no brain work about it. It would be well for those whose observations extend back 10 or 20 years to review the situation and see who has been making money out of live stock. They are not the men who jump into some one particular class as the price is high and then throw it on the market when the price goes down. Success of a substantial kind has, however, come to men who have stuck to cattle or to hogs and made them as good as possible for market any time or when buyers come suddenly as they usually do. These stayers are in a position to take advantage of the market even with the prices of stock at their worst; the owner of a growing herd is better situated than the man who sells his stock all off when prices go up. It is by keeping hogs in moderate numbers and working off the by-products that the greatest profits are obtained. A dairy farmer, who can supply milk in large quantities is without doubt in the best position to produce pork, at an average low cost. There are a few men who can successfully handle large numbers of pigs. It requires experience, however, and just as much ability as is found in the average university man who values his services at several thousand a year. As the packers are taking all the pork they can get there seems to be little danger of the market being over-crowded at present.

Kings, Co., N.B. C. R. TAIT.

The Bath and West Show.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

All told, 35,773 people visited the Bath and West Agricultural Show, which has just been held at the county town of Worcester, under the presidency of Lord Coventry. The stock were an amazingly good lot and the awards followed much the same order as the Oxfordshire Show, I have already reported on. The best Shire was the Edgecote Shorthorn Breeding Company's three-year-old filly Blackthorn Betty, but other prominent prize-winners were R. L. Mond's yearling filly, Farewell Tolworth and his stallion, King's Warrior. A Cheshire exhibitor, H. Miller, of Sutton, in that county, won the Shorthorn bull championship with Gainford Royal Champion, one bred by George Harrison at Darlington. His Majesty the King won in two-year-old heifers with Windsor Gem, with fine quality and a rare outline. The group class in Herefords for sire, dam and offspring fell to W. B. Tudge, for Renown (the Royal Show hero of last year), Arabis (a cow with a great frame and a servicable udder) and her calf. A 1914 steer class was

included and was won by de F. Pennefather's weighty son of Ringmaster, which scaled 1,444 pounds at 17 months old. Best of the senior bulls was T. L. Walker's Court Card, by Montezuma which has a good first rib, no patchiness and great length and now triumphed over Renown the Royal Show hero of 1914. In the Aberdeen-Angus section, J. J. Cridlan had four class winners in the running for the championship and the male title fell to his bull, Everard 2nd of