

## Bridle Breaking a High Spirited Colt

If it is Properly Done No Trouble is Met in Teaching Him to Drive

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**T**HE possession of a sensitive mouth is one of the most desirable qualities of a high-class riding or driving horse. This quality can only be maintained by careful handling in the process of bridle breaking. The value of many a good young horse has been materially reduced by rough handling during his first experience of the bit. Not only has his mouth become unduly hardened, but undesirable habits, such as lugging on the bit, tongue rolling, tossing of the head, slaving, and so forth, have been acquired.

When a colt is bitten for the first time, and an effort is made to control the animal, he naturally resents the treatment, and the result will be bruised, lacerated and bleeding lips and gums. These injuries will heal, leaving a more or less hardened or callous condition of the parts, and the mouth has lost for all time the natural sensitiveness so necessary in that organ. Time and patience are required to properly bridle-break a colt, and the future value of the animal will well repay the owner for his trouble.

### The First Lesson.

In biting a colt for the first time simply adjust the bridle, using great care not to put any pressure on the bit, but letting the creature go at once in a paddock or box stall. Let the bridle remain on him for several hours. When it is taken off the colt will have had his first bridle lesson. Next day repeat the operation, and so on, each day for probably a week. At the end of that time it will be found that the colt has become reconciled to the bit. He has never been frightened or hurt by its action, and feels perfectly comfortable with the bit in his mouth.

The next step is to put a surcingle and croupers on the colt. Put reins on the bridle and check him up slightly, and let him run loose in his paddock; repeat this treatment for several days, gradually tightening the check till the colt has become used to the situation and will stand with his head up, his nose turning inward toward his chest. It is good practice to have a strong piece of elastic in the check rein so that when the colt pokes his head out the elastic will have a tendency to draw his nose in again towards the chest. No colt should be either ridden or driven until he has been taught to freely turn his nose in towards the chest when the reins are tightened. In big training establishments an attachment called a "dumb jockey" is always used for this purpose. It consists of two upright pieces of timber crossed and attached to the surcingle, extending a foot or so higher than the horse's back. To this string elastic reins are attached. However, the use of the surcingle as already described answers the purpose very well.

### In Harness.

After the colt has been bitten in this manner, lines should be put on the bridle and he should have his first lesson in driving. Put a set of harness on him (a set of single harness is best), pass

the lines through the shaft holders on the sides of the horse rather than through the rings on the back-band, and start him down the road; the trainer walking behind. The lines being down along his sides, makes it easy to guide him in a straight line. Give him exercise in this way for several days, teaching him to stand on the word "Whoa"; to go on at the word, and to back up when told to do so. He is then ready to be hitched. A colt prepared in this way will seldom give any trouble when hitched; either in single or double harness. When a reliable old horse is at hand it is perhaps better to hitch him double for the first few times, but if necessary it will be all right to hitch him single. Few colts will make any trouble for the trainer if gradually broken in this way.

It will be readily seen that a colt treated in this humane way will never have had his mouth in-



A Popular Piece of Good Road. Kerr Street, near Oakville, Ont.

A tarvia filled macadam laid down in 1915. Photo after one year's service.

jured. He has never been frightened or hurt, and his mouth will have retained the natural sensitiveness so necessary to a high class driving horse.

## Winter Care of Manure Two Efficient Methods of Handling It

**M**ANURE exposed in loose open piles loses much of its nitrogen through fermentation and its potassium and other mineral elements through leaching. The best way to avoid this loss is to haul it to the field as fast as it is made. Not only is the manure then handled with the minimum labor, but the work in connection with it is also disposed of at a time of the year when labor is cheapest, and when it interferes least with the other major operations on the farm.

Hauling to the fields is not, however, the only way of preventing losses due to heating and leaching. If placed in a man-



A Relic of Pioneer Days.

The old potash kettle, in which many of the first settlers boiled down "black salt" is occasionally still seen doing duty as a watering trough. Snapped on the farm of F. R. Mallory, Hastings Co., Ont., by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

ure shed or left in box stalls, where it is thoroughly trampled, the loss of the important constituents is rendered inconsiderable. In loose piles it heats. The organic matter is broken down by aerobic organisms; that is, bacteria and fungi that require the presence of air in which to live

and work. In the process carbonic acid, water and ammonia are evolved; the nitrogen escaping in the ammonia. When consolidated by tramping so that the air is excluded, aerobic organisms cannot work. Fermentation then takes place as the result of the activities of anaerobic organisms, or those that thrive when the supply of air is limited. In this fermentation, only a slight rise in temperature occurs, and though there is some loss of nitrogen in the form of a gas, slight amounts of which are evolved, the loss is not nearly

so great as when the mass is allowed to heat. One of the most important things to consider in caring for manure which is being preserved in the manner just described, is to see that it is kept sufficiently moist. In Great Britain it is a common practice, especially in dry weather, to sprinkle the manure kept in boxes and sheds if it gives evidence of becoming too dry. Well made rotted manure is a more concentrated plant food than fresh manure, and is preferred for light soils, which long manure would leave too open and liable to rot. It is also preferable for gardens and those crops which require a quick acting manure, that is, one that is quickly reduced to the simpler forms of plant food, so as to be readily available in a short time.

## Basic Slag

A ton of basic slag contains about 250 lbs. of available phosphoric acid and from 1,200 to 1,300 lbs. of carbonate of lime. Carbonate of lime or ground limestone rock costs about three dollars a ton, f.o.b. at point of shipment. To this must be added the freight charges. The carbonate of lime in a ton of basic slag is therefore worth about \$2.50—provided the land on which it is placed is in need of lime.



When the Tractor Turned Balky—A Scene at the Whitby Tractor Demonstration.

Though the spectators admired the excellent work done they did not hesitate to subject an engineer to good natured railery when his tractor refused temporarily to keep moving.  
—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.