

in offering the bulk of the prize money where such competition is, and also to encourage the embarking in the breeding, growing and showing of varieties, breeds or species known to be or likely to be of commercial value. The displays made at the coast fairs were magnificent but were partially made up of varieties of little value or worthless for market purposes.

The intention of the R. A. and I. Society therefore, to make the competition in commercial fruits one true to name, is worthy of commendation and emulation by other societies, yea, even by experimental farms; there has in the past been too great a tendency to allow quantity to usurp the place of quality, to our eventual hurt in the markets of the world.

Seed Fairs.

The representatives of the Dominion Seed Branch have recently sent out letters to all the agricultural societies in their respective provinces stating the proposition of the Department of Agriculture re assistance at seed fairs during the winter. Already several have signified their intention of holding such an exhibition, and many remain yet to be heard from. We consider it therefore an opportune time to draw attention to the benefits to be derived from these annual meetings.

Mr. Bracken the representative for Manitoba, informs us that about fourteen societies are now preparing for the seed fair in that province, and while he would not induce or try to persuade any society, when public opinion is not ripe for such a gathering, to attempt to hold one, yet it seems that the generous offer of the Department to do all the advertising, supply competent speakers and make all necessary arrangements, should be taken advantage of to a greater extent by those who direct the affairs of the local organizations.

The seed fair has come to stay in Western Canada. It fills a long felt want in this country where "Wheat is king." It provides a mart for the sale and purchase of that grain which comes nearest the ideal for crop production. It brings farmers together in a discussion of the present evils that exist in the production and of the grain business. Inspection and transportation have their attendant problems, more or less out of the control of the individual farmer, but the power to produce the highest grade with the least dockage lies inherent in the man "behind the plow." Does he know the most approved systems of soil cultivation, the best methods of weed eradication, the "all" of smut and rust prevention, the possibilities of seed selection? If so he owes to his neighbor, less fortunate, some information along these lines. If not, a privilege is his in listening to the discussion during the afternoon of the seed fair. A reduction in the percentage of "rejected cars" and an increase in the amount of No. 1 Hard, is the aim of the Seed Branch. If you are progressive you will see to it that no stone is left unturned to insure the success of this winter seed fair.

HORSE

Training the Colt.

With all farm stock the early lessons are the stayers. Begin, then, the education of the colt during his infant days. Some wise men remarked that the education of a boy should begin with his grandfather. True. True also, with the colt. Education continued becomes an instinct. The world is full of examples.

Get acquainted with the colt when he is but a few days old. Be kind, make friends and gain his confidence. Treat him as though he were a human child, and reach his heart through the medium of his stomach by giving him sugar from the hand. Handle his limbs.

Teach him that you are bigger than he is. Don't hurt him or break friendships by taking him when he is a day or two old and putting one arm in front of his neck and the other behind his hind legs, let him jump and struggle until he is tired out and gives it up as a bad job. Reward him a little sugar and handle him all over with your ears to heels. Teach him that you will not hurt him, but that he need not try to get away. Repeat this one or two more times, or until he

becomes so strong that holding him is uncertain, then don't match strength with him, for once he breaks loose he will always remember it. But if he never does get away in the first few days of his life, he will grow to full size still believing that you are the stronger.

At a few days old teach him to lead with the halter. Now, please remember right here the natural law that governs nearly all animals. If we try to drag them one way, they will go opposite, if possible. Take a cat by the tail, she does the pulling, we don't; now, try to lead her with a string, where does she go? We have all seen the boy drag the pup or calf in trying to force it to lead. The colt will do the same way if gone at the same way.

Put a soft, close-fitting halter on the colt's head, and a strong, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rope around his body, just in front of the hips. Let an iron ring in the end of the rope serve as an eye. By placing the noose about the rear end of the colt and passing the free end forward between the legs to the hand, we have an instrument by means of which we can induce him to come forward. Pull the halter rope and tell him to "come," then when he settles back draw the rope tight about his body. This surprises him so that he hops forward to us—just what we want. Tell him so, caress him. Try again; pull the halter gently, telling him to "come," and be ready with the surprise rope. This done four or five times will teach the youngster what is wanted, so he will follow. There has been no fight or hard feelings. Lead him for a few minutes every day for three or four weeks, and he will never forget it.

Now, to back. This is not a natural direction for horses to travel; they must be taught how. Stand close in front of the colt, pull the halter back, and say "Back." He will not obey, for he does not understand. Press the fingers firmly against his breast. He then naturally steps back to free himself. Let the halter slacken, caress him. Repeat the action and word (not words): he soon understands and obeys willingly.

How to move forward at command, or, in other words, to "break" the colt to drive: Put on the halter, checkrein, surcingle and lines, passing them from the sides of the halter through loops in the sides of the surcingle. With this the colt can be prevented from turning around. When ready, get the colt's attention with a sharp, stinging little cut on rear end with a light whip. The colt goes. Three or four such experiences will teach him that the word is to be followed by the pain, and he goes to avoid the pain. Never strike first; it is not fair or sensible. A whip has a place, though a small one, in the school of the colt.

To stop at command: When he has learned how to go at command, teach him how to stop at the single word, "Whoa." Speak the word plainly and at the same time snub the colt short. Soon he will connect the word with the event and obey at command. Be sure to teach him to obey the word without a tug at the lines. Later in life it may save a runaway.

During all the lessons accustom the colt to strange objects—rustling paper, umbrella, bicycle, and street cars, if convenient. All this does, of course, take time, but not so much nor so hard work as would be required to do the same amount of teaching at two or three years of age, and it must be done some time.

This done early, and the colt will never need to be "broken."—*Successful Farming.*

STOCK

The Agricultural College and Farm Powers.

The demand for instruction in the use of the various forms of power applicable to farm work has been such that the Manitoba Agricultural College will, during this winter's course give instruction in the use of gasoline and steam engines. A large building has been erected for the purpose and students will be able to get a lot of valuable information at first hand in a most practical way. The college opens its doors November sixth and it is advisable that students should be there on the opening day. Young men in Alberta and Saskatchewan wishing to attend an agricultural college will find the course here suited to their needs. Saskatchewan men will be able to avail themselves of the generous scholarships offered by the government of that province.

Economical Maintenance of Beef Breeding

Cows.

This is a question which Prof. Herbert Mumford states has received but little attention from investigators. He also states that, as land became more valuable and the main feed corn was used for other purposes than making meat *it was found that there was but small profit, if any, in keeping a cow a year for the beef calf she would produce.* The breeding of feeding cattle as a common practice on high priced lands has passed, at least temporarily. The supply of feeding cattle has come more and more largely from localities where land is cheaper. Range-bred feeding cattle are becoming yearly a large factor in corn belt feed lots.

The passing of the range and its extensive herds of cattle has been freely predicted and no doubt will eventually take place; that vast acreages of range country are being transformed into farms is a matter of common knowledge. That the southwestern cattleman is becoming more familiar with the value of his available feeds for fattening cattle is evident, which no doubt will result in more feeding or finishing of cattle in that section of the country. Notwithstanding these facts, there is more or less uncertainty surrounding the extent and the nature of the future cattle business on the numerous farms resulting from the subdivision of the extensive ranges.

The question of where the future supply of feeding cattle will be bred and reared is a pertinent one. Many predict that ultimately a much larger proportion of cattle fattened in the corn belt will be bred there. It is not our present purpose to discuss this question, but enough has been said to suggest to the reader the reasons for investigating the subject in hand, namely, that this has been a neglected question among investigators, and some conditions point to more universal interest in this subject in the future. The breeding of beef cattle on high priced land presupposes the economical maintenance of the cows from which such stock is bred.

OBJECT.

The object of this experiment was to compare cheap feeds readily available on Illinois farms for maintaining beef breeding cows during the



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