



**SWIMMING A HORSE.**

**How a Horse and Rider May Successfully Cross a Swollen Stream.**

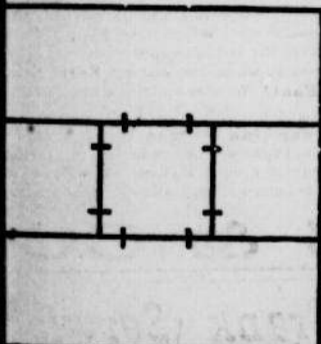
There may be readers who run a chance of having to ride across a swollen stream and it may be to swim. The safety of both rider and horse may depend on the action of the rider in such an emergency. Pictures are often seen representing horsemen sitting bolt upright in their saddles while swimming their horses across a stream, the whole line of the horses' backs being visible above the water. The artists who make these pictures can hardly have ridden a horse while the animal was swimming or seen the thing done.

A French cavalry officer in a military journal of Paris gives this account of the way a horse should not be ridden and the way he should be ridden in swimming a stream: To begin with, it must not be supposed that a horse always swims naturally and with ease the moment he is off his feet in the water; the animal under such circumstances is but one notion, to keep his head out of the water and to lift his shoulders as high as possible. In doing this his hind quarters sink and he finds himself standing almost on his tail, or in a position three-quarters erect. In such a position, the driver draws upon his reins, or throws his body back in the least, the animal's hind quarters will sink more and more, his body will take a vertical position, and beating the water uselessly with his fore feet he will sink.

As soon as his horse gets off his feet in the water let the rider grasp a handful of the animal's mane, leaning at the same time well forward upon his shoulder, but without touching the horse's head. The rider's knees should be pressed tightly to the horse's sides, otherwise he is likely to be swept off by the water. This is the only position that will enable a man to remain in the saddle and the horse to swim at the same time. The reins must be held loosely, and each well to one side. If the horse is to be guided in the water use the loose rein a little jerk in the direction desired. But it is in the highest degree important never to pull on the rein.—Norwest Farmer.

**Tying Up Wool.**

No part of preparing wool for market is more to its presentability than proper tying. In the first place nothing but pure wool should be brought to the tying board. All wet or soiled wools should be clipped off, and any raw, chaff or other foreign substances picked off or shook out as much as possible.



**FOLDING BOARD FOR TYING WOOL.**  
[The board is made of two pieces of board, each 12 inches in edge of board are for holding twine.]

Then the fleece, with the fresh ends down, should be drawn together evenly, so that when it is folded together the inside will not be exposed. Two strings each way is ample and as the wool will keep the fleece together in its shape, less rather than more should be used, as a stringy lot of wool justly receives a bad impression upon the sorter. Each fleece should be tied up separately and compactly, but not close enough to give it a suspiciously soggy, heavy feeling.

This is very apt to impress the buyer with the idea that the fleece contains much oil or dirt, making it liable to heavy shrinkage—the bugbear of all wool buyers. There are various kinds of presses and other mechanical devices for doing up wool, but the simple flat folding board, which with eight common hinges any farmer can make, is by far always preferred by the busy shepherd.

The center board should be about five inches square; also the two end boards, while the two sides should be as long as the three. A little practice will soon teach any one how to do the fleece in the neatest manner.—Norwest Farmer.

**Horses' Names.**

The naming of horses that are intended as candidates for popular support on the turf is sometimes of importance, because an attractive name is apt to influence to some degree the large class of bettors, especially of the feminine gender, who make their modest investments with no other guide than chance. And certainly in the selection of appropriate and euphonious names the good taste of an owner is clearly shown.

An instance of a singularly happy name must be credited to Mark Twain, who called his horse Baalbec, "because he is such a magnificent ruin," adding the further remarkable statement, "He is a mare." It is not given to all owners to find such felicitous names as this, but the list of prominent racers of the day reveals much ingenuity and affords an interesting field for research.

Boston, the great long distance runner and the sire of the famous Lexington, was not named in honor of the "hub of the universe," but after the fascinating game of cards called "Booston" in Hoyle, but more generally known as Boston, and the horse received the name because he was purchased with the profits of a lucky bout at the game.—New York Herald.

**SHEEP SCAB.**

**The Rigid Laws That Have Destroyed It in Australia.**

By latest reports there is not a diseased sheep to be found in the vast provinces of Victoria or New South Wales, thanks to stringent and strictly enforced laws. As soon as it was settled that Australia was adapted to sheep raising and the growth of the finest wool in the world, those engaged in the business set themselves to work to fix rules and regulations by which they should be governed and protected in their industry. Laws for eradicating "scab" were secured without difficulty.

The prevailing public sentiment that demanded and secured the passage of these stringent laws stood behind the officers charged with their enforcement and compelled them to perform their duty. Infected flocks not promptly isolated and treated by their owners were taken possession of by officials, appraised and slaughtered, and their carcasses piled up and burned, together with the buildings and fences with which they had been in contact. In such instances three-fourths of the estimated value of the stock was made good to the owner from the public treasury. To meet this expenditure a tax was laid against each flock owner according to the number of sheep he possessed. This rigorous policy had the desired effect.

In a few years scab disappeared and the success of sheep husbandry was assured. These measures were supplemented by stringent laws against the introduction of sheep from foreign countries; even those transferred from one colony to another were subjected to quarantine and were dipped before being released; indeed, all had and still have to undergo a rigorous quarantine for six weeks previous to their removal. Under the inspector all sheep have to be dipped whether infected or not; by this means the disease is kept perfectly under control.

Why have we no such laws in America? If there are, what is the use of them if they are never enforced? Examine our sheep pens in connection with our great stock yards; they actually reek with the disease, the miserable sheep disseminating scab wherever they go, yet there is no hand to stay its ravages. Shearing only takes place once a year in Australia, and immediately after shearing every sheep is required by law to be dipped in a solution of tobacco and sulphur. The proportions are one pound of each to four gallons of water.

The sheep inspectors see that all owners obey this law strictly, and if they find that through neglect the sheep of any owner are becoming diseased they may by law have them cared for and charged to the owner. In addition to the above the law provides that if the sheep of one owner, being diseased, get among and disease those of another the former is liable to damages. As might be expected under the influence of such sanitary and police laws sheep husbandry is placed upon a safe, permanent and profitable basis.—William Watson in Breeder's Gazette.

**Live Fenceposts.**

A willow stake set right end up in the ground in the spring, and with a few buds at its top, is almost certain to grow. In two or three years more its trunk will be large enough to nail a board on, and it can thus be used as a fencepost. Some who do this let the tree grow as large as it will, but it will bear shortening by cutting off its top and becoming an indestructible fencepost, taking little more room than one that has no roots.—American Farmer.

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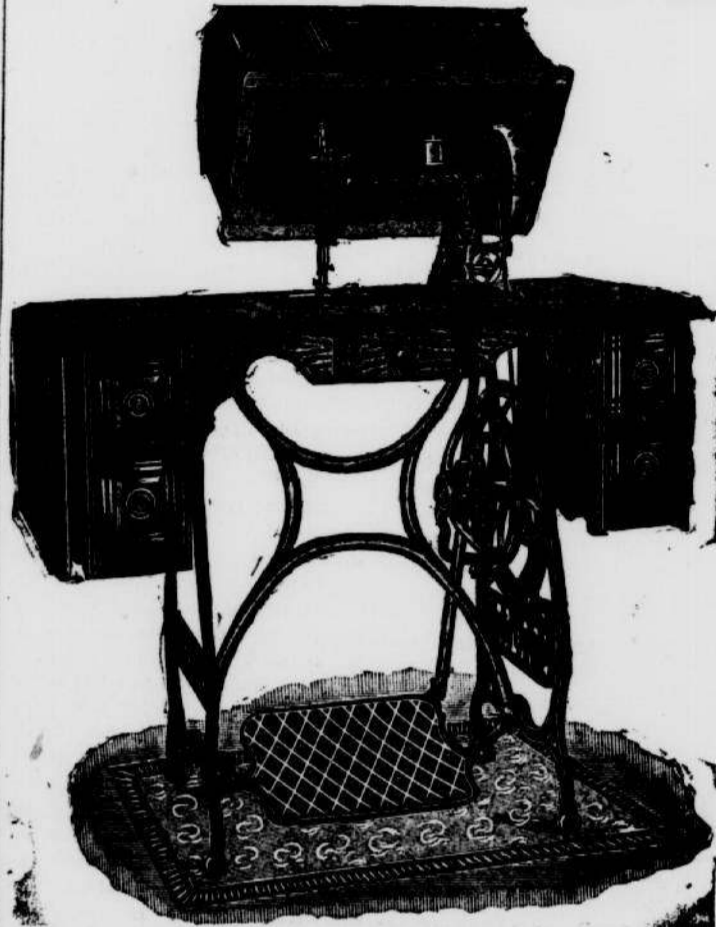
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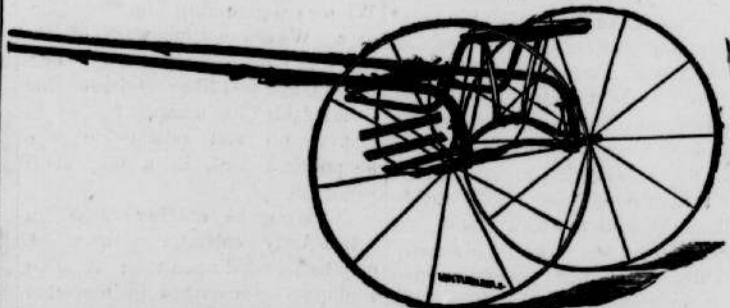
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