

the declaration of a moratorium—a period of delay in the cash settlement of debts—might have been necessary, war or no war. It is well to bear in mind that practically all our present difficulties are due to the European war entirely independent of our action in joining with Great Britain. It will be necessary for the present parliament to legislate for the relief of home conditions, and it is to be hoped that this will not be done too hastily or without due consideration. In a crisis like the present there is always a tendency to do what seems most expedient at the moment without considering sufficiently the question of ultimate justice. Big Business is as thoroughly organized now as it was a month ago, but it is to be hoped that parliament will not give its interests any more consideration than those of the plain people who are unorganized. As a correspondent very tersely phrased it in a letter received yesterday, "We are more in danger of commercial traitors at home than of outside enemies." I trust that his view is unduly pessimistic, but that feature of pending legislation is the one that is most in need of watching. The war-aid legislation will probably voice the opinion of the mass of the people and its burdens will belong to the future.

It cannot be said that many of us truly realize the gravity of the present situation. There is danger that the whole world will be involved before the war is over, and if it is of long duration Canada will have problems to deal with as acute as if war were being waged within our own borders. The question of how to provide for the unemployed during the coming winter will be one that may tax our resources to the utmost. Business may not be able to resume its operations as quickly as we should like, and a general depression in almost all industries is almost inevitable. Farming alone promises to be active and profitable, and it is to be guarded lest measures for the protection of other business should prove too far-reaching and discourage the most necessary work of all—the production of the world's food. The present is above all a time of waiting, and until matters begin to take form it will be wise for all of us to avoid discussions that might breed dissension. Above all we need unity among ourselves, and it is very necessary that we should close ranks and face the future shoulder to shoulder.

Ekfrid, Aug. 19th, 1914.

THE HORSE.

It requires a good judge of horses to be a successful foal buyer.

A little care is generally necessary in starting the horses on the new oats.

There may be some good business for stallion owners this fall, as we hear many suggesting breeding for fall colts.

Where the horses are not working too hard it is good practice to let them out these warm nights, but they should not be expected to "pick" all their feed. Grain and good hay are necessary in addition to pasture however good.

Over in Scotland when a man goes out to buy a colt or a horse it is said that he begins looking at the feet and joints and works upwards, and when he has had a good look over the animal he goes back to his feet and joints.

Horse Must Take the Place of Horse.

The season of 1914 has been one of depression in the horse market, and yet prices have been high enough to pay for raising good colts and leave a margin of profit if proper steps were taken to keep down cost. There has not been the bustle in the exchange stables and the overcrowding of horse barns that has been common the last few years. Is there not an undue quietness in the breeding stables just now? It would seem that this is one of the best times to encourage the business by a little boosting. A large number of horses will likely be shipped out of the country in the near future to meet the military needs of the Motherland, and for our own Canadian troops on their way to fight for the Empire in Europe. There are not great numbers of idle horses in Canada, and while certain qualifications must be filled by the horses taken for the war, there will be no rigid requirements for those to take their places. Every horse that goes must have his place filled. The thing for our horsemen to do is to bolster up their business right away. Put on a good front and if the goods are in the barns, breeding stock to stay right here in Canada is sure to be a good price. For the farmer the best policy is to continue with the draft horse. Do not let

this talk of 1,000-lb. and 1,300-lb. horses carry weight. True, these are needed for the army, but after the war what? Then it is that the drafter will be in greatest demand. It is not too early now to commence breeding. The war will be over before next summer's colts are ready for the harness, but it is not likely that prices will have fallen. Get right in on the ground floor and breed heavy horses now. At the coming shows is a good time to manifest faith in the future of horsebreeding.

Where Color Counts.

There is an old saying among horsemen that a good horse is never a bad color. This is quite true, but during the search for army horses for use at the front in the present war color counts. Many people object to grays, whites, roans and creams, but the army officials absolutely refuse to buy these at all. Any other color is all right, but no bids are made on the light-colored stock. In the olden days it was the common practice for officers to ride white chargers and sometimes whole regiments rode gray horses, but modern war is different. With the flaming red coat and glistening gloss of the dress parade has gone the light-colored horse. There is less danger of being hit when the opposing forces cannot see what they are shooting at. Bright colors have in the past made all too good targets. The gray horse may be a good worker, but he is not a good war horse. This is about the only place where color really counts for or against the horse.



Harviestoun Wattie.

First-prize pony stallion at the Royal.

Tractor vs. Horse Power on the Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The American farmers who contemplate purchasing tractors for general use in farm operations will do well to consider thoughtfully the experience of Canadian farmers, who have made the most extensive use of tractors of any farmers in the world.

Reasons for the general use of tractors in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba were:

1. Large areas of prairie sod purchased at low prices, and of such character as to render feasible operation of from 500 to 2,000 acres per field.
- 2.—High prices of horses, and refusal of horse owners to sell unless substantial cash payment was made.
- 3.—Willingness of tractor companies to sell complete outfits, costing from \$4,000 to \$10,000, on very small initial payments and long-time notes, most of them running for three years.
- 4.—Knowledge that such outfits had been known to break from 20 to 30 acres of sod per day when handled by experts.
- 5.—Lack of knowledge as to depreciation and cost of operation of such engine outfits, especially in comparison with the cost of horse operations.

The result was the purchase of thousands of tractors in the Canadian Northwest. They have now been used from two to five years, and the Canadian farmers, business men, and bankers have had experience enough to know their advantages and disadvantages. The net result is an overwhelming decision against such outfits for general farm work. A few have been successful with tractors, but even these can not show returns that will indicate any advantage over horse outfits.

Briefly stated, Dominion farmers have found

that it costs more to plow, disc, seed or harvest with tractors than with horses, when interest on investment and depreciation in value are properly figured in. The writer in July, 1914, made an extended trip through Northwestern Canada, and secured detailed cost figures from many farmers. To give all, is out of the question in this article but the detailed data supplied by Charles Esterbrook, of Alberta, is given for illustration:

DAILY COST FIGURES ON TRACTOR PLOWING.

GAS ENGINE—45 H.P.—25 H.P.—ON DRAWBAR PLOWING STRIP TEN FEET WIDE.	
Cost of engine and plows, \$3,990.00	
Interest on same at 7%, \$279.30 per year or on 313 working days, per day, 88c.....	.88
Depreciation 25% on total \$3,990, or \$997.50 per year, or \$3.19 per day.	3.19
Gasoline, 45 gals. per day—33 1-3c. delivered at farm—per day.....	15.00
Cylinder oil 3 gals. at 80c. per gal.....	2.40
Gear oil—1 gal. per day—at 30c. per gal.....	.30
Hard oil and transmission grease—estimate per day—10c.....	.10
Engineer per day.....	5.00
Competent plowman, per day.....	3.50
Board of same two men at 50c. each per day.....	1.00
Total.....	\$31.87

Average plowed per day 20 acres, or average cost per acre of \$1.57. In the preceding he did not figure in the cost of sharpening plows as he uses disc plows, sharpens but once a season at 50c. per disc, or \$7.00 per season for 14 discs. Mr. Esterbrook had not figured his horse plowing costs, but on request gave the following actual cost figures.

DAILY COST FIGURES ON HORSE PLOWING.

GANG PLOW—TWO 12-INCH PLOWS—SIX HORSES WORKED TOGETHER.	
Cost of gang plow—2, 12-inch plows and 2 extra shares, \$90.00.	
Interest on same at 7% \$6.30 per year, or on 313 days, 2c. per day.....	.02
Depreciation 10% per year; repairs 5%; total \$13.50 per year or 4c. per day.....	.04
Value of six horses used on gang \$150.00 per pair, or \$450.00 for the six small horses.	
Interest on same at 7% \$31.50 per year, or 10c. per day.....	.10
Depreciation nil—increase in value of young animals being broken, and produce from mares offsetting loss and depreciation.	
Cost of man at \$40.00 per month, per day \$1.53.....	1.53
Board of man per day.....	.50
Feed of six horses:	
Each 18 qts of oats per day @ 32c. per bu. for 6.....	1.08
Each 21 lbs. of hay per day @ \$7.00 per ton for 6.....	.57
Harness 3 sets at \$40 per set—\$120.	
Interest on same at 7%—\$8.40 per year; or per day.....	.0268
Depreciation on harness 10% per year; repairs 5%. Total 15% or \$18.00 per year—per day.....	.007
Sharpening plow points—estimated at 30c. per day each gang.....	.30
Total.....	\$ 4.16
Average plowed per day, 5 acres, cost per acre.....	.83

Mr. Esterbrook in commenting on the matter remarked that he himself had not previously recognized how great the difference was, and added that his chief purpose in buying the tractor was to have his own threshing outfit, as he had found it difficult to have this work done in time to escape snowfall. He added that he had been planning to decrease the field work done with the tractor, holding it principally for other work.

Other farmers who gave detailed cost figures confirmed in substance the data given by Esterbrook. All were agreed in declaring that 20 acres was the maximum acreage plowed per day when a season's work was considered, and the majority were of the opinion that this was above the average.

The highest cost figure given by any farmer for horse plowing was 83 cents; the lowest cost given by any on tractor plowing was \$1.55. All agreed, also, that the tractor suffered a still greater disadvantage in the lighter work, such as discing, seeding and harvesting.

Still more significant of the judgment of Canadians on this question was their actual field procedure, seen in an extended auto trip in Alberta at a time when summer-fallowing was in progress. Only three tractor outfits were seen at work, but we passed hundreds of horse-drawn plows. At numerous places we found tractors idle in the