

'I have been vastly pleased with the way in which the Strathcona Horse had distinguished themselves in the field. The troop had proved a very fine body of men, and he had been proud of them ever since they had left for South Africa. There is another thing, of which I am very proud, and that is the fine stand the Canadian horses took in the hardships of the contest. I have it on excellent authority, and from many sources, that the horses which were shipped from the Canadian Northwest to South Africa have proved themselves to be the finest class of horses used there by the British army. This will do Canada and Canadian trade an immense amount of good in the future. I have no doubt that the advertisement Canada has received in connection with the sending of the contingents to South Africa will prove of the most substantial and material benefit. Why, the knowledge Englishmen have gained about Canada has been something enormous, and must tend to largely increase her trade in the future. It is dissemination of knowledge that must prove of enormous value in inducing capital to come to this country for investment.

### PONIES.

(London 'Spectator.')

Sir Walter Gilbey, one of the best judges of domestic animals in England, has published two elegant little books on ponies for use in war—'Small horses in warfare' and 'Ponies, past and present' (Vinton & Co., 2s. each). He is the owner of some of the best shire horses in England, and his hackney champion has just taken the prize as the finest allround horse in the world at the Paris exhibition, where the cosmopolitan crowd of Italians, French, Russians Hungarians and the rest, whose own horses had been beaten rose spontaneously to their feet, waving hats and handkerchiefs and shouting 'Encore' in four different languages, as the finest harness horse ever seen passed them in all the pri-

de and display of its incomparable action. But the possession which many people envy more than this is his pony 'Rosewater,' the most famous sire of polo ponies in the world.

Speaking with the practical authority guaranteed by these successes as a breeder of horses of all sizes, the author is convinced that for the use of our mounted infantry we must have a special breed of war ponies, or small horses. A cross of Arab blood with our native moor and forest ponies might, he thinks, give us the ideal animal for this kind of work. This view, which is probably correct, assumes that a pony is something different from a horse, and that it has qualities or capabilities of a kind which it can impart to the larger animal by crossing. In other words, a pony is not merely a small horse, which can subsist on rather less food than the larger breeds, but an animal in which a greater degree proportionately of strength, constitution, endurance, and perhaps intelligence, is concentrated and inherited. Ignorance, which is defined at Grimsby as not to know a dab from a flounder, is supposed at Horncastle Fair to be embodied in the man who does not know a horse from a pony. Yet the question 'What is a pony?' meets with no certain answer. Those who go by the card take the mere rule of height, and say that any animal under fourteen hands two inches is a pony. That is the maximum height allowed in polo matches in England. In India it is thirteen hands three inches. But many polo ponies are simply small thoroughbreds, with very little difference in points between them and the racing thoroughbred except that they are older and more developed. The ideal polo pony has been defined as 'a miniature thoroughbred steeplechaser,' which is not a pony at all except that it can carry a heavier man for its size than a racehorse. Perhaps the best means of forming an independent idea of what it is that confers on the pony the distinction of representing a different type, physically as well as mentally, is to compare a number of por-