



Fig. 1—A Gunner.

A chestnut mare purchased in Western Ontario for artillery purposes.

THE HORSE.

Canadian Horses for the War.

After enjoying one hundred years of peaceful negotiations with our nearest neighbors and indulging in only a few disturbances that did not call for mounted hosts or the development of a transport system of great efficiency, it is not remarkable that Canadians should desire information about the types of animals required to carry on a war of artillery involving millions of men and horses. Fortunately we in Canada have been trained to appreciate the drafter, the roadster or the carriage horse along with other types that make our great constructive industries possible, but now there comes a call from across the waters for horses with peculiar qualifications. The animals required may be useful in their present sphere, but in the zone to which they will be transported they are discussed in the language of war not of peace, and terms applied to them are different from those we commonly hear. In order to convey to our readers further information about the types of horses desired by the Remount Commission we visited an assembling depot where over 900 horses purchased by the Commission in Western Ontario are stationed. The illustrations accompanying this article represent typical animals as they are grouped for different purposes.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate gunners. Horses are desired for this purpose that weigh from 1,250 to 1,300 pounds. They must be sound, firm of bone, not coarse, and give evidence of being active and strong. Animals may measure up to these demands and yet indicate an irritable or nervous temperament. Such are not the best gunners for they are likely to give trouble when in or near action, and the buyers are sometimes obliged to turn down an otherwise good candidate on account of anticipated bad conduct at the front. Both the gunners shown us were firmly-knit individuals, wide between the eyes, agreeable and docile.

The transport horse will do with less speed and activity than the gunner, but he must have more weight and strength. However the duties of the transport animal are not those of our heavy drafter. They must move quickly at times with their loads. The remarks regarding temperament in the gunner are applicable to transport horses, they must not be irritable or nervous. The Commission are looking for horses that weigh from



Fig. 3—A Transport Horse.

A horse purchased in Western Ontario by the Remount Commission.

1,400 to 1,500 pounds, with the conformation that indicates appetite and capacity for a good meal. They must be clean, strong-boned specimens, and the animals gathered by the buyers did not possess any great amount of feather on their legs. Figures 3 and 4 represent this type, the latter being a particularly good individual, clean, firmly put together and strongly coupled. These are the kind desired for transport purposes.

A trooper's life often depends on his mount. For the cavalry the best is none too good. The average horse desired by the buyers in Western Ontario will stand from 15-2 to 15-3 hands high and will weigh from 1,100 to 1,150 pounds. Figure 5 is an illustration of this type of horse and it gives evidence of Thoroughbred blood, ability to gallop and carry some weight. The average trooper will weigh from 165 to 170 pounds, and his equipment will weigh another hundred pounds, so the mount is required to carry in the vicinity of 270 pounds over all kinds of roads, fields, hills and dangerous places. Surefootedness is another prime requisite. With the weight of the rider and the varied character of the ground over which this type of horse must operate, only animals with complete control of their feet will be trusted. The true kind of a cavalry horse has a short back which is almost covered by the saddle. They are muscular, clean-boned, speedy, intelligent and full of energy.

Care of Stallions Between Seasons.

That the reproductive powers of stallions are influenced to a considerable extent by the care and attention they receive during the periods between stud seasons no horseman will deny. The too common practice of giving stallions neither work nor exercise after the season ends until shortly before the next season is about to commence is irrational and harmful. In order that a stallion may do his best in the stud, as regards the number and physical condition of his produce, it is necessary that his muscular, respira-

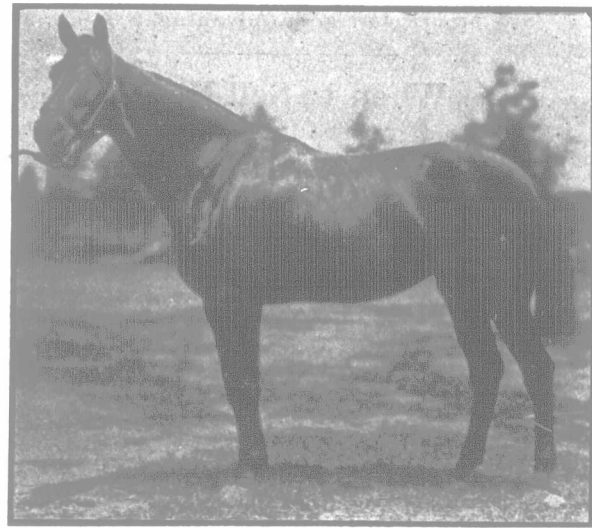


Fig. 5—The Cavalry Horse.

Fleety, sure-footed, strong horses, are desired for the cavalry.

tory, digestive and genital systems be not allowed to become weak at any time, and in order that these organs may be kept in proper condition it is necessary that time and care be given during the eight or ten months of the year that he is not required for stud purposes. In large breeding establishments where several stallions are kept and generally stand on the premises for service, there is usually a number of large paddocks in which each horse is allowed to run for a few hours every fine day during the whole year, and under such conditions he will take sufficient voluntary exercise to keep the above mentioned systems in an active, healthy condition. On the other hand where but one or two stallions are owned, often in a village, town or city and are put out on a regular route during May and June, which is the recognized stud season, the owner, in many cases, has not the necessary paddocks of the required size, and the horses, in many cases, stand in box-stalls and are seldom taken out for any purpose until the next stud season is approaching. In the meantime the horse's muscles become soft and flabby, and his digestive and respiratory organs become more or less weak from want of function, and as a consequence his generative organs must suffer and become impaired. It is unreasonable to expect a sire under such conditions to produce a large percentage of foals of to expect those produced to be of the desired strength and general physical vigor. The organs mentioned cannot be brought to a satisfactory condition by a few days or even weeks' attention in the spring. It is of sires under conditions of this kind that we wish to speak.

A stallion that has been on a weekly route for two months or more has, of necessity, been highly fed in order to keep him in condition.

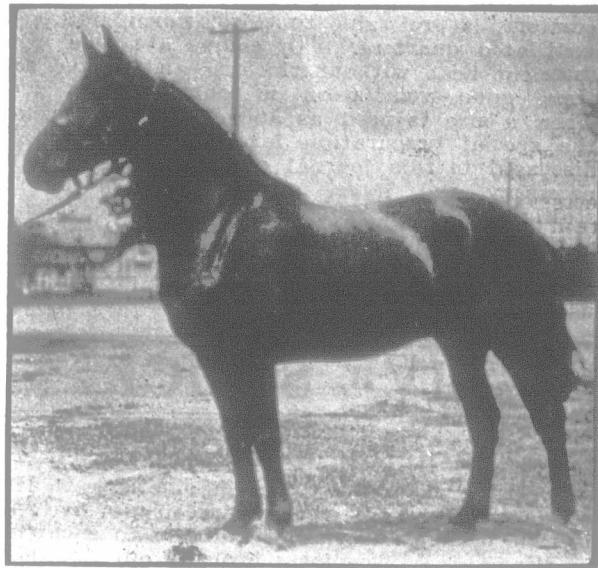


Fig. 2—Another Gunner.

A little more closely coupled, and a good, active horse for the front.

This is necessary in order to enable him to endure the physical exercise required and also perform the functions of a sire. When the season is over we consider it wise to allow him a rest of two or three weeks, but the change in food and labor should not be too sudden. His feed should be gradually reduced and he should be given a little daily exercise for a week or ten days. Then withhold hay and grain for about 12 to 18 hours, feeding bran only, then give him a purgative of aloes or raw linseed oil. We consider this good practice in any case where a horse has been highly fed and kept at high tension for a few months. It gives the digestive organs a rest, or at least a temporary change. After administering the purgative feed bran only until purgation commences, then feed lightly on grass, bran and a little grain and allow him comparative rest for two or three weeks. While we have stated that the various organs should be kept in good condition by regular exercise, we consider that a few weeks' rest as stated is advisable. After this time he will be better performing ordinary farm or road work and fed accordingly. It is not wise to work him to exhaustion, or to ask him to perform work that will require extreme muscular or respiratory exertion, and hence impair rather than improve his condition, but regular, ordinary work is beneficial. It is well to feed considerable grass, bran and other easily digested foods, but unless he be sick no drugs should be given other than the purgative mentioned. Where there is no work for him to do, and a suitable paddock for voluntary exercise is not obtainable, he should have at least a few miles of daily exercise, either on the halter, in harness or under saddle. This, of course takes time, but it is necessary when we wish to do the best for the horse. When cold weather arrives and grass is not procurable, he should, in addition to hay and oats in reasonable quantities, according to the labor he is performing, be given a few roots daily and a feed of bran with a little linseed meal two or three times weekly. As regards grooming, the somewhat popular opinion that a stallion should not be groomed after the season ends until the next spring, that he sheds better under such conditions, is, in our opinion, radically wrong. In order that any horse may do and feel his best it is necessary that his skin be in good condition, whether he be working or idle, and this cannot be unless regular grooming be given. In regard to blanketing, the nature of the stable must decide. The horse should be kept comfortable, and we are of the opinion that thorough ventilation, even at the expense of heat,



Fig. 4—A Good Type of Transport Horse.

Also one of many purchased by the Commission.