

MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE HORSE AND OF INTEREST TO TURF FOLLOWERS

Thousands of Remounts Required

Britain's Army Short by Acknowledgment of Minister of War Between a Hundred and Two Hundred Thousand Horses, a Large Proportion of Which Canada Might Supply—Interesting Letter From Major-General Benson—Splendid Work of the Canadian National Bureau of Breeding.

Impress: In the British house of commons early in the year the Right Hon. Bernard Haldane, minister of war, stated that the regular army required 67,278 horses and the territorial forces 65,287, a total of 132,565. Roughly, said he, there is a deficiency of 120,000 horses.

If Hungary, the United States, Canada and Australia had not furnished horses to the British army during the Boer war, what would the British army have done?

In a war with one of the powers or any recognized nation all these countries would not be open. Hungary and the United States would not, for horses then would be contraband. What would the British army do then?

Turn in vain to Canada? Nay, what would we do if we were called upon to furnish a hundred thousand men to defend the empire, with the proviso the more horsemen and artillery the better. A Where, oh where, would the horses come from?

We propose to maintain a fleet to protect our commerce and to fight the battles of the empire. We might with equal advantage maintain an army of horses. It would be equally as efficient on land as the ships on sea for either defence or offence.

As a distinguished gentleman recently said, "The Ontario government proposes to give four hundred thousand dollars for a museum, what does it propose to do for the horse?" The latter would surely prove the most remunerative. Furthermore we can live and thrive without the museum, but where should we be without the horse?

What has the Ontario government done for the National Bureau of Breeding? What action does it propose to take in connection with General Ben-

son's remount scheme? And what, oh what, is that one-time military gentleman, who with Sir George White bears the honor of being a hero of Ladysmith—to wit one Sydney Fisher—and his associates in the federal government, proposing to do?

Is the answer still to be that one long wall, that hideous shriek of lost souls, NOTHING?

General Benson's Letter. Sir: As a result of the report of the "Hunters' Improvement Society" in England, with which is incorporated, "The Brood Mare Society," the English government is about to make an annual grant of £10,000, and of this amount £10,000 goes to Ireland, to assist the breeding of light horses in the United Kingdom suitable for army purposes.

The committee in the 3rd paragraph of their report say: "The diminution in the number of light horses bred in recent years is an admitted fact. It is due partly to the increase in mechanical traction, and the consequent decline of a market for muffs, and partly to the fact that the majority of farmers can no longer afford to hunt; and therefore, the absence of any inducement, and very often in the absence of facilities, either for acquiring brood mares, or getting them served by suitable stallions, they have lost interest in light horse breeding."

Under Para. 5—"National Importance of Adequate Supply." "Besides the foreign market, the demand for high-class hunters and polo ponies must be the main in-

centive for breeders to engage in the production of light horses, and it is to these breeds that the army must look for its supply of horses—animals of the hunter type are the sort most required for the army, and the pony of 142 is probably too small for general army purposes, yet the pony that grows too big for polo, say, 15.1, is extremely serviceable, and just the kind of animal required. These breeds, therefore, should be specially encouraged, as being those from which the army can most easily draw what it needs, but as being unfortunately those which offer the smallest prospects commercially.

"The other breeds, such as the Hackney, the Shire and the Clydesdale can safely be left to themselves. Whatever may be the case with the Hackney, the Shire and the heavy horses generally, are sufficiently profitable in breeding to secure a plentiful supply."

Hunter and riding pony breeding offers the smallest chance of profit not because the prices of the best are adequate—the best—those which will make high-class hunters or polo ponies, will always command good prices—because it is more difficult to dispose of the muffs except at a loss. Mechanical traction has a great demand for muffs, and, also, no doubt, there will always be a limited market for them. It is likely to decline, rather than increase in the future, etc.

The remainder of the committee's report is too lengthy for the letter.

Such then is the condition of matters in this vital element of army supplies. To a great extent similar conditions prevail in Canada, and I sincerely hope that those interested in the question, will see their way to establishing a ranch in Alberta, where a few heavy horses could be bred as a paying concern, but where particular attention could be paid to the purchase of young stock of the kind suitable for army purposes; that is to say, the hunter type of horse, and the handling and training them for disposal in the Canadian market.

And now a word as to the market itself. Canada differs very materially from the old country in this respect—England's market is a declining one, while that of Canada is a growing one. A large number of people are coming into the Dominion; towns are growing up rapidly—men are becoming rich, and able to afford themselves and families every sort of luxury and the very conditions of the country will make it imperative that children shall be early taught to ride. Hunt clubs are forming, polo is becoming increasingly popular; smart carriage horses are in brisk demand in large cities, and motorists can find a home in many towns, and surely these conditions quite sufficient to encourage such an enterprise as here outlined. (Signed) Fred W. Benson, major general (retired), St. Catharines, Ont.

Work of the Breeding Bureau. Manager, founder and mainstay. Jan. F. Ryan of the National Bureau of Breeding has issued his report for 1910. He chronicles a continued and ever-increasing success. A few facts from the report follow:

General Sir John French, Inspector-General of His Majesty's forces, has joined the Bureau of governors. So has Baron la Rue du Can de Manitoba, formerly connected with the French Bureau of Breeding.

Canada is 33,000 horses short of mobilization strength. The Bureau is in its fourth year of existence. Bureau foals are earning enormous prizes everywhere. So are bureau stallions.

Earl Rogers, by Imp. Sain, son of St. Serf, son of St. Simon, out of St. Uncle Bob, that won first prize at the last Canadian National Exhibition, and that was donated to the Bureau by William (Red) Walker, has been placed with C. L. Hervey in Glenarry County, Edwin Gum, by Plutus, also donated by Mr. Walker, has been placed with Dr. J. P. Mallory, Morris, Man.

R. F. Carman, who gave that perpetual champion prize winner, Rosemount, as well as Acrobat, to the Bureau, has also donated Tereza, by Hanover's son, Abe Frank. He has been placed at Prince Albert, Sask. Morokuta, by Morocco, donated by Major Dinsgield, has also been placed in Saskatchewan. Lorica, by Imp. Order, by Bend Or, also presented by the major, has been placed in Manitoba.

Nine bureau stallions have been placed in Alberta, which seems destined to be the great horse-breeding province of the Dominion. Masterman, a Canadian Bureau stallion, won the thoroughbred championship at the recent National Horse Show in New York.

All the bureau stallions are subject to rigid veterinary inspection and are guaranteed hereditarily sound. A half-bred register has been started by the Bureau. The report calls it a half-bred stud book. Such a book would indicate breeding down instead of up. A register is clearly meant.

The Bureau work is as thorough as circumstances permit. It is up to horse owners, breeders and the government to make it more so.

The board of governors of the Bureau is as follows: Major George W. Stephens, M. L. A., Montreal, (chairman); General John French, London, England; W. W. Hubbard, Secretary for Agriculture, Fredericton, New Brunswick; Lieut.-Col. Ashmead and Allen Bowell, Quebec; Hon. Clifford St. John, Fenator Edwards, Dr. R. E. Webster, M. F. H. A. Z. Palmer, Ottawa; Senator Robert Bell, Bowmanville, Ont.; M. J. O'Brien, Renfrew, Ont.; Lieut.-Col. Rudolph Forster, M. P., Andrew Shearer, M. F. H. Col. J. J. Riley, D. Raymond, C. L. Hervey and John P. Ryan, Montreal; G. W. Cook, Morrisburg, Ont.; A. E. Dymott, H. J. P. Good Toronto, Ont.; George Caruthers, Windsor, Man.; Baron de la Rue du Can, St. Catharines, Ont.; H. C. Lawson, Secretary, Board of Trade, Regina, Sask.; Osborne Brown, Calgary, Alta.; Major S. Harris, Vancouver, B. C.; and F. J. Robt. son, Halifax, N. S. It is an honor to belong.

Copies of the report can be had by addressing John F. Ryan, Queen's Hotel, Montreal, or H. J. P. Good, P. O. Box 242, Toronto, or 644 Manning Ave.

Make a Note of This. General Sir John French, the greatest of cavalry generals, said in his report: "It would seem to me that the country lends itself in a peculiarly favorable manner to horse breeding generally, and that if some form of government encouragement and assistance were given to breeders a great industry might arise which would prove of great benefit not only to Western Canada but to the empire at large."

During the coming year the National Bureau will endeavor to place at least thirty additional sires. A crop of 1900 foals is expected in 1911 and this should be more than doubled in 1912. The Bureau aims ultimately to produce ten or twelve thousand foals per year, with a market value of about \$2,500,000.

Timing at Winter Meetings. A Couple of Suggestions That Might Advantageously be Considered, Tho They Might Not Find Sufficient Favor to be Adopted.

Why should not some attempt be made to put so-called ice races on something like a similar footing to summer races? At present many irregularities and much confusion as to time and classification prevail. According to the rule made in ice or snow races is a bar in similar races, but it is more often than not, a case of go-as-you-please, records made at acknowledged. Winter meetings in Canada have become of such importance that an organization for the government of the sport all over the land might well be formed. The principal racing of the winter takes place at Ottawa and if Secretary McMahon thinks favorably of the idea, and I am rather disposed to think he will, he might well take the initiative at the gathering in February and summon a meeting of horsemen and representatives from other places to organize. Slipshod methods at ice races are well calculated to foster similar proceedings on other occasions and to the justification of Frank Lang's query at the recent meeting of the board of review of the National Trotting Association: "Have you ever known or heard of any half-mile track meeting where time was not suppressed?" It is all very well for the board of review to tell Mr. Lang, who is one of the most experienced harness-horse men in the good old State of Vermont, the principal

home of the Morgans, and who brought out the champion pacing mare Eastwick, 2:01½, that if it does not report these things he becomes a party to them, but every man is not going to turn informer. Mr. Lang, in touching the alarm, rendered good service and instead of being blamed and abused by the president he should have been thanked for so pointedly alluding to the matter. There is many a man who knows half-mile track racing well who holds the same opinion of the goings-on as does the gentleman from Vermont. Rigid investigation would reveal much that might surprise the worthy president and lead to the cure, if not the undoing of many half-mile track associations. If report speaks truly for instance the thing in the races at the great fair in this city has not always been as exact as it might be, and when the biggest of all offenders where might the smallest be expected to get off? The matter is that the National Trotting Association does not adopt a system of regular official timers who would be responsible to itself and whom it would designate and authorize to act at the different recognized meetings. This might easily be arranged by keeping a register of timers according to districts. If the winter meeting organization was formed an example could be set to the parent organization by appointing official stewards who would be responsible for the correct timing.

was a good time to pick up bargains and they were undoubtedly right, for many good serviceable horses changed hands under previous prices. This week there will be more bargains to be had, as in the eight or nine hundred animals to be offered or on sale by private commission at the various markets there are some of excellent merit. The fact is, despite the apparent liberality of Christmas buyers, and the volume of transactions in general business, money is inclined to be tight, and values are not nearly so buoyant as they have been made to appear. This is something that first holders would do well to understand. Prospects are good for business in the west, but advice from there say horses are creeping in from the States to the detriment and disadvantage of trade with the eastern provinces. Train breeders are multiplying in the land of the free and the provinces are becoming less and less dependent upon this part of the country. This is possibly a pessimistic view of the situation, but it is as certain as day follows the night that boomer prices will disastrously effect the home market. A local authority has stated that the breed of horses in Ontario is deteriorating. Your most obedient servant, "Pop" does not believe it. In fact his own observations and recent

TREND OF TRADE IN THE CASE OF HORSES. Prices Ruled Lower During the Past Week, Altho Volume of Trade was Exceptionally Large for the Season—Bargain Seekers Busy.

Judging from the announcement of horses for sale, there has been little of the usual lull in the horse trade this Xmas season. Prices, however, ruled low, altho at that some good sales were made to go to distant places, visiting shoppers evidently thinking this

UNION STOCK YARDS HORSE EXCHANGE TORONTO, ONT.

1000 Horses

The Union Stock Yards of Toronto and the Horse Exchange Department beg to wish everyone A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

On account of Christmas Day being celebrated this year on Monday (one of our regular auctions days) our regular Monday auction will be postponed for this week.

GREAT SPECIAL AUCTION SALE Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1910 at 11 a.m.

250 HORSES

including special consignments of Heavy Drafts and Agricultural Horses, General Purpose, Express and Delivery Horses, Carriage Horses, Drivers, and a number of Second-hand City Horses, as well as Harness, Buggies, etc., etc.

HERBERT SMITH, Manager.

MAHER'S HORSE EXCHANGE 16 TO 28 HAYDEN STREET

PRIVATE SALES of Horses, Carriages, Harness, etc., EVERY DAY

AUCTION SALES Every Monday and Thursday at 11 a.m.

"THE HORSE MARKET OF CANADA"

350 Horses By Auction Next Week

Monday (December 26th) At 10.30 a.m. **200 Horses**

Thursday (December 29th) At 11 a.m. **150 Horses**

REMEMBER THE TIME, OUR MONDAY'S SALE commencing at 10.30 a.m., on account of that day being a holiday. At the two sales we shall have some of the very best horses possible to obtain, suitable for WESTERN BUYERS, LUMBERMEN or others wishing to get first-class stuff. We are assured of several carloads of good Western horses, a large majority being marked as "extras," call your attention to the following special consignments, which we shall sell on

MONDAY NEXT CONSIGNED BY **THE HENDRIE CARTAGE CO., Hamilton, Ont.**

A carload of about twenty of their horses that have been working right up to date in their big lorries in Hamilton. These horses are extra big, fine, powerful horses, and are in the pink of working condition. There is a good number of mares in the consignment, and the lot offers exceptional value to the prospective buyer. We have received instructions to sell the entire load without the slightest reserve.

CONSIGNED TO US BY A CITY GENTLEMAN, who is giving up his horses, a CHESTNUT MARE, 5 years old, is hands and perfectly broken every way. This is a beautiful Saddle Mare, and quite with all city sicks and sounds. Anybody wishing a thoroughly reliable mare can make no mistake with this one. We have been instructed to SELL.

A CARLOAD OF HORSES FOR THE WEST

Consigned by Mr. Johnston, Mount Albert, Ont. This gentleman had bought a carload of horses in the country intending shipment to the North-West, but is now unable, on account of his health, to go back, and has consigned the horses to us to sell. The load consists almost entirely of mares, and all are bought with the express purpose of WESTERN SHIPMENT. Every horse in the consignment will be sold without the slightest reserve.

Notice! Notice! Notice! ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9th, 1911, at 11 a.m., we shall hold the ANNUAL SALE OF HORSES of

T. EATON CO LIMITED

This lot of Forty Horses are used for the very heavy Winter and holiday season deliveries, and as the trade slackens off after the New Year, these horses will be consigned to us to sell to the highest bidder. Watch our advertisements next week for further particulars.

AND ON MONDAY AND THURSDAY WE SHALL ALSO SELL a number of serviceable sound workers and drivers consigned to us by city people who have no further use for them, also a large number of Robes, Blankets, New and Second-hand Harness, etc.

WE SELL STRICTLY ON COMMISSION. COMMISSION: 5 per cent. ENTRY FEE: (if not sold), 1 per horse.

ALL HORSES sold with a warranty are returnable by noon the day following day of sale, if not as represented.

YONGE, Dupont, Avenue Road, between the line and Church cars pass within half a block of our stables.

P. MAHER, Proprietor. CHAS. BROTHERS, Manager. GEO. JACKSON, Auctioneer.

observations at that, in different parts of the country and this province, convince him to the contrary. The breed of horses has improved, but the export trade formerly enjoyed has dwindled because of tariffs, increase of breeding and improvements in transportation in the United States. Still much more might be accomplished, but when the Canadian-bred Clyde of today is compared with the Canadian-bred of a score of years ago it is impossible to see anything but improvement. At the same time it is impossible to buy as cheaply as you could then and consequently horses of com-

mon conformation come more under the eye.

Exaggerating Prices. (American Horse Breeder) If proprietors of papers could realize the ridiculous light in which their publications are made to appear, by their incompetent reporters, who exaggerate hands, to at least four times the actual amount paid, they would not publish such absurd statements. They reflect seriously upon the judgment of the purchaser, and are a positive injury to the trotting breeding industry.

THE REPOSITORY

"THE CENTRE OF THE HORSE TRADE." CORNER SIMCOE AND NELSON STREETS, TORONTO

BURNS & SHEPPARD Proprietors. ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

AUCTION SALES OF HORSES

Tuesday and Friday of Next Week PRIVATE SALES EVERY DAY

We take this opportunity to wish all our patrons A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. As always, they may rely on our best efforts and assistance in the year to come.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH AT 11 A.M.

150 Horses

The best selections of all classes: Heavy Drafts, General Purpose, Expresses, Delivery, Wagon Horses, Workers, Drivers, Carriage and Saddle Horses. Buyers should not fail to visit The Repository next week. We will have plenty of horses.

City Horses

30 to 60 For Unreserved Sale EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

These horses are consigned to us by city firms, expressmen and private citizens who have no further use for them, or are replacing them with other horses. Many of them were purchased for good prices, and have nothing new the matter with them, except being a little footsore from the city pavements. These sales of city horses offer the best opportunity for both buyers and sellers to meet and make a fair exchange.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

11 A. M. **100 Horses of All Classes**

We will also sell at our Tuesday and Friday auctions such Vehicles, Sleighs, Harness, Robes, Blankets, etc., as are consigned to us for sale. We will have a special consignment of Blankets to go on Tuesday for what they will bring.

Discount to Horsemen During Races During the Ice Meet we offer to horsemen needing horse goods a special cut rate. This is your opportunity to equip your horse with anything that's needed in the way of Sulkies, Hoppies or Horse Boots.

We are Sole Canadian Agents for REDUCINE, the great absorbent and remedy for curbs, splints, bog-spavins, thoroughpin, wind-gall and enlargements of any kind. Ask your horseman friend about it, and if he has not heard of REDUCINE, write us for illustrated booklet.

ISAAC WATSON. Auctioneer and General Manager. Assistant Manager and Auctioneer