

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

ESTABLISHED 1866.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXVI.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., JUNE 1, 1901.

No. 527

## EDITORIAL.

### "A Horse! A Horse!! My Kingdom for a Horse!!!"

CANADIAN HORSES FOR BRITISH REMOUNTS.

**W**ITHOUT HORSES the armies of the King would have waged a losing warfare in South Africa. They are as essential to-day as when on Bosworth's bloody field Richard III. bid his kingdom for a charger, crying out in despair, "Bind up my wounds—Give me another horse." Men may surmise and speculate as to the probable outcome of certain events, but who would have guessed that Canadian agriculture would have greatly benefited for years to come by the sad contest that has raged so long between Britons and Boers? Last year when horses were needed, and less than 4,000 were taken from Canada, besides those going with our own contingents, and over 70,000 from the American Union, the reason for such a discrimination began to be enquired into, for everybody ought to know that Canada is noted for the excellence of all the classes of stock she produces. Now, the facts, as we understand them, are that some years ago a report was made to the motherland regarding Canada's horse stock which gave the impression that we had a very limited number of animals suitable for remount purposes. This information went on record in the British War Office, and when the demand for remounts arose the red-tape records were looked up and showed Canada as not a suitable field for the supply. During the last year, however, our horses, like our men, in comparison with others on the battle-field, gave an excellent account of themselves, which fact led to several vigorous protests such as those from the Premier of Ontario and the Northwest, and an investigation of the actual conditions of our horse supply. The way Canada has forged to the fore in Imperial relations made it good policy for Imperial statesmen to see that if Canada could supply the right stamp of horses, then they should have the preference. Lt.-Col. H. S. Dent, Remount Officer for Canada, besides purchasing 3,785 horses from us last year, learned and reported that we had thousands more suitable for remount purposes. Lord Strathcona also took an earnest interest on our behalf in urging our claims upon the War Office, so that Canada has now begun to receive the attention she deserves in these matters. In fact, the old impression that we have only a frozen country is rapidly changing to a recognition of our grand possibilities in the matters of soil, climate, vegetation and live stock, and judicious breeders for the production of a class of remount horses that cannot be surpassed anywhere in the world. Not only have we all the distinctive characteristics that go to make up a first-rate remount producing country, but our ports, eastern and western, are actually nearer several distant British possessions than those of England or the United States. By actual measurement on a geographical globe, it will be recognized that Halifax, N. S., is nearer Cape Town than is Liverpool or any United States port, and that Vancouver is actually nearer China than is any United States port, so that we may rest assured that Canada will be more and more looked upon as a desirable source of remounts for the British army when war-horses are required in those quarters, not to mention our proximity to England, where even in times of peace a great number of army horses are always needed.

The question of remount stations in Canada has already occupied considerable public attention, but these are commencing to establish themselves through the private enterprise of individual horse dealers in sections where considerable numbers of suitable horses can be picked up. When this subject was first mooted, some months ago, the absurd proposal was made that the Dominion Government should establish depots, and go into the business of selecting and selling horses, but practical men of good judgment saw its needlessness, and its dangers, and that it would be a serious expense to the Government, and of no advantage to the farmer. The results already achieved indicate the correctness of this view. Col. Dent is now making a tour of Canada, stopping upon fixed dates at prominent towns and cities. Before the end of May, he, with Dr. Fraser, his British veterinary associate, had visited London, Paris, Toronto, Belleville, Napanee, Ottawa, Montreal, and several other points where he has been offered horses collected throughout the country from which to make selections. Following these, a visit to the Northwest Territories was arranged. In April they visited London, and chose about 80 per cent. of about 100 offered, and it was from among them the military horses portrayed on succeeding pages of this issue as

#### AN OBJECT LESSON IN ARMY HORSES

were photographed by one of our editorial staff, who on this and a subsequent occasion was accorded every opportunity requisite to become familiar with the principles and plan pursued by Col. Dent, so that the facts in regard to this question might be brought before the attention of Canadian farmers generally. On May 15th and 16th, Col. Dent and party returned to London, and again accepted about 80 per cent., or 200 out of some 250 offered. These horses were purchased from the country on all sides of London, some coming from as far west as Chatham, Ridgeway, etc. They were chiefly purchased by Mr. Jas. McCartney, of Thamesford, but J. D. O'Neil, V. S., London, also gathered up some 50 or 60 head. The Western Fair horse-barns admirably served the purpose of the remount station, as they offered facility for housing, feeding, watering, and testing the horses. The horses were arriving at this station for a week or more before the remount officer arrived, during which time they were put into selling form, by shoeing when necessary, clipping the legs, trimming out the ears, throat, flanks, etc., so as to give them a smart, breezy appearance. It was difficult to learn the breeding of many of the horses offered, but a large proportion of those selected for the saddle gave evidence of Thoroughbred parentage, while many good ones appeared in conformation and gait to have sprung from Standard-bred trotting sires. In passing through the stables, the horses reminded one of those sometimes seen in a high-class livery barn, but their limbs were free from puffs and blemishes, and none of them gray in color. They were a really good lot of what are recognized as roadsters, and were equally appropriate for the saddle.

#### THE FAVORED TYPE

is short in the back, deep in the chest and quarters, strong in the stifles and arms, and strong below the knee. They ranged from stoutly-built 14.2-hand ponies weighing about 950 pounds to general-purpose farm horses up to 15.3 hands and weighing about 1,200 pounds. A large majority were midway between these extremes, weighing from 1,000 to 1,075 pounds, and classed as mounted-infantry or cavalry horses. The infantry class may range in height from 14.2 to 15.2 hands, the cavalry from 15.1 to 15.2, and the artillery horses or gunners from 15.1 to 15.3 hands high. They ranged in age from five to

nine years, but a few well-matured good four-year-olds were accepted. The chief difference between cavalry and infantry horses, apart from height, consists in the former being a stouter, more powerful horse, fitted to carry greater weights in man and accoutrements, etc., than the infantry horse, which is lighter and may be lower-down or of the cob or pony type.

It was interesting to witness the horses being examined, for acceptance or rejection, and may be described as follows: A candidate for inspection is led on to a platform of planks lying flat on the ground. He is then viewed from the side and rear by the remount and veterinary officers. If he shows no marked defects, such as weak knees, knuckled fetlocks, running at the nose, or other weaknesses, the Colonel puts the measure over him, and if he passes thus far, the chances for going through are good, as most of those turned down failed to pass this stage. Tests for soundness were conducted by the veterinary officer, who examined the legs, especially the fore legs below the knees, the eyes, and mouth. They were then jogged a few rods away and back once or more, then suddenly backed up, wheeled round to the right, then to the left, and, if satisfactory, sent to the saddle. The next and final test was for their wind, and consisted of about an eighth of a mile dash at the gallop. It was the great exception for a horse to fail here. They were now accepted, and branded on the front hoofs with numbers and letters to indicate to which class they belong.

The prices paid farmers for these horses varied from about \$85 to \$120, many of them ranging from \$90 to \$100, a better figure than such horses have been bringing for some years past. The prices, in turn, paid by the remount officer were a sufficient advance on the foregoing to recoup the dealers for their expenses and leave a fair margin to the good. The dealers had to bear the expenses of collecting, feeding, and fitting, which meant a large outlay in the locality, and delivering the animals in Montreal, at which point the British War Department assumed charge.

Much regret was expressed that so many good horses of this type, more especially the mares, were being taken from the country, but the practical man says it is all right, as they leave more room for others and good money behind, and, better than that, a stimulus to horse-breeders to wake up to the importance of greater care in the breeding and rearing of horse stock. The selection of remounts has had an educational effect in every locality where it has been carried on. A day or so observing these operations is in many respects equal to the study of a well-conducted horse show, and of more practical value in so far as this particular class of horses is concerned.

### Amendments to the Animal Contagious Diseases Act.

Among the acts passed at the late session of the Dominion Parliament was one amending section 7 of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, prohibiting the disposal, under a penalty as high as \$200 fine, of the meat, skin, hide, horns, hoof or any part of animals affected with any contagious or infectious disease. The amendment authorizes the Minister to permit by regulation the sale of such portions where he is satisfied that the disease in question cannot be so communicated. A further amendment provides, regarding the meat to be sold for human food, that it must be certified by any lawfully authorized health authority as not affected with such disease.