

therefore there is much still to be learned on the subject. Whether or not Maud S. and Jay Eye See represent the highest admixture of thoroughbred blood practicable in the production of good reliable trotters is a yet unsolved problem, but we are inclined to the belief that it will some day be answered in the negative. We have long thought there was an unworked mine of trotting wealth in the Trustee family, and the comparatively recent performance of the two-year-old grandson of Planet in California confirms us in the belief.

Let breeders collect all the available trotting material that is first-class, get their type of trotters as near to perfection as possible, and then endeavor to crystallize that excellence and make further improvements by a judicious blending of the different families within the circle.

ARMY RE-MOUNT HORSES.

In view of the prospect that the British army may be speedily put upon a war footing and of the possibility that the mother country may speedily become involved in a struggle from which it may take years of hard fighting to extricate her, it will not be out of place for farmers in this country to pay some special attention to the breeding of horses for military purposes. Some of our esteemed contemporaries are inclined to take us to task for our partiality for warm blood in horses, holding that we lay too much stress on the importance of race horse crosses in our brood mares, but if they will look over the requirements laid down in the subjoined letter and devise any way of getting them out of the brood mares we now have without the introduction of the thoroughbred cross we shall only be too glad to learn a lesson. It may be held that £40 and £45 stg. are not very tempting prices to offer for good four-year-old mares and geldings, after the cost of shipping (less £1 7s.) has been taken out, but after all it would amount to a very fair paying average, while it must be remembered that such a price would be realized for about every sound animal bred in that way of the required size, while no account is taken of the number of extra good colts that would bring handsomely remunerative prices in the home market for fancy saddle horses, hunters, and carriage horses. The possibility of an advance in the price of Army re-mounts is also to be taken into consideration, and it is certainly well worth while for every farmer who keeps common brood mares to carefully read the following letter which is sent by Col. F. G. Ravenhill, R.A., inspector and purchaser of horses, to the (English) *Live Stock Journal*. He says:—

There are two distinct classes of re-mount horses required for military work, viz., those for riding and those for draught purposes, or what are generally known in the trade as blood and strong horses. Of the former, and most difficult class to procure, the requirements vary from the heavy weight galloping hunter and the Brougham horse type, to be found in the detachments and guns of Horse Artillery, the Household and Heavy Cavalry; to the lighter,

better bred horses for officers, riding-school purposes, also medium and light caval. These have to carry weights which, with the soldier and his appointments, vary from 20 to 14 stone in marching order. Of the second, or draught class, some considerable few are required for Horse Artillery and Royal Engineer Telegraph work that can trot their ten miles an hour without distress; and gallop to take up a position like fire engine horses; whilst the bulk must be able to trot their seven miles an hour without wearying; such as are used in heavily laden spring carts and parcel vans. These are necessary for the heavy guns of field artillery; the pontoon waggons of the Royal Engineers and the Transport Service.

The standard for the above varies from 15 to 16 hands, with a girth of not less than 72 inches and not less than eight inches below the knee.

Bays, browns, blacks, or chestnuts of hardy colors are alone taken; whole-colored horses are preferred and no party-colored (piebalds, &c.) are purchased. To this an exception must be made in the case of those greys required for the 2nd Dragoons, and a few for special other purposes, with some bands and trumpeters.

A troop horse should be round and deep in the barrel, and deep in the loins or back ribs, not too short in the back, yet without much length there; his action must be true and clear; he must stand well on his legs and feet, with shoulders and tail as well set on as procurable, and his breeding as promising as can be got.

The description of horses required by Government for the use of the Royal Artillery are about half riding and half draught, rather more of the former than the latter; about one-fifth of the former should have breeding, pace, substance, action, and appearance, sufficient to carry officers.

The age of horses reckons from the 1st of May. They are purchased under fixed conditions between rising four and rising seven years old, and for the Royal Artillery between 15.2 and 16 hands high.

Mares are purchased as well as geldings, but no stallions are taken in England. Horses that have been handled or broken are preferred; no horses are taken with any blemish of a material nature.

From £40 to £45 for each horse is paid within a week or 10 days of delivery at headquarters at the dealers' risk, with £1 7s. extra for cost of travelling.

On any horse selected out of the ranks by an officer as his private charger, an extra £5 is paid to the dealer. For the black horses of the Household Cavalry and the grey horses of the 2nd Dragoons a considerable increase in price is given.

Government will alone purchase on one month's probation or trial, and if during that time horses are found crib-biting, wind-sucking, or to have sand cracks, seedy toes, sunken soles, or unsound in eyes, feet, wind (every horse is galloped to try his wind), limb, or any other way, or vicious in or out of stable, they are returned and have to be replaced.

Well-developed, muscular, active, short flat-legged, good-limbed, good-shouldered, good-loined horses are alone taken; no weak or overshot fetlocks and pasterns allowed; no narrow horses with feet or legs crossing, and no small, flat, brittle, blocky, contracted, or bad-shaped feet taken.

The Government prefer horses undocked, and will not accept any with very short tails. Any horse with one decidedly weak or bad point is refused, and every troop horse must walk well and safely, and trot with some action.

If the promoters of the Hackney Stud Society's Show would provide space, and pay all expenses, no doubt the authorities would send a few re-mount horses to show the public the different classes, and it is suggested that about twelve such should be sent up of their last year's purchasing.

MR. PICKRELL'S SALE.

Geo. Pickrell, Wheatfield, Ill., made a good sale on the 6th inst., C. C. Judy doing well the auctioneer's part. Ten Clydesdales, mostly 4 bloods, and of Mr. Pickrell's own breeding, brought \$3,412, an average of \$341.20. Eight other horses, mares, and colts sold for \$844, or an average of \$105.50. Two young Jacks bred by Mr. Pickrell brought \$1,350, average, \$675. One saddle and driving horse sold for \$255, and one weanling mule for \$102. Whole number sold, twenty-two. Total amount received, \$5,963. Average of the lot, \$271.

Mr. Pickrell's annual sales are counted among the most attractive in Central Illinois. Parties attending always expect to see something extra good, and they are never disappointed.

EVADING THE POINT AT ISSUE.

The *Elmira Husbandman* shows more good taste than candour. It has the good taste to dislike being charged with endeavoring to throw discredit upon the veracity of Mr. Fuller and the gentlemen who superintended Mary Anne of St. Lambert's last test, but shows a lamentable want of candour in trying to wriggle out of it. The gentlemen who made the test say that what came from the churn was butter; the *Husbandman* says "it was not butter." The issue is a very simple one. In the estimation of the *Husbandman* these gentlemen told a falsehood or else they did not know butter when they saw it. These men were the agents of the A. J. C. C., and if they did not know butter when they saw it, they should not have been appointed. The editor of the *Husbandman* is quite ready to admit that he did not see what came from the churn and what the agents of the A. J. C. C. were pleased to call butter, but with a modesty that is truly touching he assumes to know more about it than the men who saw it churned, worked, and weighed. With a charming magnanimity he says:—"Mr. Fuller and the 'two accredited agents of the American Jersey Cattle Club,' it may be presumed, have no grievance against the *Husbandman*, for their word has not been impugned, and they are, without doubt, gentlemen of probity."

In other words he might have said, "Really gentleman, I do not deny that you may be honest, but then you know you are—well, I'll not say it, but you do not know butter when you see it." It is presumable that if the gentlemen in question really cared what the *Husbandman* said of them they would as soon have been called liars as fools.

As to where Mary Anne of St. Lambert was bred the *Husbandman* has the following:—