

by Major Fletcher, one of the Government's supporters and buyers. Major Fletcher purchased three splendidly bred Clydesdale mares in foal for \$250, \$225 and \$190 respectively, and exchanged them for three of his own geldings. These fine mares secured in a trade with the King are now in Major Fletcher's possession.

Committee Report to Parliament.

It is to be noted that the above investigations covered less than 500 of the eight thousand odd horses purchased for the first contingent.

Taking them as samples of the Government's purchases throughout the Dominion it would seem that **the half has not yet been told**, and that the losses to the country as between the prices paid to the farmers and the prices charged to the Government **will far exceed the losses proven by the Government's own figures.**

When all the evidence offered regarding horse purchasing had been heard by the Public Accounts Committee, an interim report (No. 6) was made to Parliament, and it is worthy of remembrance that this report was moved by Mr. H. B. Morphy of North Perth, the Conservative chairman of the committee.

Mr. Morphy's motion said:

"Your committee are of the opinion that the evidence respecting the purchase of horses in Nova Scotia discloses circumstances of such an unsatisfactory character that further investigation and action are necessary, and they recommend that the said evidence and all documents connected with the matters aforesaid be referred to the Department of Justice with instructions to make such investigation and to institute such prosecutions and to take such proceedings as may be found necessary to protect the public interest.

Recommend Further Investigation.

"And your committee further recommend that a further investigation should be made by the Government in regard to any irregularities which may have taken place in any other province of Canada, where such steps will be authorized and warranted by evidence or information of credible persons."

But No Sign Yet of Investigation.

It may be noted that at the time this is written, May 15th, there has been no outward or visible sign of any action in accordance with this motion, either by the Department of Justice or by the Government in ascertaining how far the abuses in the purchases of horses may have obtained in other parts of the Dominion. On the other hand rumors and newspaper articles make it quite fair to assume that there was similar lack of business methods, to put it at its mildest, in many other parts of Canada.

LOSS TO THE COUNTRY ON 500 OUT OF 8164 HORSES PURCHASED, \$81,139.