

contingent. Before the soldiers left for overseas service which was less than three weeks after these horses were assembled at Valcartier, out of a total of 8,562 horses, only 7,911 were considered fit to ship to England.

Of these misfits 651 horses purchased by "**friends of the government**" had died at Valcartier or were left behind by the First Contingent as undesirable.

Other horses failed to stand the journey across the ocean.

And others on reaching England were discarded and slaughtered immediately on disembarking.

Of the 7,911 horses which left Canada for England with the first contingent it is known that when the unfit ones in England had been weeded out only 6,700 remained fit for service.

We quote herewith from the official Hansard of the British House of Commons March 10th, 1915, page 1406, the question that was asked in regard to Canadian horses, and also the reply which was made by Mr. Tennant, under-Secretary of State:—

"Mr. Rendall asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the Remount Department of the War Office have for some time sanctioned a slaughter house for horses in a wooden building alongside the main road from Avonmouth to Shirehampton; whether he is aware that the stench from the carcasses of the dead horses is continuous and penetrates a considerable distance, and makes the use of the road and foot-path impossible without breathing an atmosphere which is dangerous to health; whether he is aware that there has been an epidemic of throat complaints at Avonmouth, especially among the school children who have to pass and repass within a foot or two of the slaughter-house daily; and can he arrange for the removal of the slaughter-house to a spot much further removed from the public foot-path and highway?"

"Mr. Tennant: The slaughter-house referred to, which is a temporary structure, had to be erected near a good road with as little delay as possible for the reception of horses destroyed on disembarkation from Canada. It is 150 yards away from the nearest dwelling house, and every effort is being made to keep it sanitary. Arrangements are in progress for building a road to a more suitable situation some distance from the main road."

The achievements of the Borden Government in the purchase of horses must have left a strong odoriferous impression on the British people.