

APPENDIX No. 2

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—The present stallions as seen at the horse shows are larger than the old type that I was first describing, the French Canadian pony. The St. Lawrence horses used to weigh as high as 1,300 pounds, 1,200 I think was their average. The present stallions that we see at exhibitions run I think about 1,200 and some as high as 1,300.

Dr. RUTHERFORD.—1,350.

EXHIBITION AT ST. JOHNS, P.Q.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—I don't know whether you gentlemen have visited any recent horse shows in the province of Quebec. The last exhibit at St. Johns was a magnificent one. There were over 100 horses and they were really very fine animals. The gentleman who went down from Bowmanville to judge them has been handling French Canadian horses for many years, Mr. Pollard, who is perhaps known to some of you as a horseman. He was perfectly astonished and delighted with the exhibit, and he said that it was a very difficult task indeed to award the prizes, there were so many thoroughly good horses.

Mr. SMITH (North Middlesex).—I will only detain you a moment, but I would like to give a little testimony to the good qualities of the French Canadian breed of horses and as to the advisability of re-establishing that breed if it be possible. There are quite a number of these horses that I have had the pleasure of handling personally, and I know of the good qualities that they possess. I have in mind one particular team which was typical of the large number that I was conversant with. This team weighed 1,250 pounds each as nearly as possible. They were very well matched. They were black and of the same type as that shown in the illustration which was handed around, except perhaps they were a little chunkier. Unlike the characteristics that Dr. Rutherford has spoken of, viz., their desire to go a little slower than required, they would travel up to the 10 miles an hour without any urging whatever and if they would make 12 miles an hour and continue it for a couple of hours or more, I have seen them do it. On a 10 mile gait they would continue for three or four hours without any trouble whatever. Besides that they would walk with a good ordinary sized load at about 4 miles an hour. I think that is one of the best qualities you could have in a farm horse, and the French Canadian is an ideal farmers' horse. Besides that I have seen the same team matched against other heavier horses, horses that would weigh probably 1,600 or 1,700 lb. The French Canadian horses would draw a heavier load than heavier horses, not because they had the weight, but simply in the starting the heavier animals would get down to it and by sheer force would be able to move while the smaller team by quicker action would start. Once started the greatest trouble was overcome. That is one of the characteristics I have found in these French Canadian horses and I fancy that we have not yet developed any breed, or mixture of breeds, of horses that would come up to the French Canadian as a general purposes horse. It is perhaps the most valuable horse that the farmer could have either in Quebec, Ontario or the West. Doubtless a heavier horse is more profitable to raise because you can sell it at a larger price.

The CHAIRMAN.—I can add a word of appreciation on the same lines that Mr. Smith has referred to. When quite a boy our folks got possession of a French Canadian, or what was said to be a French Canadian, pony, weighing one thousand and a half pounds. It was quite black and a beautiful type of horse, well quartered, good clean legs, and could do on the road a mile in four minutes. This pony could go at the rate of 12 miles an hour for one, two, three or four hours; in fact pretty nearly for the whole day, and I have driven him 30 or 40 miles and he would come home just as bright as when he left. We had this pony from the time that he was 4 years