

there being no doubt that without the payment of these premiums of \$1,000 each (of which there are twenty-two) many of them would have been sold to foreign buyers.

The Government and private individuals in the Argentine Republic have been most active in securing stallions of all breeds, including thoroughbreds, some of them at enormous figures. It is well known the German, Austrian, Italian and French Governments have been for many years actively engaged in improving the breeds of their horses by the establishment of *haras* where farmers and breeders have access to the imported and pure bred stallions at a nominal figure. In France there are twenty-two depôts in which the State holds 2,500 stallions of different breeds at the disposal of the public for very moderate fees. Formerly there were only 1,500 stallions at these depôts, but by the law passed in 1874 the number was increased by 1,000. The fees at Pompadour, one of the leading stations, at which 118,344 mares were covered last year, were on the average about \$1.50. At the beginning of last year the *haras* contained 198 thoroughbreds of English descent, 125 Arabs, 124 Anglo-Arabs, a cross between the English thoroughbred and the Arab, and 1,765 half-breds. Of the latter 1,424 belonged to the higher type and 235 are classed as carriage-horse sires and 106 as hackneys.

The following table shows the benefit which has accrued to France by the establishment of these *haras* by the French Department of Agriculture, and the marked change which has occurred during the last ten years in the French horse-breeding world:

Year.	Excess in favor of			
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
1879 .....	35,933	6,349	29,084	.....
1880 .....	35,292	7,942	27,380	.....
1881 .....	28,835	11,042	17,793	.....
1882 .....	26,835	13,435	13,400	.....
1883 .....	20,700	16,678	4,022	.....
1884 .....	20,167	17,402	2,765	.....
1885 .....	16,347	22,087	.....	5,740
1886 .....	16,301	24,477	.....	8,176
1887 .....	10,794	35,004	.....	25,010
1888 .....	12,136	38,305	.....	26,169

It will be seen that while the imports of horses have been steadily decreasing, and are now a little more than a third what they were in 1879, the exports have been increasing at a still more rapid rate, and are now more than six times what they were ten years ago, the excess of imports being gradually reduced until now the balance is very much the other way.

Switzerland has now entered the field, and the authorities there intend to import about 600 breeding horses during the year 1890.

The Italian Government has, for many years, been importing stallions, a notable purchase during the past year being "Melton," a thoroughbred stallion, and winner of the Derby in 1885, and they paid for him the sum of \$24,000. From the 1st January, 1888, to the 2nd March, 1889, the Italian Government purchased 97 stallions for the Government stations. Of these, 17 were Hackneys, purchased in England by the Commissioners at prices ranging from \$500 to \$2,500; nine were cart-horse stallions, and five English thoroughbreds. The total amount paid for them was £32,661, or an average of £336 per head.

Nearly all countries are paying great attention to Hackneys. One or two specimens of this valuable breed were exported to Canada during the season, and were exhibited at Toronto and other shows. These, with a stallion owned by Senator Cochrane, imported into Canada several years ago, are all related to the celebrated "Triffitt's Fireaway" (219 Hackney Stud Book), whose stock is estimated by one of the best authorities, Mr. W. Burdett Coutts, M. P., to represent a money value of a million and a quarter dollars. This stallion is still alive and has been at the stud for twenty-five years. So great is his influence that his stock can be recognised at