

I am glad to see that Canada has largely increased the exports of butter to the Mother Country, and is also holding her position in regard to cheese. Respecting the latter especially, it will be seen that the value per cwt. is put down at a higher price than that from the United States. The returns of the apples imported do not specify the countries from which the fruit came. Canadian fruit, however, is becoming more generally known than it was formerly, as being better in quality than the apples imported from other parts of the continent, and there is no doubt a ready market to be found for any quantity that may be sent over of good quality and carefully packed. In this connection, I may say, that during the year many enquiries have been received from persons desirous of investing capital in the fruit-growing industry in Nova Scotia, and I attribute this interest largely to the increasing imports from Canada, and to the uniform excellent quality of the apples.

The following summary of an official return will give an idea of the position of the army with regard to remounts, and serves to show the opening that exists for horses suitable for this work, apart from those required for general purposes. The matter is very fully dealt with in the accompanying report, and I need not, therefore, say more respecting it:

“The official returns of the number of horses and mules used in the British military service, just rendered to the War Office, show that there are now actually 24,400 animals at work for riding or draught purposes, exclusive of those belonging to officers; the total being about 1,200 below the number voted in the army estimates. Of the 24,400, 14,000 are borne upon the British establishment and 10,400 upon the Indian, both being below their proper numbers, though the British establishment much more closely approaches the numbers allowed than the Indian. The thirty-one cavalry regiments take the largest share of the animals, but their total is only 11,800 horses to mount 18,100 men, leaving about one-third of the troopers dismounted. The Royal Horse Artillery has of riding and draught horses 2,700, the Field Batteries 7,400, the Mountain Batteries 220 mules and the Garrison Batteries about 100, the whole number of draught and riding horses and mules for the artillery, including twenty-two horse batteries and eighty-two field being 10,500. The Army Service Corps has 1,300 horses, the Royal Engineers 400 and the Infantry Battalions 550, but these last figures, as well as the regimental transport animals, include the horses of the Mounted Infantry Companies in Egypt and South Africa. The nine cavalry regiments in India absorb 4,300 of the 11,800, and of the remainder all are in the British Islands, with the exception of 350 with the Luniskilling Dragoons in Natal, and 500 with the 20th Hussars, Mounted Infantry in Egypt and South Africa. The 1,200 non-commissioned officers and men of the three Household Regiments have 800 horses between them, and the Corps best provided with mounts is the 1st Dragoon Guards in Bengal, who have 500 horses for 600 men. The regiment showing the lowest horse strength is the Carabiniers at Leeds and Birmingham, who have 250 for nearly double that strength in men.”

The work of copying the Archives at the Record Office is making satisfactory progress, and numerous volumes have been copied, compared, bound, and sent out to your Department during the past year. No changes have taken place in the staff, which is doing the work in an entirely satisfactory manner. I shall continue to give the matter my special attention, and do anything I can to facilitate the carrying on of the work in accordance with your wishes.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES TUPPER,

*High Commissioner.*