

Canadian Horses for Imperial Army.

A great deal of misunderstanding having arisen concerning the objects of the Imperial Government in sending officers to this country to purchase horses, or rather to see if horses suitable for the British Army can be purchased, the following short summary of the position should prove of value. This statement may be regarded as absolutely correct and authoritative:

First and foremost, the demands of the British Army in peace time can be easily met within the four corners of the United Kingdom. That demand is not large, and may be taken as a normal one of 2,500 horses annually, rising in certain years to possibly 3,500, of all kinds and classes.

There is an idea abroad, and certain ministers and statesmen in this country have brought it forward and may be considered responsible for it, that if the Imperial Government will purchase annually a fixed number of horses, say from 300 to 500, in Canada, a great stimulus will be given to horse-breeding generally, and to breeding of the military type of horse in particular. Falling in with this idea, the Imperial authorities are anxious to put it to the test, and, for reasons of their own, they fully recognize the advantage that will accrue to the Empire from the opening up of a large and limitless market that can be drawn upon to meet the immense demand that will be created in time of war. The real question, then, that has now to be answered by the practical experiment of purchase during the next few months is, can suitable horses be procured, and at an average price that will, when the horses are landed in England, favorably compare with that paid for the remounts throughout Great Britain and Ireland?

The average price paid in England is an open secret; it is £40, or say \$200. The cost of freight and insurance will certainly not exceed another \$50, leaving \$150, or possibly slightly more, to be paid for the animals selected on the spot. A higher price can be paid for horses of special color and type, such as horses suitable for officer's chargers and Household Cavalry. It is, therefore, obvious that Canada is on its trial as to its ability to supply a suitable horse for army purposes.

It is, further, of more importance to Canada than to anyone else that, as the horses purchased will be regarded in England, as well as in this country, as typical, it will be in every way a great misfortune if those sent home are of a class and quality that will engender a belief that the Canadian horse is of an inferior type. Such a belief will probably do more harm to Canadian horse-breeding and the reputation of Canadian horses than anything else.

Two classes of horses are to be bought:

1st. Riding horses, fit for heavy and light cavalry, from, say, 15 to 15½ hands.
2nd. Draught horses, fit for being driven postillion, with horse and field artillery. The latter must not be less than 1,230 pounds, 15.2 to 15.3½ hands in height, strong, active, and with good shoulders to enable them to move fast, and even to gallop, when required; the age should be from 4 off to 6 years. In all cases the British Government require horses with short backs, good shoulders, plenty of bone, and distinct evidence of quality.

In the case of riding horses, those with a near cross of the Thoroughbred are most likely to take the eye of the inspecting officers.

The British remount officers are in possession of detailed specifications, showing the exact type and qualifications of the horses required.

DO YOU WANT TO SELL YOUR FARM?

The "Want and For Sale" column of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" is the place for your advertisement. See rates under that heading in this paper. Address: Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine, London, Ont.

STOCK.

Beef-cattle Raisers Classified.

I think the number of stall-finished cattle this year will fall fully fifty per cent below the number finished in the stalls for the season of 1904.

My observation would indicate an increase of 25 to 30 per cent. of heavy cattle to be finished on grass for the June and July markets, as compared with the season of 1904. The failure of the corn and clover crops of 1904 was, throughout this district, the prime cause of lowering the percentage of stall-finished cattle and increasing the percentage of pasture-finished cattle. The cost of winter shipment, the high price of rough grains and the keen competition of Western cattle in the market from September to January, have combined to influence stock men to carry over their heavy steers to June and July, in order to catch a market free from the Western competition.

I find the number of cattle for feeding purposes quite plentiful. If any shortage has come under my observation, it is that of good yearlings.

Much needs to be done to improve the quality of our beef cattle. The number of good herds of such cattle found in Western Ontario is very encouraging, but these are the mountain peaks, and the number who use mere scrub sires is appalling. The shortage of labor has thrown thousands of acres of grain lands into pasturage, and men have rushed almost with frenzied excitement into the cattle trade in one or other of the three following forms:



Sealand Sensation (imp.) 9007 Vol. 22.

First-prize Hackney stallion, Regina Spring Stallion Show. Owned by Jas. G. Mutch, Lumsden, Assa.

1. Men who have control of help, with but little pasture lands, keep but few cows, buy in the autumn, and finish in the stalls.

2. Men who have ceased to cultivate any land whatever or to feed during the winter, who buy heavy stock through the month of April, and finish on pastures for July market.

3. Men who have become hucksters in the cattle trade, buying here or there anything at any season, and selling either privately or by public auction, giving from four to six months' time.

Muddy water requires to settle. Some men learn only by experience, and the experience that touches the pocket is more potent than theories imparted to the mind. When feeders refuse to buy at any price ill-fed steers born of cows of mixed dairy breeds and sired by any variety of scrub available, we may have hope of improvement. Such a position, if assumed, would enlarge the market for the better type at a better price. Not until cattle men (breeders of pure-bred stock included) learn to breed well, feed well, and kill well, can we hope to attain the highest standard.
T. T. GEORGE,
West Middlesex, Ont.

"My Little Ad." Got There.

Enclose please find \$1.50 for subscription. I sold all my cockerels by my little advt., thanks to the "Farmer's Advocate."
Kent Co., Ont. ROBERT STEVENS.

Dehorning Defended.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—In your issue of April 13th is an article by Mr. Alex. Young, objecting to the practice of dehorning cattle. Having had my stock dehorned some years ago, and having used the clippers on my young stock every year since, I can say positively that I have never seen the least bad results from it when ordinary care was used. For years previous to this, hardly a season passed that some of my stock were not either injured or killed by being hooked by others of the herd. Mr. Young thinks we can get over the difficulty by raising the breeds of cattle not naturally provided with horns, but what of the man who does not find such animals to suit his requirements. Our breeders of Holstein, Jersey and Ayrshire cattle will certainly not believe in this solution of the difficulty. He says also that he has heard dairymen say that they would give ten dollars a horn to have them back on their cows when they saw the blood pouring down the cheeks of the animals. Now, in the first place, there is no necessity for this loss of blood, if the operation has been properly performed and the cord around the base of the horns well tightened; and, in the second place, if he had asked these same dairymen their opinion, say, six months later, it is more than likely that they would say that not for ten dollars a horn would they have them on again. Such statements as the above are made on the impulse of the moment, and are not to be taken seriously.

As to his statement regarding the methods of some men who follow dehorning, in leaving three inches of the horn on one side and taking three inches off the head on the other side: Apart from the physical impossibility of such a thing, no system or practice should be condemned because of poor results at the hands of an incompetent operator. "Be sure you're right, then go ahead," is a maxim that applies very aptly in this case.

As to what is necessary in the case of a bull, every good stockman knows enough not to trust him, horns or no horns, and takes some method to keep him at a safe distance, but in case of accident, I think Mr. Young, as well as any other man with common sense, would take his chances with the dehorned animal, should he have the privilege of a choice in the matter. Besides, it is a well-known fact, that dehorning in the case of a bull is almost without exception followed by a marked improvement in the temper of the animal.

In the days when cattle ran wild on the prairie, horns were necessary for self-defence, but such conditions do not confront them now, and with changed conditions horns have degenerated from a necessity to a nuisance, and as such should be removed.

Glengarry Co., Ont.

J. E. McINTOSH.

Better-bred Cattle Wanted.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Your inquiry to hand, and below we give our opinion as the cattle trade appears to us this spring:

1st.—In regard to the number of stall-fed cattle, owing to the high price of feed this past winter and spring, we do not think there has been as great a number of cattle fed this season as in 1904; in fact, there is an apparent shortage, and this has been the reason of the rapid rising price these past few weeks.

2nd.—In reference to the grass cattle, we are under the impression that there will be a large number go to grass; in fact, we are looking for a much larger number than last year, as, no doubt, there has been a large number of cattle just roughed through this winter that are intended to go on the pasture for finishing.

3rd.—In reference to the prospects for young cattle, we are looking for an increased number. This past year or so, there has not been the number going to the United States and to the Northwest Territories, and we have every reason to think that one and two year old cattle have been accumulating quite largely, and there should be a great number of this class in Ontario.

4th.—We think it very desirable that our herds of beef cattle should be increased in Ontario, and more particularly we would say that the breeding should be improved. In fact, our wholesale butchers are stating that in their opinion our beef cattle are deteriorating, and we would suggest that our people ought to take hold of the matter in the same way as the Argentine people are doing. They are importing the best bulls that can be secured in England and Scotland, and we presume that there is not a country in the world that has the quality of beef cattle that they have in Argentina.

During the writer's visit in England and Scotland, he found a strong agitation for the removal of the embargo against the Canadian feeding cattle, and, although it does not look as if they will get any consent from the present Government in England, there is a possibility that they will have a change in the next general election, and they feel quite sanguine, especially in Scotland, that they will be able to carry their point and get the embargo removed, or, at least, a compromise in some manner, to allow our feeding stock to be sold in England. It is just possible this may happen, and, in event of this taking place, it will make a great demand for our two or three year old steers.
Toronto, Ont. MAYBEE, WILSON & HALL.