

1-2 GEORGE V., A. 1911

They all trace back to celebrated horses, horses like Bend'Or, St. Simon, Stockwell, Bird Catcher, Hampton, Ormond, Galopin and Carbine.

Q. You have got all their pedigrees?—A. All the pedigrees are on file here with the Live Stock Department?

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Britain is the great home of the thoroughbred, is it not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I think some one stated here to-night, and in my opinion it is quite true, that there has been racing of the thoroughbred in Britain for more than 200 years?—A. For 203 years. The racing calendar is 203 years old.

Q. You have spoken particularly in your evidence to-night of horses for the army. I have here a year-book published by the *Live Stock Journal*, London, England, in which there is an article on horses for the army, and it says: (reads) 'The army requirements in time of peace are only a little more than 2,000 horses annually, and therefore it is evident that it would never do for breeders to depend on this market alone.' Do you know anything about the correctness of that statement?—A. What is the date of that?

Q. 1910?—A. Is that just for England alone?

Q. It may be for Britain alone?—A. India takes 8,000 a year.

Q. I would think it is for Britain alone. The same article says: (reads):

'There are a great many people,' adds Major Fife, 'who are under the impression that there are not horses in the country to meet our present peace supply and, in consequence our army is underhorsed. No greater nonsense was ever talked. There are more horses than enough at the present moment for any requirements, but we must look ahead, and, therefore, we should not be satisfied with this, and allow ourselves to be dependent upon importations in time of peace, which would be liable to be cut off in time of war.'

Again the article says (reads):

'Unfortunately, the national horse supply is not sufficiently popular with either political party to enable public money to be spent on it to a sufficient extent. The only course open to the pioneers of the movement, is to be perpetually calling attention to the matter with the object of getting a government grant, for no good can possibly be done until horse-breeding is subsidized by the country.'

So it would seem that in England, where the thoroughbred horse has been bred for 200 years the hope of these people is a direct government aid. Do you agree with that?—A. I do not agree with that at all, because I know that the War Office men told us how many horses it would want for a year in time of peace, and told us that we could not raise enough to supply them in time of war.

Q. In time of war, I should think that was quite correct?—A. I am told so. I took Colonel McLaughlin to the Managing Editor of the *Montreal Weekly Star*, which has a circulation of 128,000 among Canadian farmers, and I said: "Now you send your message to 128,000 farmers," and he told them the need was 4,000 horses in time of peace."

Q. You asked the Dominion government for aid to your bureau?—A. We asked for a federal grant last year.

Q. Why didn't you get it?—A. I don't know.

Q. At any rate, the government and the Minister of Agriculture did not seem to think the objects of your bureau were such that they could at that time, at any rate, encourage them?—A. They have all our papers showing our objects, and the books, and they have not returned them yet; I do not think it is closed; it may be, but we have not been notified. In any case, we are going to ask them for another grant in a couple of weeks.