

# The Farming World

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## Individuality in Live Stock

**I**N these days when so much is being written and said, and rightly so, about pure-bred stock, the farmer must not place too much reliance upon the pedigree of the animals he purchases or intends purchasing. Pedigree is of very great importance and a necessary thing in maintaining pure blood and good stock. But it is not everything. The purchaser must not overlook the individuality of the animal he buys. Very often farmers not specially versed in good stock make purchases, depending wholly upon the pedigree of the animal, only to be sadly disappointed after a year or two of experience in this line. Every pure bred animal should have the quality to back up the pedigree and where this is the case no better investment could be made on the average farm to-day than this.

Of course we understand that pedigree is of very great importance. There are strains of various breeds such as the Cruickshank Shorthorns, which have been developed and brought to the front by repeated selections of the individual animals for breeding purposes that one may purchase an animal whose pedigree traces back to this strain and be tolerably sure of securing an animal with quality all right. But it might not work in every case and to make sure the individual qualities of the animal as well as his pedigree should be specifically noted. The individuality of the animal is recognized by all breeders. In fact it would be impossible to maintain our large herds at a high standard of excellence unless quality in the animal itself as well as pedigree were recognized.

Farmers therefore in purchasing pure-bred stock should not be guided altogether by pedigree. If the animal has the quality as well as the pedigree so much the better. While the animal whose pedigree traces back to a certain notable family may be worth a great deal more than another animal whose pedigree is not so good, still the quality in the animal itself must not be lost sight of.

## Demand for Military Horses

As has been shown in these columns on several former occasions, the events of the past year or two have created a new demand for horses that is likely to develop into somewhat large proportions. The Boer war has clearly demonstrated the importance of the horse as a factor in successful warfare. This has had its effect upon the other countries of Europe as well as upon Great Britain, the one more directly interested, with the result that there is now, and has been for some months back, an almost unprecedented demand for horses for military purposes.

During the summer we have had in Canada a representative of the British army in the person of Major Dent, sent here for the purpose of procuring horses as army remounts in South Africa. He purchased something like 3,000 horses for this purpose.

While here Major Dent made a careful study of the situation in this country, which resulted in his recommendation to the British Government the advisability of establishing a remount station in Canada for permanently supplying the army with horses. We understand that the Government has requested him to make a report, and, considering the high opinion he has of our resources in this line, there is a probability of his recommendation being acted upon.

A point worthy of notice in this connection is that when Major Dent arrived in Canada he had to select his horses from the ordinary stock to be found in the country. No special methods of breeding had been followed in Canada with a view to procuring horses suitable for army purposes. From the ordinary stock Major Dent made his selection, and the results were so satisfactory that within a few months he was able to secure several thousand horses well adapted for remounts, and which compared favorably in every way with horses sent to South Africa from other countries. If our farmers were to take up breeding and fitting horses specially suited to this trade there is no doubt the quality could be greatly improved upon and a much larger number produced from which selections could be made. There is then an excellent opportunity before the Canadian farmer for greatly increasing the annual revenue for the sale of horses.

But this army remount business has reached other countries which are making every effort to secure as much of the trade as possible. Particularly is this the case in the United States where a very large number of horses have been secured during the past few months for army purposes. During August and September more than 5,000 horses were shipped from the Pacific Coast to the Philippines and China by the United States. From New Orleans a few weeks ago, about 3,000, bought by the British Government for military service in South Africa, were shipped. At Chicago this season the British Government has purchased 15,000 horses and over 40,000 mules for army purposes at a cost of about \$10,000,000. Agents of the German Government are now in America buying horses for the German cavalry, and although the buyers are holding out for a high standard it is said that 10,000 horses will be bought if animals coming up to the specifications can be secured. So the movement goes on, and the country that makes a specialty of producing horses for this purpose will get the trade.