

1,300 to 1,500 lbs. As high as \$500.00 a pair was paid for animals possessing extra quality and conformation. This new movement in the horse market is having its effect upon prices all over Canada.

Buyers report that the better classes of drafters and farm chunks are getting scarce and hard to buy. The same holds true of good big roadsters and saddlers. The noticeable scarcity of good horses of these descriptions illustrates the fact that demand has already overtaken supply and makes it very evident that all the really good sound mares in the country should be bred this year. It cannot be too strongly emphasized, however, that they should be mated only with strictly high class sires. The number of horses rejected by army buyers clearly indicates that there is no place for the unsound horse or for the misfit. Such animals have been, are now and always will be a drag on the market. Breed to the best if you would have the best. Unsound or malformed mares are just as bad as unsound stallions. It is easier to raise a good animal than a poor one. Manage the work this spring in order that the best mare on the farm may be regularly returned to the horse. Next year, a good crop of sound, healthy colts will be as good as a bank account. Canada is likely to enter shortly the commercial export market and that market will require all you can produce.

CATTLE

A very competent authority estimates that, having reference to last year's trade, average prices current for beef on the Smithfield market in London, England, for 1915, show an increase of 40%, since the outbreak of the war. The last English produce report to hand quotes Irish beef at 19 to 20c. per lb. for sides wholesale and English at 20 to 21c. per lb., as against a price of 15½ to 16½c. for Irish and 15½ to 16½c. for English, during the last week in December, 1915. It further quotes South American chilled fore-quarters at 16½c. and hind-quarters at 19½c., as against 12½ and 16c. respectively for fore-quarters and hind-quarters in December. "Supplies of frozen beef are practically exhausted, only a few small odd lots of bull beef being obtainable. These, in view of the strong demand ruling for all classes, realize high prices. The absence of frozen supplies has again forced buyers on to the chilled article, with the result that values have advanced sharply."

The general beef situation, from the standpoint of the home and foreign market, further emphasizes the shortage of supply. One feature is particularly noteworthy. It has never been indicated from any country that there is an undue accumulation of beef in storage or a congestion of cattle going forward to market. Present prices and present demand fully confirm this fact. The position in Europe is well known. The Argentine output has been absorbed for army supply to such an extent that very little frozen Argentine beef is available for civil consumption in Great Britain. Australia has passed through a severe season of drought and her exportable surplus has been greatly diminished. Moderate supplies of cow beef are going forward from New Zealand but these are not of first-rate quality. Canada and the United States have not appreciably increased their cattle population and are clearly able to find a remunerative market in Europe for any of their product available for export. The steady and continuous rise in price definitely reveals the condition of the world market for beef and emphasizes the fact that the situation is growing worse with the progress of the war.

The position is different with regard to grain. It is understood that enor-