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# FARM AND DAIRY



## & RURAL HOME

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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## The Prospects For Horse Breeding In Eastern Canada

Not Enough Horses to Do the Work—Unless More are Raised the Tractor Will Be Utilized

JOHN BRIGHT,

Dominion Live Stock Commissioner.

A YEAR ago I predicted that horses would be very scarce, and that probably 5,000 would go to the West in the spring of 1916. My predictions came true, and between 2,000 and 3,000 more than that number were taken to the West. Some horses went into the Eastern States, and some were taken by the French Government. A year ago I said there would not be enough horses to do the work in Canada, and I repeat that again at this meeting—there are not enough horses to do the work in Canada. Of course, there have been a great number of horses for sale, but they are horses that are of no use to the farmer himself, and, unfortunately, they are of no use to anyone else, consequently they could not be sold.

There is, then, an alarming scarcity of horses. The land has to be worked, and if the farmers do not breed more good horses, tractors will have to be brought into the country. Prices for a good horse are excellent. No farmer can say that \$225 is a poor price for a horse at this time of year, and previous to this. The trouble is there are not enough horses in this country, and when you see the tractors coming in, you, the farmers of this country, are to blame. Tractors won't be needed if you will breed horses, that is, horses that will do the work, because you will not find one man in a hundred who will not say that horses are by far the cheapest power. That has been proven in the west; tractors are not in favor to-day as they were some time ago. But the land has got to be worked, and if men cannot get horses, tractors will be used.

Better Breed Than Buy.

We are here for the purpose of breeding horses as well as other lines of stock. We require horses for horse-power on any farm, and we might just as well be breeding them as buying them—and breeding a few to spare for the cities. You would not find the transport people in cities and towns saying that motors are the cheapest power, if they could get the horses, but they cannot get them.

Now, gentlemen, we are facing the situation of not breeding the right kind of horses—not enough of us. I am willing to acknowledge that a number of people are saying all over this country that there are plenty of horses for sale in Canada, and they are asking, "Why don't they take them to the front?" I do not blame the owners for being willing to sell them, because they are of no use to them; they are of no use in Canada, and, unfortunately, they are of no use any place else. There are thousands of that kind of horses in Canada that should be sent to the glue factory or the tanning factory, when meat is scarce!

There are also in this country a great many blemished horses, and we are to blame for having them here. We find our horsemen buying horses and bringing them in for sale for war purposes, and it is wonderful the large percentage that are not fit to go to the front—even to France. Now, we are to blame for that, and why? We have not paid attention to breeding. The man who has

bred good females to good sires has no reason to complain, but the man who has been trying to save a few dollars at the start has horses on his hands that are not worth feeding during the winter, and I say that unhesitatingly. I am sorry for them, and would like to see them get rid of them and start afresh and start right. Breed the right kind of stock. To-day in Canada I believe the heavy horse is the most profitable to breed for the farm. I do not wish to say anything against the other breeds of horses; there are enough fanciers of light breeds in the country to supply the country, and I don't blame them for continuing with those breeds, but the average farmer needs a horse heavy enough to do the work on the farm, and there has always been a market for them. True, there has been a time since I have been farming that prices were not very luxurious, but that isn't to-day nor a year ago, because good horses command good prices. The farmer who breeds heavy horses, breeds his best and soundest mares to his best sires he is going to have something to sell that will make him as much money as any kind of live stock on his farm. That is encouraging, and it is sure. The only thing I am sorry about is before that happens here, the places of horses will be filled with mechanical ingenuities, such as gas motors, etc. However, that cannot be helped.

As to the other horses—the good, strong, light driving horse—it will always have a place in this country, but there are fanciers enough to breed those without me advising the average farmer to do so. I do not want to knock one, and as roadsters they cannot be beaten in this country. But there are too many too small, and a good deal of responsibility is laid at the door of the breeder for these little horses. Horses should be of proper size—1,050 pounds and over.

That is the trouble we are facing, as I predicted. There is going to be a big influx, that has already started for the west. Horses seem to be more needed in the west than in Ontario. I do not say Ontario can do without some horses. Three years ago the Minister of Agriculture adopted the policy of assisting in distributing stock from one province to another. We advertised that again last spring—paying the expenses of a man in one province to come to another to purchase carload lots for himself or others, not as a speculation, but for the use of the farmers. And there is going to be a great number of horses and other lines of stock go to the west. I think Ontario is not going to sell all her best mares to go to the west, because I am going to tell you right here a secret. Ontario has got to wake up, and quickly, and put a good deal of energy and force into horse breeding, or they are going to be "licked" by their western neighbors. The men



### The Horseman's Opportunity

THE breeders of pure-bred horses are to-day at the parting of the ways.

Heretofore, the magic word "importer" has carried much weight. There is much good imported stock in the country. The question arises, "Is it necessary to go on importing year by year and paying high prices for imported stock when the breeders, by giving attention to mating and to feeding, care and management, which is the other half of successful breeding, can produce a horse as good as, if not better than, a high percentage of the animals heretofore imported? The horsemen of Canada have an opportunity now such as never hitherto came their way. There are many good pure-bred mares in the country as well as good sires. Now is the time for the good horsemen, who have the interests of the industry and of the country at heart, to devote their attention as never before to the production of more and better horses. Let them not only mate carefully, but feed and develop the progeny from birth to maturity, as do the breeders of the European countries. Let our importers prove title to their claim of being practical horsemen by breeding and developing high class animals.—John Bright.