

Heavy horses make a comeback

In 1906, when there were two million horses in Canada, many were the heavy draft animals that farmers hitched into teams to plow, cultivate, sow and harvest their fields.

Then came the tractor and mechanization and, as there was no work for the slow-plodding giants of the horse world, their numbers rapidly declined.

But now the big Dobbins and Nellies who broke the sod on Canadian farmland are regaining popularity.

"Heavy horses are a big draw at shows and fairs and there just aren't enough good show-horses in Canada to meet the demand," says Ralph Henry, horse-trainer for Agriculture Canada's three teams of Clydesdales on the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa.

A good Clydesdale or Belgian gelding ready to show would sell for about \$3,000 these days. And a team of ordinary draft horses for farm work would cost \$2,000, Mr. Henry says.

Add to that \$600 or \$700 for a set of harness and about \$1,000 to feed a team for a year and work horses are not as cheap as one might think.

However, Mr. Henry points out that some farmers do use heavy horses for some special jobs.

"For example, many cattlemen in the West use a team of horses to haul feed to their cattle during the winter. They can make it through more snow than a tractor and you don't have to worry



Ralph Henry hitches up two Clydesdales to the Tally Ho, a wagon used

to transport visitors around Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm.

about their not starting on a cold morning," he says.

Most of the new work for heavy horses, however, is in parades, advertising and public relations.

Horses were used at the Central Experimental Farm until the late 1950s to put in crops and to clear snow from the farm's roadways.

When it came time to put the farm's work horses out to pasture, Ludger Bellefleur, chief of Agriculture Can-

ada's public services section, had an idea for keeping them at work — to pull wagonloads of visitors on tours of the farm. Last year, nearly 30,000 visitors to the farm rode the tour wagon *Tally-Ho*.

Mr. Henry, who drives the wagon, uses the six big Clydesdales in three separate teams. He also puts them in a four-horse hitch for local parades, and next year hopes to use all of them in a six-horse hitch.

More opportunities for women in the Armed Forces

A larger number of trades and classifications are being opened to women in the Canadian Armed Forces, Defence Minister James Richardson announced recently.

Effective immediately, the limit on the number of women in the Forces will be removed and females will be eligible for 82 of a total 121 job classifications compared to the previous 48.

Under the new program women will be accepted into 18 officer classifications and 64 non-commissioned trades.

Women will now be able to serve as land-ordnance engineers, chaplains, truck drivers, firefighters and electricians.

Mr. Richardson said that positions involving combat trades, sea-going duties and isolated postings remain open to men only, but under the new policy most other openings will be filled by selecting the best applicant, regardless of sex.

Women now represent about 3.2 per cent of the total strength of the Canadian Forces; of the 2,695 women now serving in the military, 2,098 are in the non-commissioned ranks, 597 are officers.

Earlier, Mr. Richardson announced that in 1975 female members of the Canadian Forces would be assigned to peacekeeping duties in the Middle East.

Federal funds for 1976 Olympiad for the Disabled

Federal contributions totalling \$500,000 to the Organizing Committee of the 1976 Olympiad for the Disabled, for organizing, promoting and staging the games in Toronto, were announced recently by Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde.

The Federal Government, through the department's Fitness and Amateur Sport Program, has entered into a cost-sharing agreement with the host city and the provincial government to cover the operating costs of the games.

The Olympiad for the Disabled (the Para Olympics) is usually held in the same country as the Summer Olympic Games. In 1976, from August 4 to 11,