

## THE HORSE.

### The World's Horses.

Men who have seen anything of war tell us that its havoc among horses is awful. It is said that already the original horses that went into the European war have been entirely replaced by a new draft, and that many of these have gone. It is said that the armies of France and Germany are drawing upon every horse they can secure and are rushing them to the war zone. Britain is also monthly taking a larger draft of horses. The German army requires nearly 800,000 horses for a complete mobilization. The French army requires 250,000 for its cavalry alone, and it is estimated that at the losses in horses alone to the present date in the present war will run well into a million. Perhaps the most tragic feature of the war in regard to horses, is the sacrifice of such a great percentage of the Belgian horses whose home is along the Meuse valley in Belgium. All told, the horses in Belgium before the war numbered but 263,000.

The other countries engaged in the war had the following numbers of horses before the war: Great Britain, 2,230,000; France, 3,222,000; Russia in Europe, 24,652,000; Russia in Asia, 10,000,000; Germany, 4,523,000; and Austria-Hungary, 4,374,000.

Canada has 2,947,738 horses, and other parts of the Empire probably 3,000,000 more. United States has, according to latest statistics, about 24,000,000 horses.

Already shiploads of horses have gone from Canada to fill places in the British army. More have gone from the United States to both the British and French armies. Should the war continue for any length of time horses will be the most expensive thing about the farm.

When the war has drawn on some millions more of horses to be blotted out, what will be the position of Canada in the horse world? Instead of America going to Europe for horses, Europe will be coming to America not only for horses to carry on the work on the farms, streets and roads, but also for pure-bred breeding stock to continue the improvement of the noted breeds of draft horses. Will Canadian horsemen be in a position to take advantage of the demand for better pure-bred horses that the war will create?

### The Future of Horse Breeding as Seen in England.

It is to be hoped that the European war has at last brought home to the public what every thinking person must have known for years, that the size of our army is totally inadequate for what is required of it, and that the number of light horses needful for that army is rapidly diminishing. The use of motor cars by private persons and also for trade purposes has increased to such an extent that the farmer can no longer afford to breed light horses for the limited and underpaid market which alone is open to him. Horses are now needed for:—1, Racing; 2, Farm work; 3, Cavalry; 4, Hunting; and the few, very few, needed for harness work can be supplied from the misfits of 3 and 4.

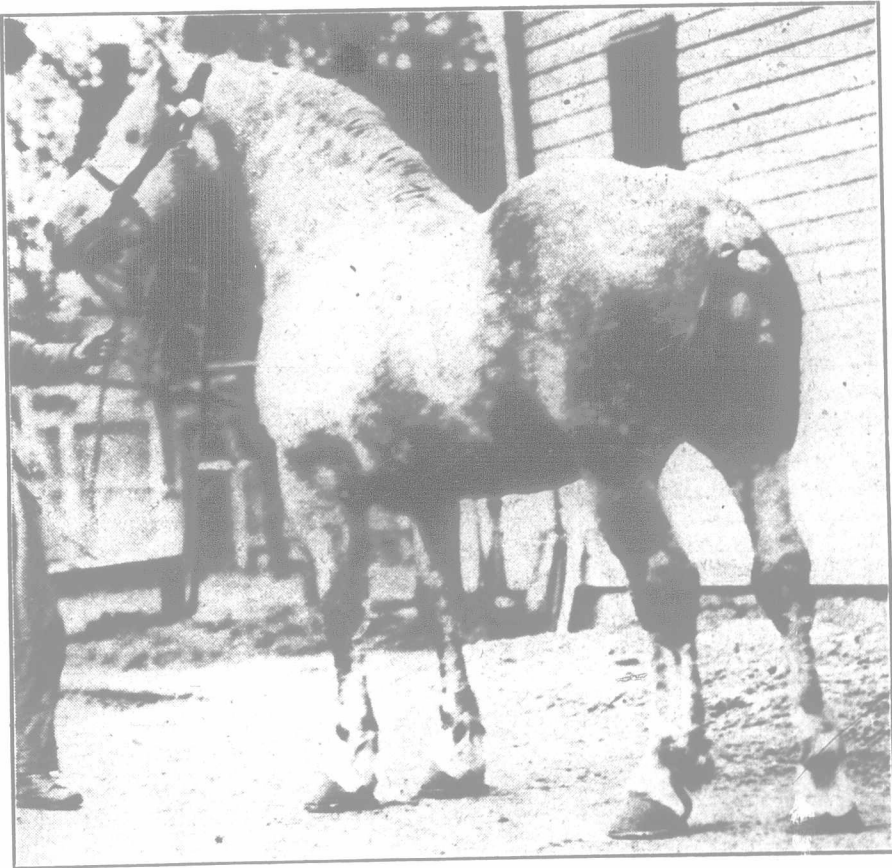
Owing to the initial expenses race horses are mostly bred by wealthy owners; moreover they begin work, and possibly gain their living, at two years old, and the enormous prizes open to them and amount of enjoyment they afford to a large class of people in the form of gambling will always make it worth while to many people to breed them. Farm horses can start work at two years old, they require less care and attention than any other horse, and invariably fetch a reasonable price even at public auctions. It pays farmers to breed them, especially those farmers who are fortunate enough to live in a neighborhood where the best stallions are at their service at a reasonable rate, and where the foals are often bought at prices far beyond the expectation of their fortunate owners. Even if it be desirable to keep a gelding destined for town work till five or six years old, when the jar of hard roads will less affect his joints, he can still be used from two years old on soft ground, greatly to his benefit and that of the farmer. The best proof that breeding of Shire horses is the small farmer's trade is that the majority of prizes won at the Shire Shows are by animals bred by tenant farmers which have been bought as foals by big landowners.

Now as to cavalry horses, these are not fit for hard work before the age of five or six; a farmer cannot possibly afford to keep them till that age if he will only get £40 for the best when they reach that age. The whole matter is a money question. If the Government would give £40, or £50, or even £60 for a two-year-old horse, many farmers would breed them. Stallions at disposal of farmers should be absolutely sound, fee not exceed £2, and they should be easily reached; that means that there should be a very great many of them scattered all over the country. At the

present time, even if a fee be low, the farmer has great difficulty and great expense for sending the mares, maybe three or four times. The Government could keep the horses from two years old to four years old in the big parks at Windsor, Richmond and Bushey Park instead of the useless deer. At four years old the different cavalry regiments should take them up for training, but should not do regular hard work before reaching five or six years of age.

As long as the breaking up of estates and the division of land into small properties does not stop hunting altogether, there will be plenty of money to buy hunters. Farmers will breed them too if they can be sold at two years old, but must demand a high price if they are to be kept longer. It is not the fee for service that stops the farmer; it is the expense of keeping the young horses, the amount of care and attention they need, and the skill required to train them that frightens the farmers.

The French Government has large breeding establishments in Algeria, and I believe the German and Austrian Governments have also large studs. There has been some question of starting a horse-breeding organization in Canada; the sooner the Government makes up its mind about it, the better for this country. South Africa also would afford splendid breeding grounds. Undoubtedly the best horses of all come from Ireland; surely it would be easy enough to organize studs there, and also to make it worth while for the farmers there to breed on a large scale.—Sir E. D. Stern, in the Live Stock Journal Almanac 1915.



Liquide (Imp.).

First-prize two-year-old at Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1913. Exhibited by T. H. Hassard, Markham, Ont.

### Drafting of Horses for War.

During the past few months a very large number of horses have been bought for war purposes. The allied armies of Europe who find themselves in need of remounts for their cavalry squadrons, have turned to America, and have for some time past had their agents buying in practically all parts of the continent. Train loads have been shipped from Texas points for the British; larger numbers have been secured in the Chicago markets; agents of the French Government are purchasing in Montana, and many more have been secured from the Pacific coast states. In Canada, practically every province has been drawn upon either by the Provincial, Dominion or British Governments, and large numbers of horses have already been purchased and forwarded to Europe.

An example of provincial purchasing is found in the province of Saskatchewan, the Government of which donated some 1,300 cavalry and artillery horses to the British Government, all of these horses being secured from the farmers of the province. The Dominion Government has bought horses in various parts of Canada to furnish mounts for the cavalrymen being sent to the front in the various contingents. The British Government is also buying for the purpose of replenishing the stock of remounts which are continually being depleted in the various engagements in the war zone.

The life of the army horse is short—it can often be reckoned in days, sometimes weeks or months, but it is invariably short. Consequent-

ly, large numbers must be held in readiness in reserve, so that they can be utilized on short notice. Before the opening of the present European war there were many military experts who claimed that owing to the improved machine guns now in use, the cavalry would not be apt to play a very important part in war, but we find that they still are invaluable. In fact, they have proved in the present conflict that they are just as dependable as of old, and have done most effective work in checking the enemies' advances on numerous occasions.

Men can stand up against rifle fire, can endure continuous shelling while entrenched, but to stand up and face a squadron of cavalry, charging at a thundering gallop, requires a different kind of courage. They are not up against a mere machine, as in the first instance, but face to face with an irresistible living force against which bayonets, rifles or anything less than machine guns are of little avail. Not only does the horse play a prominent part in warfare from the standpoint of a cavalry animal, but he is also an essential part of the artillery batteries. Without him it would be well nigh impossible to move the huge field pieces and siege guns that have played such an important part in the present war. We also find him used for transport work, more of which is done by motor truck than formerly, but still the horses are largely used in this service.

It is readily seen from the various uses to which horses are put during war that various types of animals would be required. For instance, an animal suitable for a remount for a cavalryman would not be the best sort to use on a gun carriage or a transport wagon.

Several types are required, in fact they include nearly all the classes of horses usually found on the average Canadian farm. The type probably in greatest demand is the "rider" or cavalry horse. This horse should stand from 15 to 15.3 hands high, weigh from 1,000 to 1,150 pounds, be sound, strongly muscled, compactly built and possess a set of clean-cut limbs properly placed. Horses of this kind are desirable because they are of good size, usually have considerable speed and can carry a maximum load under saddle.

Another class is of the same type as the above except in point of size. There are a great many that might be termed "big little horses" in demand for mounted infantry. These animals are only used for carrying a man and his equipment from place to place. They enable the infantryman to advance

rapidly or to fall back quickly as the case may be. They are, however, too small to carry the heavy equipment of the regular cavalryman, nor would they be able to stand the strain demanded of the heavier cavalry horse in charging at full speed over rough or uneven ground. These are usually a cheaper class, but none the less useful in their place.

The two next desirable types are the heavy and light artillery, commonly called "gunners." These horses are of a slightly different type, have more weight, ranging from 1,200 to 1,300 pounds, and are from 15.1 to 16 hands high. Besides the weight there are several other qualifications required in a good artillery horse. He must be well built, a little on the order of a draft animal, with good sloping shoulders, short, well muscled back and quarters and possess plenty of spirit, together with ability, to not only draw a good load, but to draw it at a gallop if required. The horses commonly used by fire departments are a good example of this type. These horses are usually used in fours and sixes, driven tandem and the lighter types used for leaders, while the heavier, slower animals will be hitched next to the gun carriage and be termed as wheelers.

Still another distinct type is found suitable for certain work. It is the horse that is of draft breeding, has plenty of size but lacks the ambition, courage and activity necessary for artillery purposes. He is used on the transports, or ammunition wagons, in the rear of the lines,