

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVE STOCK BRANCH
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PRODUCTION AND MARKETS

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Is the farmer justified in believing that the firm tone of the horse market and the present high prices for live stock rest upon a secure foundation? May he look forward with any confidence to the next season's or next year's market? Should he prepare, as against an advertised shortage and high prices for all classes of farm animals, horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry? We are confident that the farmer has never been in a more secure position than the present, as regards the extension of his breeding operations, but, to enable him to form more easily his own conclusions, the following facts are submitted:

HORSES

Since the outbreak of the war, the British Remount Commission has purchased in Canada 15,000 horses. 8,000 have been bought by French contractors and 25,000 by the Canadian Department of Militia. The Department of Militia is now engaged in buying an additional thousand head. The British Remount Commission has purchased over 700 since March and is buying daily in Montreal. French contractors are anxious to obtain supplies and are arranging to buy all that are available both in the East and in the West. It is understood that, as a result of the purchases already made, army buyers are finding it increasingly difficult, both in the United States and in Canada, to readily secure the number of horses which they require, particularly of the type suitable for heavy cavalry or heavy artillery.

In addition to the purchase for army account, commercial activity from two distinct quarters has exerted a very evident influence upon the Canadian horse market during the past three or four months. Since the beginning of the year, 6,000 horses reached the Winnipeg Stock Yards from Eastern Canada and 5,917 were shipped from the same yards westward, mostly to Saskatchewan. During the months of January, February and March, 1,805 horses were exported to the United States. A few hundred more went forward to the same market in April. The horses exported were good farm chunks weighing from