



Gaer Conqueror.

Shire stallion. Supreme champion, London Shire Show, 1910.

Intertown trade by road practically ceased long ago. Even farmers do far less teaming than formerly, though radial leading roads into market towns are of great benefit to them still. But roads such as those proposed would be little used by the majority of farmers for the greater portion of their length.

## HORSES.

### The Army Horse Problem.

(English Correspondence.)

A conference of representatives of the various agricultural societies and the chief associations connected with horses has been discussing, in London, the question of the supply of horses for war purposes. There has been a considerable decline in horse-breeding in the last 30 years, especially in the lighter breeds, and in recent years the rapid introduction of motor-cabs in London and other cities has lessened the demand for horses to an alarming extent. The London Omnibus Company is disposing of its horses at the rate of as many as 150 a day, and motor omnibuses displace the older horse-drawn vehicle. The South African war took 400,000 horses, and in case of emergency, the Government would need from 300,000 to 500,000 horses within 12 or 18 months.

The conference recommended a much more liberal appropriation for the encouragement of horse-breeding than the present grant of £5,000. France spends £300,000, Germany and Austria £200,000 each for this purpose, and the suggestion was made that the United Kingdom could well afford £500,000 a year for such a laudable cause. Another proposal was that 50,000 brood mares throughout the country should be "ear-marked" for military purposes, and that such a subsidy should be paid to the owners as would prevent such brood mares being exported.

Whatever course the Government adopts must be done quickly, as the remount problem is a serious one. Ever since the South African war there have been many weedy-looking horses in even crack cavalry regiments.

### SALE OF SHIRES.

The first sale of Shire horses for the season took place at Peterborough, and brought out a large attendance. On the opening day stallions were offered, and there was a brisk demand, prices ranging up to 250 gs. for E. Green's "Moor's Chief." On second day, mares and fillies were offered. The highest price was 150 gs., for the three-year-old filly, "Marden Picotee," from Sir Walter Greenwall's stud.

The joint sale at Hinckley of 51 Shire horses from the studs of F. Farnsworth and M. Hubbard, was well attended, and good prices were realized. Several daughters of "Lockinge Forest King" were offered, and caused spirited competition. The total sum for the sale was £4,553 17s. Mr. Farnsworth's average for 26 being £77 13s. 10d., and Mr. Hubbard's for 25 head, £101 7s.

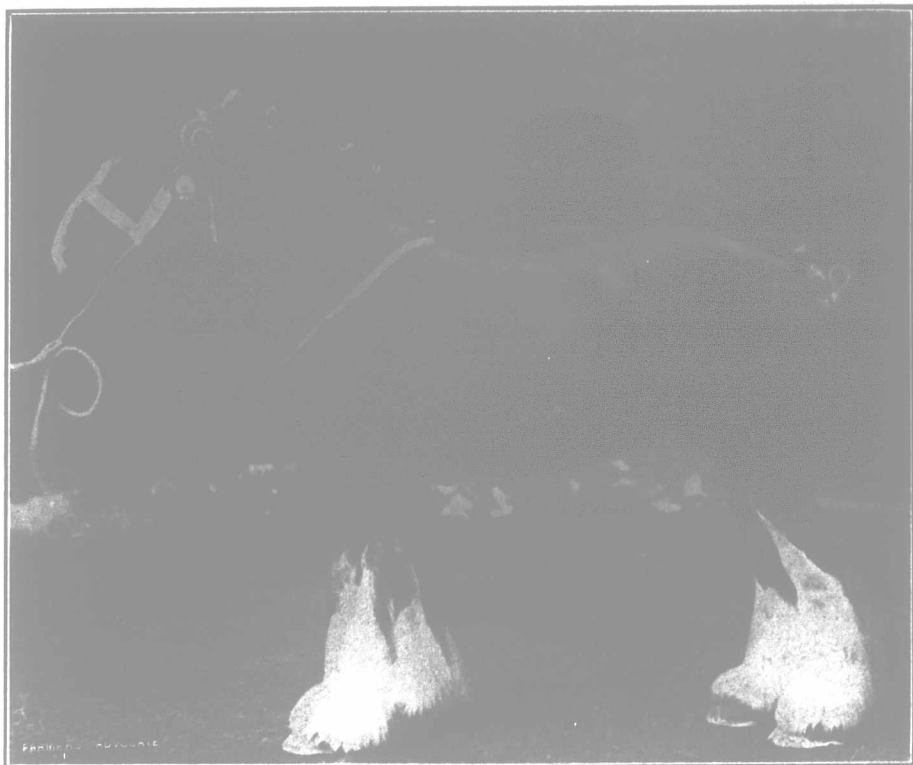
F. DEWHIRST.

### London Shire Show.

This great event in the calendar of the English farmer took place February 22nd to 25th, in the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, and the display of massive drafters in all its sections was, as usual, a very interesting one. The Shire Horse Society is very strong in membership and money, and the classes at the show are filled to overflowing with entries competing for the numerous and liberal prizes offered, the prize-money at this year's event amounting to \$12,000. The stock sired by the celebrated Lockinge Forest King were again very much in evidence, and he has proved himself to be the Baron's Pride of the Shires. Four-year-old stallions had a class to themselves of 58 entries, and in this section Sir Walpole Greenwell had the first winner in the

noted Marden Jameson, by Dunsmore Jameson, the sire which alone competes with Lockinge Forest King. Older horses were classed as over four years and under ten, and divided into two classes, one under 16.2 hands, and the other over that height. There was a class for horses ten years and over. In the class under 16.2 hands there were 29 entries, and the first prize went to Forshaw & Sons for Royalist Count, by Calwich Blend. In the bigger class there were 44 entries, and A. Grange was first with the five-year-old, Gaer Conqueror, second award going to Lord Rothschild's Childwick Champion. In the class for stallions ten years and upwards, Lord Rothschild's Birdsall Menestrel, ten years old, was first. Three-year-olds had a class of 80 entries, with eleven money prizes. Sir Berkeley Sheffield was first with Slipton King, and Messrs. Ainscough's Tatton Herald, by Tatton Friar, was second. A two-year-old class of 107 entries had ten money prizes. Lord Winterstoke had first with Rickford Coming King, by Ravenspen, and Leek Forest King, by Lockinge Forest King, was second. Sir Walpole Greenwell had first for yearlings, with a son of Marden Forest King.

Championships.—The junior champion cup for stallions went to the first-prize three-year-old Slipton King. The reserve was Lord Winterstoke's first-prize two-year-old Rickford Coming King. The senior champion cup for horses four years and upwards, went to Mr. Grandage's five-year-old Gaer Conqueror. The reserve was Lord Rothschild's old horse, Birdsall Menestrel. The supreme championship gold challenge cup went to Gaer Conqueror, and Birdsall Menestrel was reserve. The junior cup for the best filly in the three younger classes went to J. G. Williams for his first-prize three-year-old, Bardon Forest Princess. The senior champion cup for mares four years and over was awarded to Sir Walpole Greenwell's great four-year-old, Eureka, by Hereford, and the supreme championship also went to Eureka.



Eureka.

Shire mare. Champion, London Shire Show, 1910.

### The French-Canadian Horse.

By J. B. Spencer.

The French-Canadian horse, as a breed or race, is rather a matter of history than an active force in agricultural economy. There was a time when the horses of the Province of Quebec were composed largely of one type, and it was its discovered excellence that brought about in a large degree its degeneration as a breed. There are still within the Province, here and there, fairly pure representatives of the old sort, but among those that have been approved by the Inspection Commission for foundation stock for the new Studbook, the best, undoubtedly, possess the blood of other races. In some of the more remote sections of the Province in which agriculture is carried on in a more or less primitive fashion, there are to be found many small horses of the old type, but the owners of these, in not appreciating what they have, are taking no steps towards registration, so that, with the closing of the Studbook against uninspected foundation stock, these most pure of all French-Canadian horses will be lost to their race, in so far as a recognized breed is concerned.

The origin of the French-Canadian horse has been described by Dr. J. A. Couture, Secretary of the Live-stock Associations of Quebec. He states that the original stock was the best of the time available in France. In 1655, King Louis XIV., who was anxious for the welfare of the Colony, gave instructions to have twenty mares and two stallions despatched to Quebec from the Royal stables. Unfortunately, only twelve of the mares, along with the stallions, landed. Two years later, one stallion and two mares were sent out, and in 1670 a stallion and eleven mares followed. As years went by, other importations were made, to become the foundation of the French-Canadian breed. The horses remained the property of the King for three years, after which they were distributed among those who had done most to promote colonization and agriculture. It is firmly believed that the imported stock was derived from Arab, Turk and Barb races, from which have sprung the English Thoroughbred and the Hackney.

There are few horsemen of the old stock in Eastern Canada who cannot tell a good story of the excellence of the French-Canadian horse as he appeared thirty or forty years ago. Until then he was confined much to his own Province, but, as his good qualities leaked out, horse-dealers looked in and found a source of supply that took a deal of exhausting. It is claimed that in 1850 there were in Quebec fully 150,000 horses of the old breed; to-day it would be difficult to find one-fiftieth as many that at all approach in appearance and quality the old sort. Large numbers went into the Eastern States, many to the Maritime Provinces, and the Province of Ontario. In those days he was a well-shaped, powerful little horse, active and sure-footed, sound of wind and limb, and possessed of great endurance. Being rather low-set, he was easy on himself, and having to work hard in the fields in summer, in the woods in winter, and on the roads at all times, and never overfed, he was spared the evil effects of pampering. He stood but little over 15 hands high, and weighed from 900 to 1,100 pounds. His head, carried well up, was broad, and inclined to be strong, rather than fine; his eye, full and courageous; neck stout, body powerful, breast full,