

MOUNTED INFANTRY HORSES.

The *Calgary Herald's* standing campaign against Dr. McEachran has broken out again, says the *Malceod Gazette*, and for the last two weeks that journal has been raging violently. The campaign spread to the City Council and to the Board of Trade, both of which bodies have met and resolved and generally done all in their power to make Dr. McEachran feel the heavy hand of the City of Calgary. The gist of the complaints is that Dr. McEachran, in buying horses for Strathcona's horse, has not made proper selections. That is to say, he has not — of the course in the opinion of the *Herald*, the Board of Trade and the City Council of the City of Calgary — secured horses which are suitable for the work they have to perform, and individual instances are quoted to help to prove the charges, in which horses of a most venerable age have been accepted. We are not particularly exercised about the matter except for the fact that the *Herald's* remarks and the resolutions passed by the institutions referred to above, might lead non-residents to suppose that they voice the sentiments of Southern Alberta and consequently of the main body of ranchers. It may be well consequently to state that they do not voice the general opinion of this part of the country. The horses bought by Dr. McEachran in Southern Alberta are a good, clean, serviceable bunch, and we have no hesitation in prophesying that they will work all round the English cavalry horses. They may be, doubtless are, individual horses that will turn out to be worthless, but that is unavoidable. The best vet. living could not prevent such contingencies.

It is to be presumed that Dr. McEachran was perfectly well aware of the stamp of horse required, and it is also to be presumed that he bought the stamp of horse he wanted. They may not be the standard of English army cavalry horses, but Dr. McEachran, we are quite sure, whatever anybody else may have stated, never suggested that he wanted horses of that type. What he wanted was a number of the ordinary saddle horses, common to the ranching country; horses that may not be paragons of beauty, but which are as tough as they make them; and certainly in so far as this part of the country is concerned, he got what he wanted. And when Dr. J. G. Rutherford, the member for Macdonald, Man., states, as he did state in the House of

Commons, "that the prices offered by Dr. McEachran in the Northwest Territories are such as to make it quite possible, in fact probable, that he will not be able to secure what he wants," why that gentleman does not know what Dr. McEachran wants (which is extremely probable), or he is talking "through his hat." The horses taken are for the use of mounted infantry, a fact that seems to have been overlooked by the doctor's opponents.

They are not intended for a cavalry regiment, and we unhesitatingly maintain that the type of horse bought exactly fills the bill; and it is a fact that is worth taking note of, that in view of the probable large increase in the mounted infantry branch of the British army in the near future, it is not at all improbable that Dr. McEachran's choice of horses for the Strathcona's Horse, when it is seen what a hardy and useful animal has been supplied by this country, will lead to a large demand in the future for this very class of horse — a kind be it remarked, of which there are more in this country than of any other class.

The *Calgary Herald*, etc., etc., have worked up much indignation over one or two instances in which it is claimed fabulously venerable old plugs have been accepted by Dr. McEachran in Calgary. This may be so, but if it is, we cannot but think there were good and substantial reasons for their purchase. Dr. McEachran, wherever he has bought horses, has had the assistance of a second vet., sometimes two; and it is not a particularly difficult undertaking for a qualified veterinary surgeon to tell the age of a horse. As a matter of fact, it may interest the *Calgary Herald* to know that all horses bought for Dr. McEachran were not intended for saddle horses; a certain number were required for packing purposes.

One other point which may be noticed in connection with the underhand tricks claimed to have been played off on Dr. McEachran by certain Calgary horsemen to induce him to buy their horses is this: every person selling any horse to Dr. McEachran for the use of the Strathcona Horse, before receiving pay for the same, was required to sign a document in which it was guaranteed that the age, soundness and general description of the horse or horses sold was correct as per the description which had been furnished by the seller, and which was filled in on the back of the document, and it was expressly stipulated that in the event of such description, age, etc., turning out to be other than as furnished, the seller bound himself to take back the horse and refund the money.—*N.-W. Farmer.*