

the time of year at which your Majesty's Commission has been issued, and the amount of funds at their disposal, that they will best be expended in the coming year in premiums for thoroughbred stallions suitable for getting half-bred horses, of general utility to be offered at a show in conjunction with that of the Royal Agricultural Society to be held at Nottingham on the 9th and 10th February, 1888. But your commissioners without committing themselves to any specific action in the future, desire to record their intention of taking further evidence, and collecting all available information with reference to every recognized breed of horses, in the United Kingdom, before arranging a scheme of distribution for 1889.

"The premiums to be offered will be called Queen's premiums.

"It appears to your commissioners, that by a system of premiums carefully guarded by adequate rules and regulations, some of the difficulties which have hitherto stood in the way of breeders of horses (especially small occupiers of land) in securing the services of sound stallions may be removed. The scheme, together, with the rules and regulations under which the premiums will be offered for competition this year will be found in the appendix."

The following is a summary of the appendix referred to:—

Twenty-two 'Queen's premiums' of £200 each, will be offered for thoroughbred stallions (three years old and upwards). It shall be a condition that each stallion winning a premium shall serve not less than fifty half-bred mares, if required, during the season of 1888, and shall stand or travel at the owner's option in the district for which he is exhibited, at a fee not exceeding 40s. for each mare and 2s. 6d. to the groom.

These premiums are intended to subsidise six-sevenths of England and Wales, in accordance with the district map of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and Wales.

For the purposes of this exhibition each district will constitute a separate class to be styled "district class." The district undertaken by the Royal Agricultural Society will be excluded from the operation of the grant.

Stallions shall compete in the "district class" only for which they are entered. The premiums are for three stallions at £200 each in each district.

The season of services will commence on 20th March and terminate on 1st July.

It will be observed from the above that earnest efforts are being made to promote the breeding of general utility horses. The principal object to be attained in Canada is chiefly of type. In the case of heavy draught horses the type has been thoroughly established and nearly every farmer is acquainted with it. The lack of knowledge of the requirements of the European and United States markets, on the part of the ordinary Canadian farmer, is, however, very apparent. Colonel Ravenhill's description of the class of horse required leaves little to be desired but the establishment at the Government Experimental Farms of studs of Hackney, Cleveland bay, and thoroughbred horses would do more to make Canadians acquainted with what is wanted. These could be exhibited (not for competition) at the leading agricultural shows, and this with the offered prizes for mares suitable for breeding carriage horses, hunters and hackneys for export, would in a short time enable Canadians to command a large and valuable trade.

In a report made in 1886 to the High Commissioner and a copy of which was appended to my last year annual report (see page 303), I referred to the action I took in 1875 and 1876 to inaugurate sales and fairs in Canada.

The first paragraph in the Report of Colonels Ravenhill and Phillips to you shows that their views are identical with mine as to the importance of establishing centres for the sale and purchase of horses, and it is very desirable in the interests of all concerned that some steps should be taken at once to meet the difficulty which at present exists.

If periodical horse-fairs were held, I could bring them to the notice of a large number of dealers in Great Britain and on the Continent who I am sure would be only too glad to attend them.

As regards draught horses a large number of very superior animals have been