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ARMY HORSE REQUIREMENTS

The passage of the selective draft measure by the United States Congress makes certain the immediate preparation and equipment of an army of at least a million men in 1917. All preparations are being made for a war that will last three years.

The requirements of cavalry, infantry and artillery regiments in horses and mules are set forth in a letter just received by Wayne Dinsmore, secretary of the Percheron Horse Society of America from the War Department, Washington, D.C., as follows:

Cavalry Regiment	Infantry Regiment
1,541 horses.	69 riding horses.
152 draft mules.	112 draft mules.
29 pack mules.	25 pack mules.
6 riding mules.	6 riding mules.
Artillery Regiment	
1,097 horses.	88 draft mules.
	4 riding mules.

These are minimum requirements, and do not take into account transportation trains required to forward supplies from terminal points to field bases. In other words, the number of animals specified above refer only to those actually needed with the troops.

The war strength of a regiment of infantry is approximately 1,500 men; of a regiment of cavalry approximately 1,300 men; of a regiment of artillery consisting of six batteries of four guns each, approximately 1,146 men. While definite information as to the proportion of infantry, cavalry, and artillery to be included in the new army is not yet forthcoming, it is generally understood among army officials that an artillery battery of four guns will be allowed for each 1,000 infantry. It seems probable therefore that the first one million men placed under arms by the United States will be composed of 500 regiments of infantry totalling 750,000 men, 125 regiments of artillery totalling 143,250 men, and 100 regiments of cavalry totalling 130,000 men, making a grand total of a little over 1,000,000 men.

It may be argued that there is no probability that the United States will prepare 100 regiments of cavalry, but it view of the danger from the Mexican situation, it appears to be the belief of well informed army officers that at least that many cavalry regiments will be provided for in this year's mobilization.

To equip 500 regiments of infantry will require 34,500 riding horses, 56,000 draft mules, 12,500 pack mules, and 3,000 riding mules. 125 regiments of artillery will require 137,025 horses, 10,000 draft mules and 500 riding mules. The equipment of 100 regiments of cavalry will necessitate 154,100 horses, 15,200 draft mules, 2,900 pack mules and 600 riding mules. The total number therefore required for the equipment of 500 regiments of infantry, 125 of artillery, and 100 of cavalry, will amount to 325,025 horses and 100,700 mules.

The army has at present only 70,000 head of horses and mules. This means that approximately 350,000 head of horses and mules must be bought within the next six months. No information has yet been received from the army authorities in regard to how the purchase of these horses and mules will be made. In the judgment of experienced horsemen, however, the purchase of so large a number of horses and mules within the limited time available can best be accomplished by setting a definite price to be paid by the army for the different animals that will pass inspection for their respective classes, and by establishing ten or fifteen inspection points where horses and mules may be tendered for inspection. This will permit dealers, large or small, or even farmers, to consign their horses directly to inspection points with definite information in regard to what they will obtain for them if they pass inspection.

It must not be forgotten that the allied nations are still in the market, and will continue to be. Their need for horses and mules is as great as for guns and ammunition indeed, even more so, because they can manufacture the guns and ammunition in their own countries, but their resources in horses and mules have already been exhausted, and this

continent is the only source from which they can obtain additional supplies. 853,116 head of horses and 289,062 head of mules have been exported, practically all of them for war purposes, during the 30 months ending March 1, 1917. In spite of the shortage of ships, 40,000 head of horses and mules were shipped in January, 1917, and more than 27,000 head in February, 1917 from U.S.A.

Recent accounts from the battlefield relating the loss of hundreds of pieces of artillery by the Germans in recent operations state that the loss of these pieces was due recently to the lack of artillery horses.

Potato Growing in the West

Continued from Page 7

presents the extremes in depth. Generally three-and-a-half inches or thereabouts is best. Where the crop is to be harrowed before the plants come up deeper planting is desirable but in gardens or in other places where harrowing is not practiced at this time shallow planting will generally be found to give larger returns and will almost always give an earlier crop.

Distance Apart of Rows and Sets

The drier the district and the less moisture the land contains the wider apart the rows should be. Under normal soil conditions on fallowed land rows 30 to 36 inches apart are generally used. On fall or spring plowing rows 36 to 48 inches wide as 48 inches may be used. The cheaper the land and the more expensive the seed the wider the rows should be. The distance between the sets varies with the width of the rows. The wider the rows the closer the sets should be. Under normal conditions sets are placed from 12 to 16 inches apart. In weedy land and on fall or spring plowing, planting in squares two-and-half or three feet each way is sometimes practiced. This permits intertillage in two directions.

Potatoes may be planted by hand or with a machine planter or they may be plowed in. The hand method is, of course, the most expensive and is suitable only for small areas such as the kitchen garden. Where potatoes are grown in a commercial way the potato planter or the plow method should be used. A potato planter costs money but when a considerable area is to be grown it is likely to be found a profitable investment.

When potatoes are plowed in it is generally best, after planting one row, to cover same by plowing the next furrow as in ordinary plowing. The second or third furrow after the one planted should then be used for the next row. Where potatoes are plowed in, the land should be packed immediately afterward and harrowed. It is generally well to pack the land even after planting has been done with a regular potato planter.

A Home Made Planter

A home made machine has been used by the field husbandry department of the college with considerable success. It consists simply of a hopper, with an opening in the front side at the bottom, attached to the stem of the seat of a two-furrow gang plow. The operator sits with his back to the horses and drops the potatoes into a zinc or tin conveyor which carries them to the bottom of the furrow made by the first plow where they are covered immediately by the second plow. A definite number of sets is planted in the distance covered at each revolution of the plow wheel thus insuring uniformity. If it is desired to plant in four foot rows no seed is dropped the second round. If three foot rows are wanted a single furrow plow should follow or precede the home made planter. At a cost of a few cents for material and two or three hours time a very serviceable planter can thus be made from a two-furrow gang plow.

Cultivation—Insect and Disease Control

After potatoes are planted the land should receive one or more harrowings in order to control weeds. Even after the plants are up harrowing should not be discontinued. When they reach a height of four or five inches intertillage should commence and it should continue throughout the season, the objects being: first, to control weeds, and second,