

### Canadian Horses for the British Army.

Editor Advocate:

SIR,—For some time past the people of England have been generally concerned regarding the falling off in the supply of horses suitable for army purposes, especially so as the present condition of the army as regards the want of horses is very serious, if the state of affairs is as bad as the newspapers report it. One cavalry regiment of 1,200 men is said to have only 820 horses.

Last September a royal commission was appointed to take what steps the members thought best to insure in the future the better supply of suitable horses, and the sum of \$25,000 was placed at their disposal to further this end.

The members went to work at once and decided to offer a special prize which is called the "Queen's Premium" to such thoroughbred sires as met their approval, the owners of which would agree to offer their service at \$10 per mare. The report recently issued by the commissioners shows that they have awarded Queen's Premiums to 22 horses in different parts of the country, and they hope to have next season more funds so that they can extend their work.

Farmers will thus be able to get sires of good blood and undoubted soundness at a very reasonable fee, and may look upon their prospective stock as almost sold to the army agents.

The work of the commissioners seems to have given general satisfaction to all but the breeders of Cleveland bays, Yorkshire coachers and Norfolk trotters, who seem to think that some of the prizes should have been open to the class of horses they represent.

The English, who as a people are undoubtedly the best judges and breeders of horses in the world, are greatly in favor of thoroughbreds and are fully aware of their great value as sires.

Buyers from every part of the world attend the regular public sales, and the British Government buy a number every year to send out to India. The prices paid for young horses of good family are rarely over \$1,500, and many are sold for much less. Of course high prices are often paid for fancy racing stock, as for instance in 1886, when fourteen yearlings, sired by the famous Sterling, sold for an average price of over \$5,000 (1,068 guineas) each. Sterling's service cannot now be had for less than \$750. Again, London borough was sold at these sales for only \$120, but afterwards became famous, and his service is now valued at \$250.

If Canadian farmers want to get up an export trade in horses with England, which is the best market in which to sell fine horses in the world, they should bring out more thoroughbred sires of good family, not necessarily of the racing type, but such as they use in England for racing hunters. Such horses crossed on our Canadian mares should give stock of great power and sound constitution, just what is wanted for all purposes.

A very much esteemed blood at present is a combination of that of Touchstone and Birdcatch, such as is represented in Chichester. Could it not be possible to get some of these Queen's Premium horses sent out to Canada? Their progeny as half-breds would be just what is wanted for cavalry purposes, and might be considered as good as sold to the British Government.

W. S., MONTREAL.

### Our Ayrshire Herd Books.

We know from personal experience, as well as from other sources, that the Ayrshire is a remarkable milker, and deserves greater attention than the breed has received. The champions of this breed have been very tardy in coming forward to push its merits into public favor, and we can do very little without their co-operation. We have, therefore, learned with regret, if not with astonishment, that there is a split between the two Ayrshire Herd-book Associations, which must have an effect akin to the Shorthorn muddle, as published in our columns.

The Agriculture and Arts Association are the source of a great deal of trouble and annoyance in our herd-book history, and the part they have played in the Ayrshire Breeders' Associations is unworthy of our Province and our live-stock industry. We are pleased to see that the broken arrangements to amalgamate the herd-books and centre the entire business in Toronto have been rejected by the Canada Ayrshire Herd-book Association—not that we desire a split, but because we wish to see our Ayrshire register, placed on a firm, independent and honorable foundation. We admire the courage displayed by Mr. W. Rodden, president of the Canada Ayrshire Herd-book Association, and his following, in refusing to submit to the managers of the Government Herd-book, which is incomplete and contains a number of doubtful and spurious pedigrees. In all probability the two herd-books will be carried on as heretofore.

In order to acquaint our readers with the facts relating to the registration of Ayrshires, we take the following extracts from the president's report read before a meeting of the Eastern Ayrshire breeders recently held in Montreal:—

I may explain that there are two Ayrshire Herd-books, one published in Montreal by the committee of the Ayrshire Importers' and Breeders' Association, called the "Canada Ayrshire Herd Record," all animals recorded in it tracing to importations owned throughout Canada; the other published in Toronto by the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, called the "Dominion Ayrshire Herd-book," having grades in it.

In September, 1886, some Ontario Ayrshire breeders met at Toronto to organize a Dominion Ayrshire Association that was to meet in January, 1887. The president of the Canada and of the Dominion Association corresponded with reference to the advantages of having but one organization and one herd-book, Scotland and the United States having each only one, and they were working well.

The correspondence resulted in an arrangement to have a committee of each Association meet in Ottawa on the 6th of April, 1887, at which were present a few members from both organizations. Various ways of arranging matters were discussed; some advocated adherence to tracing to importations, others desired that the standard "aimed at is imported Ayrshire stock on the side of both sire and dam." The opinion of the meeting was in favor of one Association and one book, and seemed to favor the Canadian record. A committee of three from each Association was named to examine the books and report on the pedigrees on record, to a meeting of both Associations to be held in Ottawa on the 27th April, 1887, to consider the reports and to complete the amalgamation. This revising committee met before the general meeting. Mr. Rodden reported he had found in the Dominion Herd-book several hundred erroneous pedigrees; some were grades with false pedigrees, some were said to be imported and others said to be from imported stock, but were not; some cows were credited with calves two or three months apart that they never had, others were said to be from imported

sires that did not exist at the time, others were said to be from sires and dams that had died two to four years before the dates given of the calves; some cows are entered that never existed, and other cows were credited with calves for two and three years after they are known to have been dead; others had few errors that might be corrected.

Mr. Wade reported a list of fifteen in the Canada book "which required verification." These are found to be clerical and typographical omissions and errors that are now corrected. It may here be remarked that a perfect herd-book free from slight errors of this kind is not existing.

The revising committee agreed to report in favor of the Canada book to the Associations meeting on the 27th April. The minutes of that meeting show what was then agreed upon as follows, word for word, as resolved on the 27th April: "That the Canadian Herd-book be taken 'as the nucleus of amalgamated Association 'herd-book, and that the revision of the pedigrees be left to Messrs. Rodden and Wade, with such assistance as may be required. Any difference of opinion between the revisers to be referred to the executive committee for final settlement."

This basis of amalgamation was agreed to by the meeting, to which was added, on motion unanimously carried, as follows: "That the herd-books of the two Associations and all necessary papers be handed to Mr. Rodden, the president, to be revised by him and Mr. Wade, and that after the revision was complete, all books and papers were to become the property of the Association, all fees to go to the said president, who shall only account for the same after deducting necessary expenses."

On these conditions the Montreal and the Toronto books were sent to Mr. Rodden, and assistance obtained to proceed with the work. The new pedigrees and fees did not come forward as expected, and for several weeks assistance had to be dispensed with to keep the expenditure within receipts. From the first of January the Toronto pedigrees and fees were not forwarded. Payment of assistants, stationery and stamps absorbed receipts. In December an offer from the secretary, Wade, was received by Mr. Lovell, to take the unsold Canada Herd-Books—"if at the January meeting the books, &c., be handed over to the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario for future management as to registration." This offer was looked upon as a desire to get the working of the Association out of the hands of the Ayrshire Breeders, particularly when taken in connection with the fact that constant efforts were being made to have entered in the Canada Record cattle bred from mixed breeds entered in the Dominion Book that some of the Western men on the committee were interested in. Of all the bad pedigrees, as yet only two were rejected by the committee.

The foregoing facts and the two resolutions quoted from the minutes of the joint meeting of Association on the 27th of April last, clearly indicate that the parties are bound to be governed thereby till the revision is complete and the doubtful pedigrees disposed of out of the way of future work. The members from Eastern Ontario and Quebec hold to this view, and claim that it was unfair to reopen the arrangements, and without notice carry other rules before revision was completed, particularly as the new rules confer a power on the secretary not consistent with the work provided for at amalgamation, but permit him alone to continue the revision and entering pedigrees, while the new rule says: "The committee shall investigate those pedigrees not considered up to the standard by the secretary, making the secretary the judge," and the by-law says: "This committee shall meet at the call of the secretary." Thus he may call or not. And the motion made by Mr. Wade as to the standard says: "Standard aimed at is imported Ayrshire stock." If he, as one of the revisers for nine months, would only reject two of the many found bad, and prevailed on his friends on the committee to accept other two cows that are in the Dominion Herd Book under a false pedigree, and have been traced to be of mixed grades Ayrshires and Durhams, what can be expected when he gets control of the books as he had of the Dominion book?