

FARMING

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Canadian Horses for the Cape

The announcement made early in the week that the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, had received a cablegram stating that the Imperial Government is prepared to buy in Canada on satisfactory terms 1,000 horses and 1,000 cases of canned beans for the use of the Imperial troops in South Africa has created somewhat of a flurry in horse circles. While there are plenty of horses of certain kinds in the country, really fine types suitable for cavalry purposes are not so plentiful. Besides, the good horses are so scattered over such a wide area that it will take considerable time to make selections and secure the quality required. However, we think the number required can be secured, and the taking of so many good horses will certainly improve values and greatly stimulate horse-breeding throughout the country. The Minister of Agriculture is to be congratulated on securing this order, and it is to be hoped that he will be able to fill it with the type of horse required. To attempt to supply this demand with anything but the quality and type required would be a mistake that would react in preventing further orders from coming our way.

There is a difference in the kind of horses required for active service and for regular garrison duty. While a fiery-tempered horse might do in the latter case, in active service only such horses are wanted as can be easily controlled on the field of battle. For cavalry purposes they require to be from 15.2 to 15.3 hands high, weighing from 1,075 to 1,150 pounds each and within an age limit of five to seven years. They must be sound in every way, standing well erect, strongly built, and with their general appearance good. A little good breeding adds to their value. The maximum price to be paid is not to exceed \$150 each, and they will be bought for as much less as the market will allow. Quite a number of horses are required for the second Canadian contingent. A great many horses offered for this purpose have been rejected. One dealer reported that out of some 150 offered only about one half were taken. Only the very best are selected, though it is reported that some parties authorized to purchase horses in the country have shipped in some very inferior animals.

Should the Provincial Winter Show Move Around?

In a few weeks the representatives of the various breeders' associations who control the Provincial Fat Stock, Dairy and Poultry Show will meet to arrange plans for next winter's exhibition. A question of importance that should come up for discussion is whether it would not be advisable to secure the permanent location of the show. The difficulty of securing suitable buildings in which to hold the show makes it almost imperative that some central point should be selected where each year the show should be held. The many new features that have been added to the show of late years, and the increased and special accommodation required for the show proper, render a movement in this

direction a necessity. If it were possible, following the itinerant plan to secure suitable accommodation each year there would be no reason for changing. But the experience of the past three or four years has shown that such accommodation cannot be secured at every point where it would be advisable to hold the show in following out the itinerant plan and it is unreasonable to expect any city or town to go to any great expense in providing proper buildings, etc., for a three or four days' show that can remain only a year or two at most. If it were decided to locate the show permanently at one place, say for eight, ten or more years, there are many cities in the province that might be induced to put up suitable buildings, and to provide the necessary accommodation for the show, free of charge.

We believe that nearly all the breeders who patronize the show, and others interested, will agree with this view. But it is one thing to have certain views on a subject and another thing to act. The Provincial Winter Show is too valuable an educational factor in the development of the live stock interests of this country to have its efficiency impaired by any indecision in this regard. Now is the time to act, and we are led to believe that united and systematic effort on the part of the breeders along the lines we have indicated will meet with the hearty approval of the Government, which might be induced in such case to increase the annual grant to the show. Everything will depend upon the action of the stockmen in this matter. If they are willing to go on year after year holding the show at places where suitable buildings cannot be secured, as was the case last year, they will likely be allowed to do so. But we mistake very much the spirit of the breeders of this country if they do not take advantage of the present crisis in the history of the show to secure permanency and suitability in the accommodation provided by doing away with the itinerant plan.

The itinerant plan has been tried with other exhibitions in this country and has been found unworkable and unsatisfactory, as in the case of the old Provincial Exhibition. The great English Royal Show follows the itinerant plan, but there are doubts about the advisability of doing so even in its case. Last year's show at Maidstone was far from being as successful as those of other years because of the place where the show was held. A good example of a permanent exhibition and one that is almost identical in its interests with our winter show is the Smithfield show. This has been held in one place for over a century and is to-day as successful and as full of vigor as it ever was. A permanent location of the show makes it possible to have suitable accommodation provided which can be improved upon year after year as new features are added and the necessities of the case demand.

As to the place where the show should be located and the means to be adopted to secure the proper accommodation, much might be said. We have no desire to mention one place in this connection to the detriment of any other, but in discussing this question recently with several interested parties, the cities of Brantford and Guelph were prominently put forward. One of the most, if not the most, successful shows ever held was that of 1898, at Brantford, and many stockmen in consequence have a friendly feeling for that locality. Besides, the citizens of Brantford exerted themselves in an energetic and enthusiastic way to make the show a success, and might