

9 EDWARD VII., A. 1909

Q. He would not take so much feed as a heavy horse?

A. No, nothing like it.

*By Mr. Smith (Middlesex):*

Q. The French Canadian horse is the best general purpose horse raised in Canada?

A. Yes, I think so.

Q. He fills that position to a very much greater extent than any other?

A. Yes.

*By Mr. Thornton:*

Q. On our sandy land he would be the most profitable horse for the average farmer?

A. That is for the actual work of the farm.

Q. Yes?

A. Of course, the average farmer nowadays is figuring on selling a colt now and then and many of them for that reason prefer to breed to heavier horses.

Q. Yes, but for the farm work itself?

A. For the work itself I think he is admirably adapted especially on such soil as you mentioned.

#### SPEED OF THE FRENCH CANADIAN HORSE.

*By Mr. Miller:*

Q. Is the French Canadian horse speedy enough as an ordinary driver?

A. Yes, he is a horse that will go along very nicely. As a rule he has not got extreme speed and even when he has a good deal of speed he does not care to keep it up for any great distance; he prefers a reasonable gait. He will go on all day but does not care to keep up extreme speed. I think perhaps that is owing to the fact that his action, as I said in my address, is rather forced. He is often a high stepper but rather forces his action.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—I would like to say that I have frequently known the French Canadian horse to go from 12 to 14 miles an hour for 2 or 3 hours in a day without any trouble.

*By Mr. Currie (North Simcoe):*

Q. The reason I asked you about the utility of the French Canadian horse for military purposes was that I saw on one occasion several teams of French Canadian horses that the Royal Canadian Artillery had. They were heavier horses than those outlined in your address. I never saw such magnificent teams in my life. I understand these horses went all through the South African war and came back home safe and sound?

A. Yes.

Q. I don't know whether you have heard or know anything about that. The horses I speak of weighed possibly from 1,450 to 1,500 pounds, they were a little heavier than the type you mentioned. These horses are very handy.

A. Probably they had a cross of French Canadian blood.

Q. The horses I speak of were black with a curly mane and tail?

A. They would be a cross with French Canadian blood. A great many of the horses that we know now in Canada as French Canadians are really a cross between either the Clydesdale or the Percheron and the old French Canadian blood.

Mr. OWEN.—Judging from the description given by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture the French Canadian horse must possess quite a bit of speed. I am a great lover of horses and when I get a hold of a horse that can travel 14 miles an hour I