

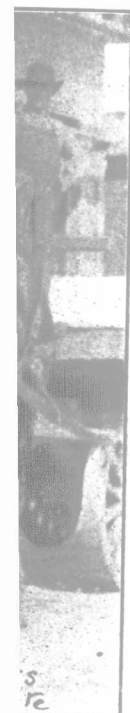
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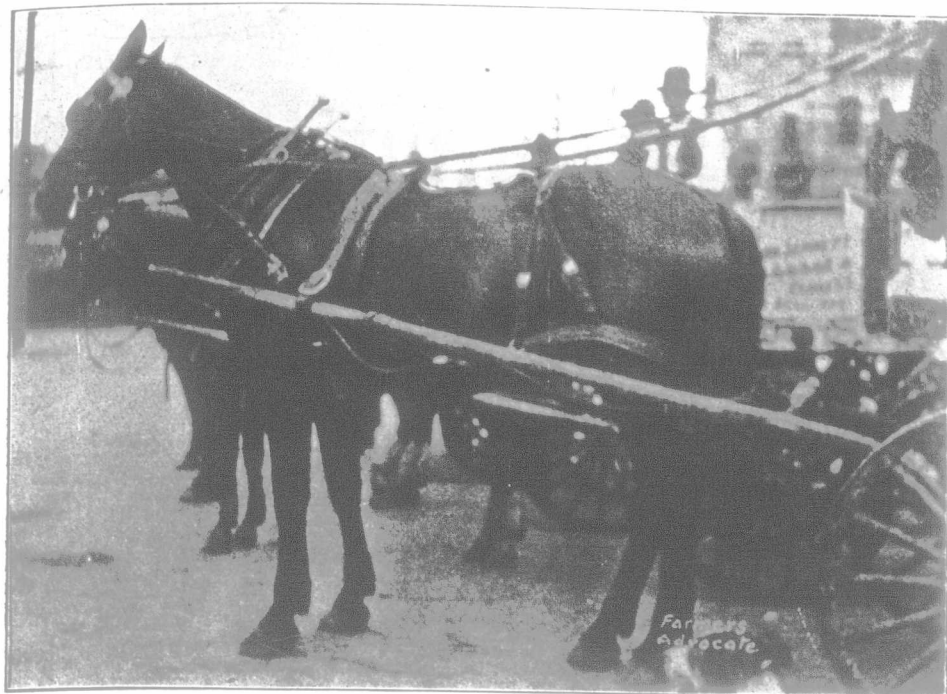
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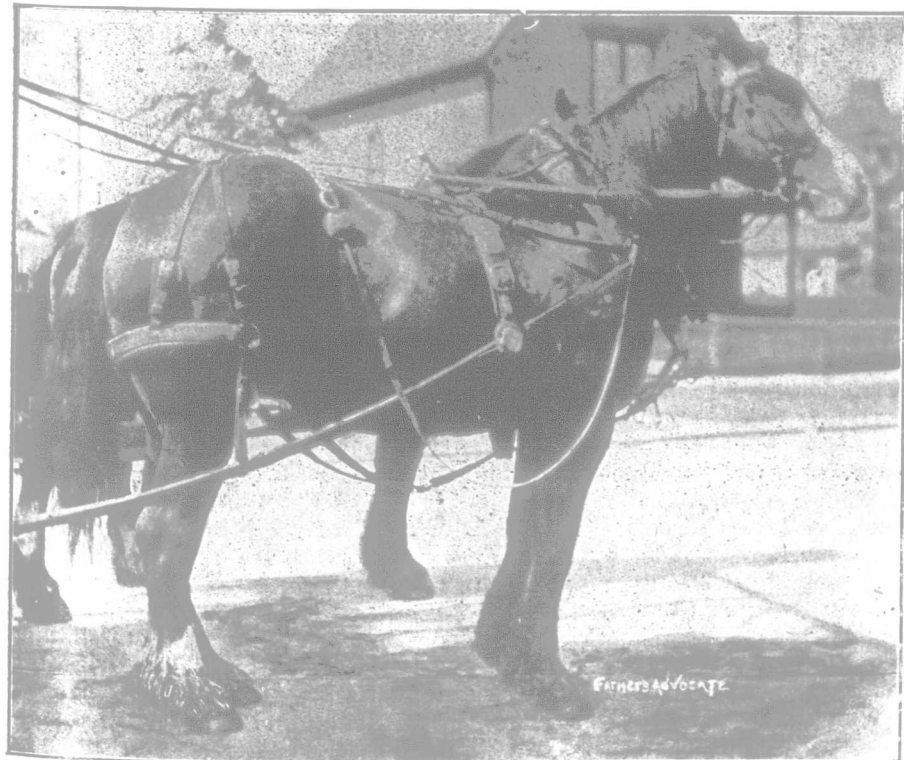


HORSES FOR HIRE TO MOVE TRUNKS, ETC., AND GENERAL EXPRESS WORK.

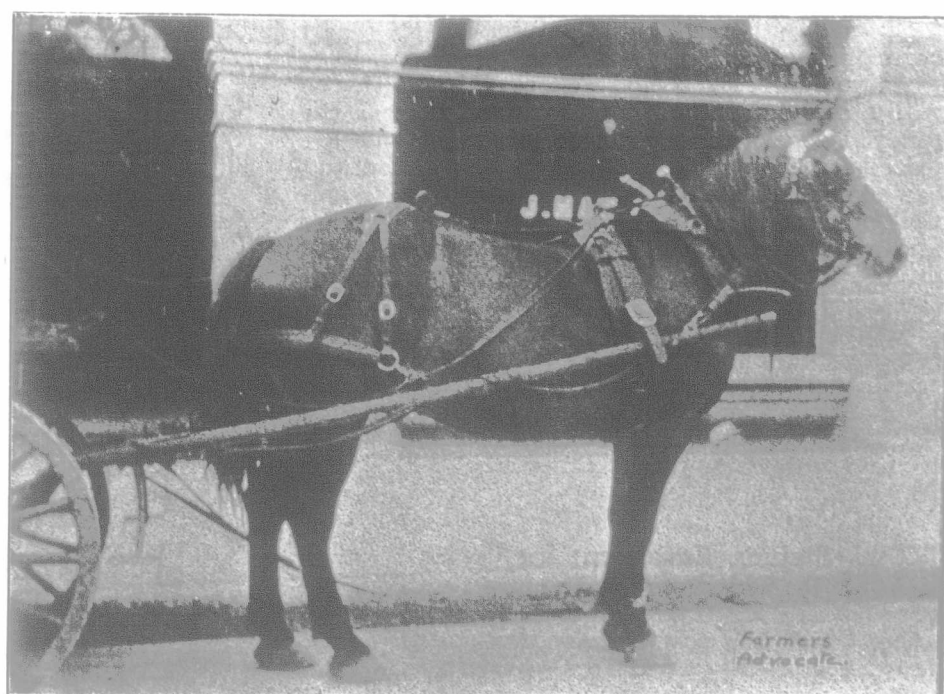
These Belgian stallions weigh from 1,400 to 1,700 pounds; they have generally good action, and a gait of about 9 miles an hour. After the Universal Exposition at St. Louis, a very large number of Belgian stallions were purchased by Americans, and the Steinman Navigation Agency of Anvers, alone carried 1,040 of these stallions to New York during the past winter. The Americans choose the heaviest class, horses weighing about 2,000 pounds, while those in the Province of Quebec belong to the Ardennais branch, and are lighter. These few lines will be sufficient to correct an error, published, I have no doubt, in good faith, but which is of a nature to create an unjust prejudice against our national horse-breeding, of which we are proud, and which is the wealth of our agricultural classes.

BARON DE L'EPINE,  
Member of the Society "Le Cheval de Trait Belge." Quebec.

[Note.—Our correspondent accompanies his note with an illustrated brochure, in which it is stated that as early as the 12th century Belgian horses were exported to Great Britain for breeding purposes. There was a shipment of 100 stallions, young ones, in the 13th century, and the claim is made that some of them became the progenitors of the Clydesdale. (The modern Scottish draft horse is generally regarded as a creation of the 19th century, wherever his blood lines may run in bygone centuries.) Since 1830 the Belgian Government has encouraged private enterprise in horse-breeding, and established regulations for the control of the industry. No stallion is allowed to stand for stock purposes unless approved by Government commission. There are two classes of Belgian horses. The Ardennese, weighing from 1,300 to 1,700 lbs., bred in the mountainous south, and the Brabançons, averaging about 2,000 lbs., bred in the interior and low coast country.—Editor.]



HEAVY DRAY TEAM, CLYDESDALE GRADES



GOOD TYPE OF DELIVERY HORSE AND LIGHT EXPRESSER.

### The Street Horses of Winnipeg.

The horses employed upon the streets of a city are an interesting study. It is among the market horses that one sees examples of all the market types and then a lot more. The city horses as a general rule indicate the nature of the horse stock in the surrounding country, even though a great many of them should be brought long distances.

Among cities, those of Canada, have no reason to be ashamed of the horses seen upon their streets, whether it be the heavy dray horses, the ordinary workers, the expressers, delivery horses, drivers or the fancy classes. The horses upon the streets of Toronto have frequently been lauded by visitors to that city from other countries, and upon our own streets of Winnipeg the high average quality of the horses has often been remarked upon.

Winnipeg draws her horses from numerous sources, many of them are bred in the province and upon western ranges, others are brought from the States and have a good sprinkling of Percheron or Standard bred blood, while others are brought from Ontario and these are generally high grade Clydes.

The largest individual user of horses is the Manitoba Dray Co., which does the city cartage work of the C. P. R. freight. This company buys its horses wherever they can be found, but demands the heaviest sorts. From seventy-five to ninety teams are kept in their stables, and the average length of the life of a horse at this heavy dray work is about eight years, although there is an old campaigner still at work over twenty. The first thing looked for in horses for such purposes is weight with good feet and clean flat bone. There is no preference for any color and the buyer would just as soon buy a thin horse as a fat one.

The rations given these horses are hay and oats, with occasionally some bran.

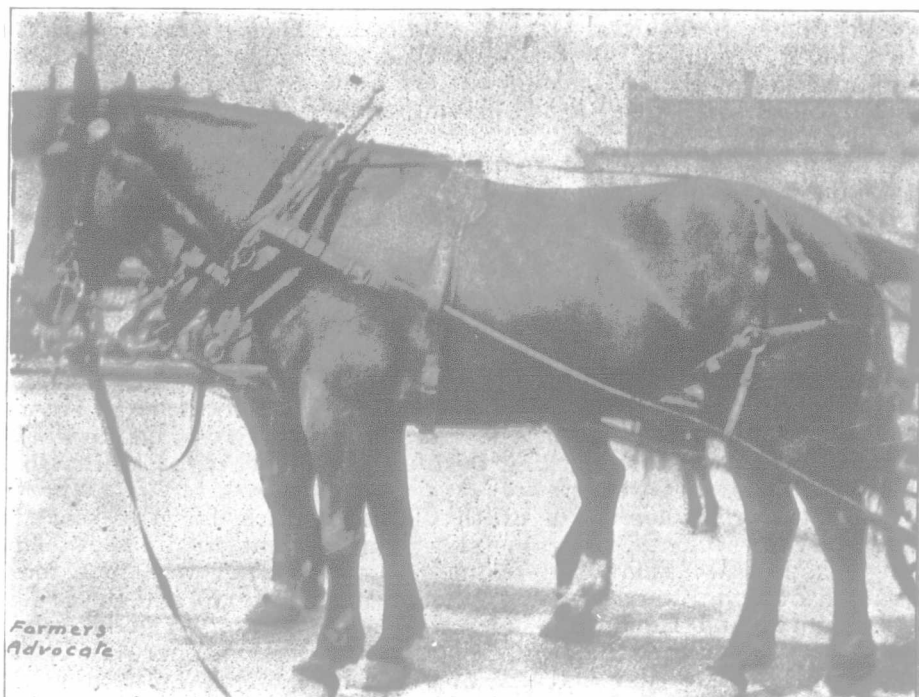
The large milling and lumber companies also keep a high classed lot of drafters as do also some of the coal and wood companies, but these latter very often take horses less sound and somewhat lighter. Very many of the best drafters in Winnipeg are brought from Ontario and as a rule outwear the Percheron stock brought from the States.

Another large user of horses, though of a different type, is the Winnipeg Transfer Co., which operates the busses between the stations and hotels. Heavy road horses are preferred for this purpose and are gathered from every direction, many coming from Ontario and American farms. The delivery horses are somewhat of the same type as the bus horses, but are more generally bred on Manitoba farms. The delivery work is about the most trying of all the jobs to which horses are put. Large prices are frequently paid for delivery horses with plenty of short muscle, good feet, and active. One store this spring gave six hundred dollars for a particularly fine pair.

The express horse is another of the types which lead a strenuous and short life. His work is heavy and fast, which is a severe tax on wind and limb. Horses very much of the express type are used in the fire department and by the wholesale butchers.

The denizens of the livery barns are practically all high grade standard bred, though many of them have the marks of the branding irons. They lead a hard life in Winnipeg, on some days every horse being in harness.

The riding horses seen about the city are mostly from the ranges or from some farm where Thoroughbreds are kept. There are also a few Ken-



HEAVY DELIVERY HORSES ON BUTCHER'S WAGON.