

and to South America, the prices paid in most instances exceeding \$1,000 per head. It is the opinion of those conversant with the trade that the demand for really first class carriage and saddle horses is sure to increase in the United States, and enterprise on the part of Canadian horse breeders should enable them to secure a large portion of this trade.

At a recent sale of hunters in London the following prices were obtained! For a black mare, 350 guineas; chesnut horse, 300 guineas; another 210 guineas, and a chesnut gelding 160 guineas. At the same sale two harness horses were knocked down for 230 guineas and 135 guineas respectively. This shows that given first class quality there is no difficulty in getting a good price.

What Colonels Ravenhill and Phillips had principally to complain of in the Canadian horses was the lack of type. The Clydesdale horse breeders of the Dominion have their stud-book and it is intended to have a stud-book for Suffolkshire-breed horses, but, as yet, no combined effort has been made to encourage a type of pure hunter Cleveland bay coaching horse, or thoroughbred in Canada, though light legged horses can be bred with far more success in the Dominion than heavy draught horses, and in most parts of Canada these would be more useful for the style of agriculture practised, with the short and quick seasons of sowing and harvest.

Strenuous efforts are being made here by the Hackney Horse Society and the Hunters Improvement Society to encourage the breeding of such horses. At the show, which is to be held in March by the two societies, the total prizes offered amount to £1,113 5s. 0d., of this sum £488 5s. 0d. go for prizes for hackney, and £665 0s. 0d. for hunter breeding animals.

There are here, of course, a large number of thoroughbred stallions, but the difficulty in this country is the same as that met with in an intensified form in Canada, that is the selection of mares to mate with stallions, to produce the required class of stock. I would, therefore, again urge upon those who have the control of such matters to offer prizes for mares suitable for breeding animals of the class I have mentioned.

It has, no doubt, already been reported to you that the Queen's Plate moneys, £5,000 per annum, is to be given in prizes for stallions in competition in various parts of the country. It may be of interest to give the details and to quote extracts from the report made by the committee appointed by Parliament to consider this subject. The members of the committee were the Duke of Portland, the Earl of Coventry Lord Ribblesdale, Colonel Ravenhill and Messrs. Henry Chaplin, Jacob Wilson, Job Gilmour and J. Bowen Jones. The report states that there can be little doubt that for a considerable period the royal bounty, as expended in Queen's Plates, has failed effectively to fulfil the purpose for which it was originally intended. But it is only within recent years that any further encouraging the breed of horses, apart from the influence of private enterprise, has arisen. Private enterprise was formerly sufficient to produce and to maintain a breed of horses in this country which was unrivalled in the world, and that preëminence was successfully maintained until the Governments of foreign countries became alive to the importance of acquiring an equal advantage for themselves. The foreign horses which were established for this purpose in various countries on the continent created a most serious drain upon our resources in this country.

It is a matter of notoriety that year after year the United Kingdom has been swept by the agents of foreign Governments for the stallions and mares best suited to their purpose, and they have been bought with public money, and taken from the country, frequently, at prices with which it was impossible for private enterprise successfully to compete.

"The consequence of this has been that with the exception of the highest class of stallions and of mares, for the breeding of race horses, this country has been left for the most part, with the inferior and often unsound animals which the foreign agent has rejected, and the result has been a gradual but marked deterioration in the general breed for which England was at one time famous.

"Your commissioners have therefore come to the conclusion, having regard to