

APPENDIX No. 2

By Mr. Staples:

Q. Why limit it to small farms, Doctor?

A. Because on the larger farms they generally prefer a larger horse, one with more weight, as there is heavier and more work to be done. The French Canadian horse would have in my opinion more endurance, more toughness than the Hackney horse. The Hackney horse while a very showy and very handsome animal with great conformation as bred at the present day, in too many instances is deficient in staying power. The old French Canadian strain if properly adjusted and assimilated with the blood of other breeds would give that staying power which the Hackney horse to some extent lacks. We would also have a better conformation than prevails amongst the American standard breeds and we would have a much handsomer horse. Very fortunately now they are beginning to pay a little attention to the breeding but up to the present time they have devoted their attention almost entirely to the production of speed.

Mr. CURRIE.—Too much.

Dr. RUTHERFORD.—Conformation, soundness and substance have been lost sight of. All these things should be carefully looked for in this breed which we are trying to re-instate in the province of Quebec. The question you asked is perhaps the most important one that could be submitted here to-day, viz., what after all is the object in trying to bring back this breed or improve upon it?

By Hon. Mr. Douglas:

Q. Would it not be a first class horse for the delivery of goods in city streets?

A. That is a rather plebeian occupation which is generally filled by the inferior specimens. I was speaking only of the best specimens bred.

By Mr. Currie (North Simcoe)

Q. What would you say as to the employment of the French Canadian horse for military purposes, for instance for artillery?

A. He would be too light a horse almost for artillery purposes. He might do very well for what they call horse artillery but for the ordinary field guns he would be a little on the light side. However, these horses make very useful remounts for cavalry purposes, especially with a little admixture of thoroughbred. There is no reason why this horse should not be bred and extensively used for cavalry purposes. They would also make good mounted infantry ponies.

By Mr. Wright:

Q. Is the French Canadian horse used very much in the other provinces?

A. We have not any horse in the other provinces which is very much like the French Canadian. He is perhaps nearer to a cross between a thoroughbred and a standard bred than any other but even those would be of different blood. They would be higher and perhaps leggier, less blocky and not so stout.

By Mr. Meigs:

Q. Could you give us the pedigree of the French Canadian horse?

A. I have just given it to you.

By Mr. Thornton:

Q. Is the French Canadian horse a good feeder?

A. Yes, a very good feeder, very hearty. In fact history records that in the early days the French Canadians bred so many horses that they ate up all the provender in the province and there was nothing left for the cattle and sheep.