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PERFECTION on TWO LEGS and on FOUR

The Ideal Man and the Standard Horse as the Government Sees Them

IDEAL men and standard-bred carriage horses are now being turned out by the United States government. Of course, the government cannot breed men to its requirements as it does horses. But it takes the best it can get, and by wholesome diet and judicious training turns them into soldiers whose proportions are exactly conducive to hard work and long life.

So far as horses are concerned, it does more. The government stud, started three years ago in Colorado, has already been productive of widespread results. So heartily have horsemen entered into the spirit of the enterprise that several states are breeding to the lines laid down by the experts of the Department of Agriculture.

Consequently, except for purposes of racing, the long, ewe-necked, slab-sided, lank-joined trotter is likely in a few decades to be a thing of the past. In his place will be a typically American carriage horse, such as Carmon, who gives rare promise of becoming the progenitor of an equine line which will have all the stamina for which the trotter has become world-famous, but with far more bone, substance and beauty.

VIRTUALLY perfect men are required for military service. Soldiers in the field must be able to cope with all sorts of hardships. They must be able to stand long marches in all sorts of weather, on any sort of food they can get—sometimes on none at all. They must be able to dig ditches and construct light fortifications, under pressure that would make the ordinary work of a railway section hand seem like mere play.

And they must be able to keep healthy under this regime not only a day, or a week, or a month, but indefinitely. An army of sick men is worse than worthless. The effectiveness of a military force depends on its men being kept in condition to fight.

Therefore, when the War Department, in connection with the bill increasing the pay of enlisted men, recently issued a circular prescribing the proper proportions of men intended for its service, there was no mere "red tape" in its requirements. On the contrary, its specifications were compiled principally from the reports of life insurance companies, showing what build of men were healthiest and lived the longest.

This table was given:

Height, Feet.	Weight, Pounds.	Chest meas. at exp. (in.)	Mobility, Inches.
6 4-12	125	32	2
6 5-12	130	32½	2
6 6-12	135	33	2
6 7-12	140	33½	2
6 8-12	145	34	2
6 9-12	150	34½	2
6 10-12	155	35	2
6 11-12	160	35½	2
6 12-12	165	36	2

Literally millions of men were considered in the making of these tables. Theory was absolutely banished from their preparation. They show, beyond the shadow of a doubt, what sort of men are able to stand up longest and thrive best under the wear and tear of all sorts of trades and occupations.

Ordinarily the comment on this would be: "That is all very well for those who conform to the specifications. But what about those who don't?"

Actual practice answers the question. Given good, wholesome food and the proper amount of work and exercise, a man without abnormalities is either built up or trained down until he practically conforms to the carefully prepared standards.

On this point Major Benjamin W. Atkinson, U. S. A., an officer of long and varied experience, who is now in the recruiting service, recently said:

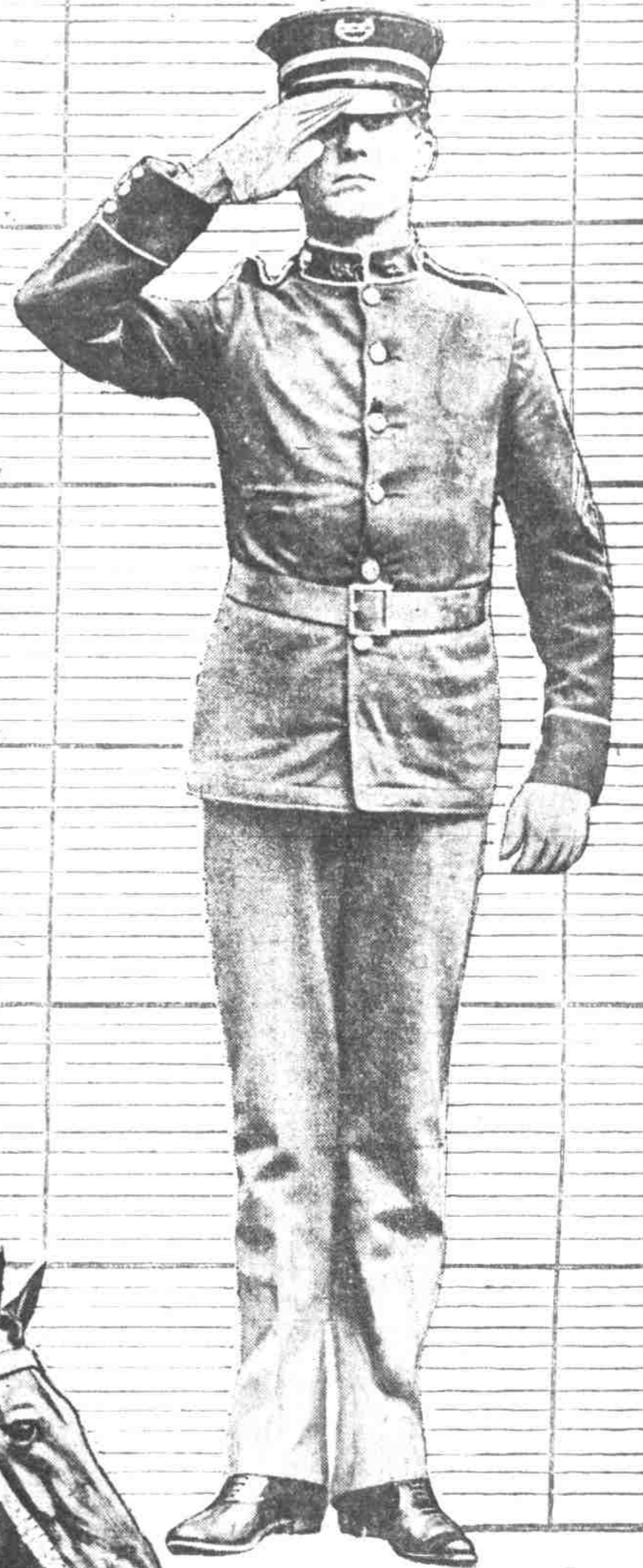
"Almost invariably a young man who has served a term of enlistment leaves the army a better man than he entered it. In the first place, discipline teaches him self-control, than which nothing is more essential to a well-balanced character.

"Then he learns to lead a regular, normal life. He must keep regular hours. He is accustomed to a wholesome diet. He gets plenty

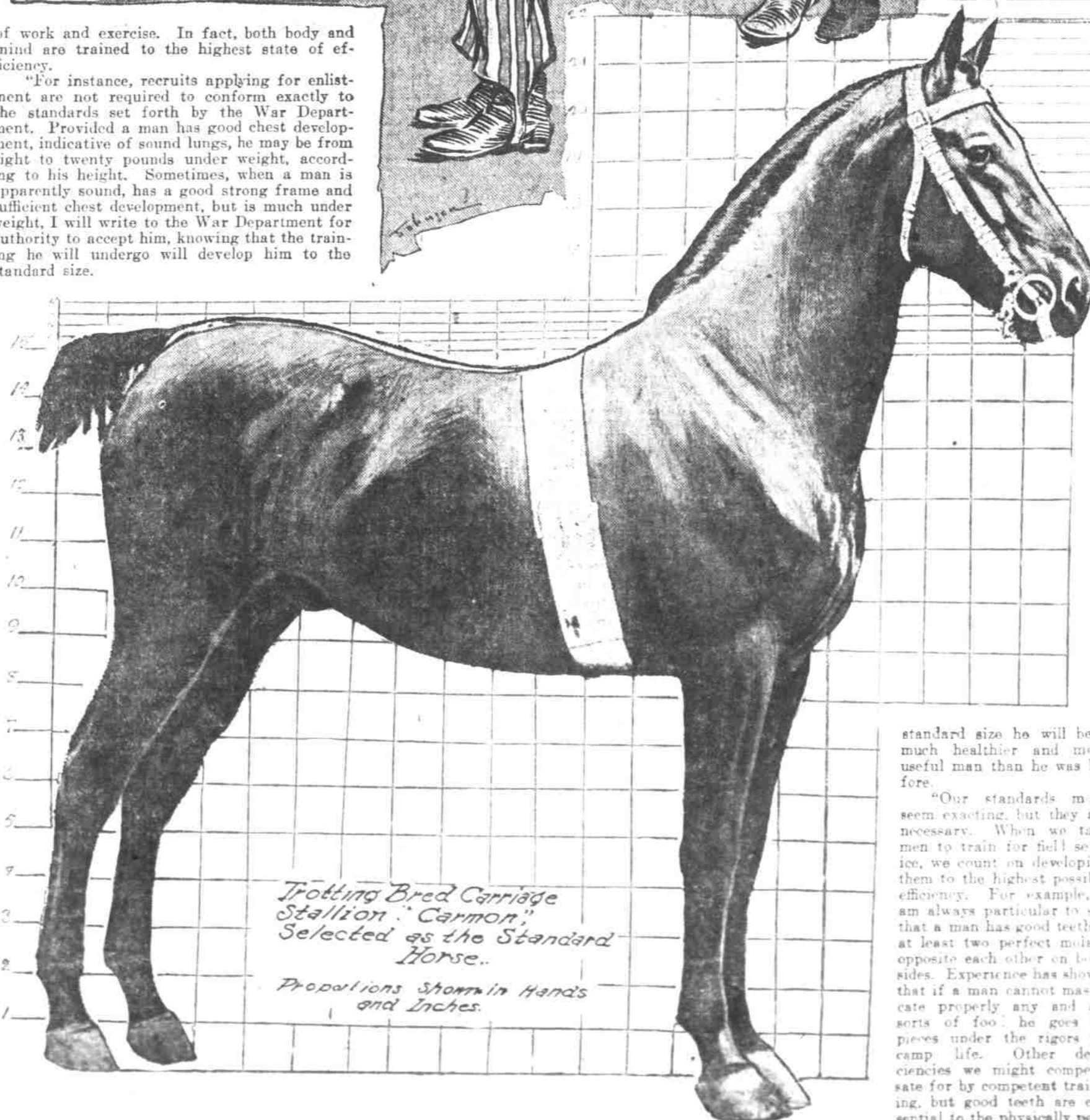


of work and exercise. In fact, both body and mind are trained to the highest state of efficiency.

"For instance, recruits applying for enlistment are not required to conform exactly to the standards set forth by the War Department. Provided a man has good chest development, indicative of sound lungs, he may be from eight to twenty pounds under weight, according to his height. Sometimes, when a man is apparently sound, has a good strong frame and sufficient chest development, but is much under weight, I will write to the War Department for authority to accept him, knowing that the training he will undergo will develop him to the standard size.



The Soldier Who Meets Uncle Sam's Requirements.



Trotting Bred Carriage Stallion "Carmon," Selected as the Standard Horse.

Proportions Shown in Hands and Inches.

standard size he will be a much healthier and more useful man than he was before.

"Our standards may seem exacting, but they are necessary. When we take men to train for field service, we count on developing them to the highest possible efficiency. For example, I am always particular to see that a man has good teeth—at least two perfect molars opposite each other on both sides. Experience has shown that if a man cannot masticate properly any and all sorts of food, he goes to pieces under the rigors of camp life. Other deficiencies we might compensate for by competent training, but good teeth are essential to the physically perfect man."

Even at best, not a large proportion of the men of any community can come up to the military standards. Hardly a third of those applying for enlistment are accepted. In one month recently in Major Atkinson's district

there were only sixty-eight acceptances out of 204 applicants. This is probably a pretty fair average ratio, for any community, of the number of men who, by proper training, are capable of becoming physically perfect, so far as perfection is possible.

But to alter the physical make-up of the great majority of people the government is powerless. However, in standardizing the American carriage horse, it has already accomplished substantial results.

In the first place, it has started an equine line at the government breeding station at Fort Collins, Col., of which great things are expected. The work there is under the direction of George M. Rommel, of the Department of Agriculture.

More than three years ago a stud was established, at which Carmon, formerly owned by Thomas W. Lawson, and campaigned at horse shows under the name of Glorious Thundercloud, was placed at the head.

It has been the almost universal rule, in breeding, that a great line of horses has been founded not by the gradual improvement of a certain species, but by one horse, of such virility and progeny that his characteristics were reproduced not only in the first, but in succeeding generations. Generally the type of the parent horse has been fixed by interbreeding or "inbreeding," until it has become so firm through several generations that the offspring will reproduce themselves—in other words, "breed true" to type.

For breeding purposes, a horse must not only be a superb individual himself, but he must come from "fashionable" ancestry, as horsemen put it. If he does not, his offspring will almost certainly revert to the type from which he sprang, and will come nowhere near approaching him in appearance or stamina.

In the case of Carmon, no horse could be better fitted for the purpose for which he was acquired. Himself a superb individual in appearance, he comes from some of the stoutest lines in the American trotting horse register. On the side of his sire, Carnegie, he is related to the great trotting stallion Cresceus, as Carnegie was a son of Robert McGregor, the sire of Cresceus. On the side of his dam, Monitor Maid, he traces back to Pthan Allen, Hambletonian II, Abdallah I and Black Hawk.

While coming from such great speed-producing lines, Carmon was never trained for the

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