

Money in American Horses

DURING the next decade there will probably be an increased demand for American horses in the countries now engaged in the European war. The demand may even continue much longer, according to investigators of the United States Department of Agriculture, as not only will horses be needed for armies, but when peace is restored, more will be needed for agriculture. Already European agents are endeavoring to purchase horses in this country and Canada, and there is an increased interest in many sections in horse breeding.

To meet this increased European demand, American farmers may well endeavor to raise well-bred horses, although the Department of Agriculture does not advise them to purchase a surplus of horses merely for breeding purposes. It merely advises that ordinary farm work should be done whenever possible by good mares which should be bred to good stallions. It also desires to emphasize the fact that only horses of high quality may be profitably raised today. Inferior horses are a drag on the market, and their production is to be discouraged as much as the production of good horses should be encouraged.

The United States has previously been drawn on to supply European countries at war. In the Boer war, over 100,000 horses were bought here by the British government. It may be doubted whether a foreign government could now obtain a similar supply in this country, except at excessive cost. However, if farmers take pains to utilize their good mares during this winter to breed them to good stallions, in the course of several years (time enough for the fowls to develop), America will be better able to meet the European demand.

It is natural that European countries should look to the United States for horses, as next to Russia it has more of these animals than any other country in the world. The United States and Russia possess 58 per cent of the world supply.

The German army requires for a complete mobilization 770,000 horses and the French army is said to require 250,000, which figures, however, probably includes only those for the cavalry. It is conservatively

estimated on good authority that 1,000,000 horses are now engaged in the European war. As the great majority of these horses are not included in the permanent military organization, but are used for farm work and are requisitioned by governments only when needed for military purposes, the countries of Continental Europe will certainly face an acute shortage of farm horses, which will seriously affect the price of horses the world over, as soon as peace is declared.

According to the best information, horses in the countries of Europe now at war number as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Great Britain | 2,231,000 |
| France | 3,222,000 |
| Belgium | 263,000 |
| Germany | 4,523,000 |
| Austria-Hungary | 4,374,000 |
| Russia | 24,652,000 |
| Total | 39,265,000 |

In addition, England has a supply of about 6,000,000 to draw on in her various dependencies. Russia has about 10,000,000 in Asia and France probably 500,000 to 1,000,000 in her colonies.

The rapacious consumption of horses in war is illustrated by figures from our own Civil conflict. During his Shenandoah Valley campaign, Sheridan was supplied with fresh horses at the rate of 150 per day. In his report for the year 1865, the Quartermaster-General of the United States Army stated: "The service of a cavalry horse under an enterprising commander has averaged only four months." During 1864 there were 500 horses consumed per day in the Northern Army, without considering those captured and not reported. During eight months of that year, the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac was remounted twice, nearly 40,000 horses in all being required.

Our own Army furnishes a desirable market for well-bred horses, there being under the remount system, at least 5000 horses required annually to supply both the Army and the National Guard. There are now about 20,000 horses in our regular Army on a peace basis. In war, many more would be required before the first engagement. There is, therefore, a steady market for good horses independent of the European demand.

Old Home of Hereford Cattle

THE oldest home of registered Hereford cattle in the West lies just a little east of Cheyenne. It is owned by Henry Altman and D. McElwan and is known as the Wyoming Hereford Association.

The ranch and cattle are an inheritance of the best of Hereford blood from the days in the early eighties when the great cattle boom was on. Prematurely staged, it had but an ephemeral existence, for forty-dollar cows did not economically produce 3-cent beef; much was lost, but here and there men gathered up the remnants and made a new beginning. Among those things salvaged was the pride of the English Hereford breed brought here by the Swann Cattle Company and George Morgan. The protests of the British breeders were strong and emphatic that their herds had been culled of their best and that they would never recover. The loss of the bull Rudolph alone was regarded as a national calamity.

Breeders Succeed Where Others Fail. Almost innumerable have been the attempts to breed cattle up to standard in the way it has been done here—that is under as nearly natural conditions as climatic circumstances will permit.

Almost invariably herds have run down, become rough or scrubby and the cattle ruined, but Mr. Altman and his partner have succeeded where others failed.

Running cattle out of doors in winter can only be successfully practiced where ample, well cured grasses are reserved for winter feed, and calves cannot withstand the

rigors of winter which as older animals they brave with impunity. These cattle are also so free from lung troubles and tuberculosis that none of them has reacted, though all are tested before shipment. Not an animal has been lost from black-leg for many years, preventive treatment now being used fall and spring, although there has never been any mange, a dipping vat is used to keep them free from lice.

Herefords are natural grazers and rustlers, but since the beginning in 1883 these characteristics have been very much intensified and moreover the culling has been drastic. It is many years since the herd reached the number of 1,000 head, and since that time they have never been increased. Only seventy-five to a hundred head of the best heifers are retained each year to keep up the herd picked from 250 to 300. A very few bull calves are kept—one this year for which a \$1,000 offer was refused at 90 days of age.

The best bulls obtainable are bought. They in no wise excel those home bred, and it is a pity there are not more Western herds run on the same basis to supply others with hardy cattle.

The calves are contracted and sold for several years ahead, with the exception of those that are culled and steered as unsuitable for bulls.

The bulls in use, some twenty-eight in number, run on grass pasture without grain, and are mated according to the judgment of William Rooseman, the foreman, who has been with the herd for twenty-seven years, and certainly results

are most satisfactory, for at all ages from sucklings, yearlings, up to the maturer matrons, the cattle are of extremely high-class character, and size has been well maintained. The old cows sold for beef off grass average over 1,200 pounds.

Whilst only a few home-bred bulls can be used, the cows are entirely home-bred and have never been reinforced by any outside addition in thirty years, so that quality produced can be judged by female specimens at all stages of all ages, and they stand well to the front compared with other herds, to which show cows have been constantly added.

Cuts 1,000 Tons of Hay a Year. June and July have been very dry up here. The cows are not loaded with fat, as is sometimes the case at this season, so that they stand revealed in their true lines for inspection.

Twenty-four years ago, when this ranch changed hands, it cut ninety tons of hay; now it cut 1,000 tons, enough for the cattle under the system of pasturage and management, but it would amaze Eastern breeders, that show cattle could be produced with the amount of feed, and even Westerners must remember that they are to the manor born—a selection of the very fittest, and that the mistake of letting them travel themselves to death in search of grass has been avoided.

Such a production of hay, cutting but once in July, and the meadows heavily grazed, would be impossible if special attention were not paid to the grass. Every spring when the frost comes out, the ground is disked and seeded with a grass and clover mixture, and then chain harrowed; all the manure is put back with a manure spreader. Mr. Altman regards the disking as really more important even than the seeding, as it opens up and spreads the crowns of the plants.

The whole of the ranch management is practical, economical and efficient, the smaller details, such as hogs, poultry and dairy, are all attended to, with the result that they live well, yet cheaply.—Denver Weekly Post.

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