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PERCHERONS
AND
NORMANS

BY
AUZIAS-TURENNE

Member of the "Société des Agriculteurs de France"

DIRECTOR OF
THE HARAS NATIONAL CO.
OF MONTREAL.



30 ST. JAMES STREET, MONTREAL.

1891

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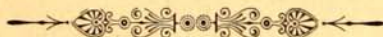
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TO
THE HIGH AUTHORITIES

AND
FORESIGHTED STATESMEN

WHOSE KINDLY GOOD WILL

HAVE PATRONIZED

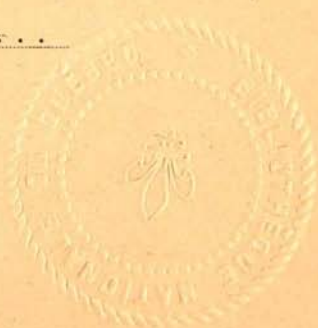
THE HARAS NATIONAL OF MONTREAL,

THESE FEW PAGES

ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY THE AUTHOR.

MONTREAL, JULY 1st, 1891.





THE HARAS NATIONAL CO.

WAS INCORPORATED

ON MAY 27, 1889

BY

HON. LOUIS BEAUBIEN AND BARON E. DE MANDAT-GRANCEY,
OF PARIS.

INAUGURATED ON MAY 10, 1890

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD STANLEY
OF PRESTON, G. C. B., P. C.

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, ETC., ETC., ETC.

VISITED ON OCTOBER 25, 1890

BY

MONSEIGNEUR LE COMTE DE PARIS AND
MONSEIGNEUR LE DUC D'ORLÉANS.

ON DECEMBER 17, 1890

BY

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEBEC AND
HON. H. MERCIER,
PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.



INTRODUCTION

THE HARAS NATIONAL Co. OF MONTREAL

Since 1888, the company of the Haras National has imported to Canada Percheron and Norman Stallions. They will import also Thoroughbreds from England.

Fully convinced that such breeds are the best to cross with our Canadian mares, they have recoiled from no sacrifice in procuring the finest stallions from France. It has been and it is their ambition to create in Canada, cost what it will, a Haras (1) truly national in every sense of the word, and to breed in Canada the very best horses of this continent.

From this view, they have made it a point :

FIRST. To select as reproducers only animals that represent the best, the type of the aforesaid breeds, and which will therefore best fulfill the aim and the purpose of the breeds ;

(1) Haras (Haracia in medieval Latin) is now applied in France and Europe to those Horse marts which deal only with animals of superior class, and the managers of which aim, above all things, at improving the breeds by careful crossing.

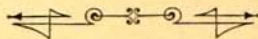
SECOND. To have a book of record by means of which the pedigrees of the animals imported or born in Canada can be traced (1).

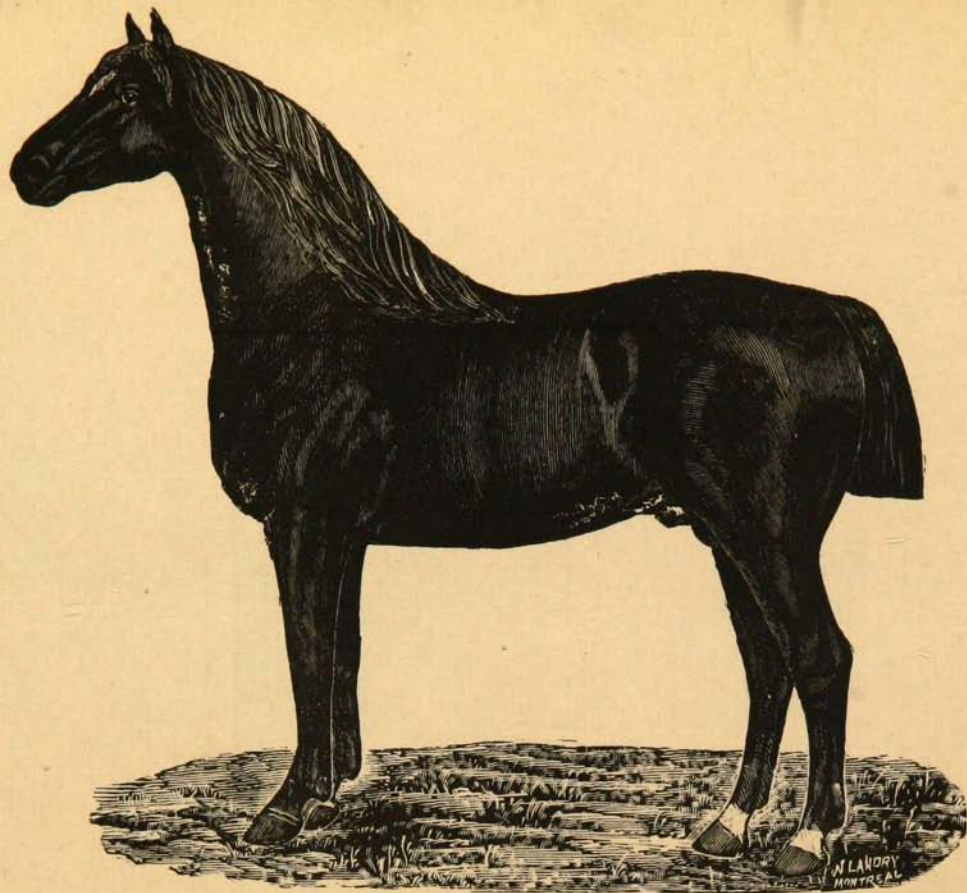
Then as directs Ch. du Hays, "they will advance slowly and with precaution in order to avoid mistakes by which they would loose ground and destroy the good results already obtained. Correcting defects by opposite qualities strenghting these qualities by helping them with like qualities, they will, at last, obtain a conformity that is to say a *fixed Canadian breed*, genuine and thoroughly homogeneous, invariably reproducing its own typical form."

On account of its being recognized by the Government of the province of Quebec, the Haras National was honoured by much praise, much censure. Before saying what actually it is doing, what it intends doing later, we will give short but definite information on the two principal races patronized by the Haras, that is the Percheron and the Norman breed.

We do not undertake any criticism of other breeds : we do not indulge in unbecoming comparisons. We leave it to the impartial reader to judge.

(1) The Percheron Stud-book of Canada, under the sanction of the Council of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec, february 1891. President : Honorable LOUIS BEAUBIEN, Montréal. Vice-president : W. E. BAKER, Demorestville, Ont.





HOLOPHERNE.

Got by the government stallion GÉDEON; dam, MEDUSE (bay, foaled 1864), by DESTIN and a daughter of NOTEUR; imported Aug. 1888, by the Haras National; GÉDEON foaled 1879, by HARAMI (full blood Arab), and Stockwell mare (11644).

THE PERCHERON

ORIGIN.—SKETCH OF THIS RACE.—ITS QUALITIES AND
DEFAULTS.—ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The Percheron is one of the draught breeds that enjoys in Europe and even in the world the highest consideration. It has, on account of its incontestable merits, carried all over the world the fame of the little French province, where the best centre of production is to be found. The fame of the Percheron horse is only to be compared to that of the Thoroughbred horse of England: *For the Percheron is to the draught breeds what the english Thoroughbred is to the light breeds: a regenerator and improver.*—(André Sanson, The Origin of the French Races of Horses).

This breed is one of the most firmly and well established. At the time of Louis XIV, the Percheron horse was considered as an animal possessing great excellence, and capable of travelling long distances at a trot, drawing a heavy load.

It possesses an active, energetic temperament: the right one to pull heavy weights at a quick gait. Fast steppers are common in this race. It is the model draft horse. Before the establishment of railways, it was this breed that was used more than any other for diligences. Statistics for the past

twenty years show that the Paris omnibuses have purchased 65.31 per cent. of Percherons for use on their omnibuses.

Its zootechnic feature is *swiftness* combined with *strength*. (1) Together with this, it easily possesses elegance of form while preserving all its zoological features. This is the reason why Percherons are sought after by all the nations which are trying to improve their draft horses or to *create a breed for themselves*. (The aim of the Haras National in Canada). That is to say :

By the United States and South American Republics, who import thousand of them every year (especially of the heavy type).

By Great Britain, a customer of no small magnitude.

By Austria, who breeds pure Percheron stallions in its State Haras of *Kisber*.

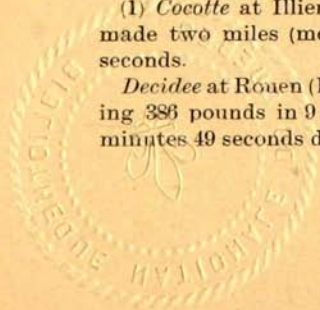
By Germany and Italy, eager purchasers of light Percherons. By Russia, who notwithstanding the fact of its being the richest country of the world in horses, cross imported Percheron stallions, with its native mares, in the State Haras of *Derkul*.

This, coming from such a country, we look upon as the highest praise of the Percheron.

The Percheron is generally gray or black ; head rather large and long ; nostrils well open ; eye, large ; ear, fine ; neck rather short, well filled out ; withers high, shoulder pretty long and sloping, broad, deep breast, a well rounded body, the girth with him, as with the Arab, always lacking in fulness,

(1) *Cocotte* at Illiers (France) and *Sarah*, both Percheron mares, made two miles (mounted) in 6 minutes 5½ seconds and 6 minutes 2 seconds.

Decidee at Rouen (France), a Percheron mare, made 2 3/5 miles drawing 386 pounds in 9 minutes 22 seconds and again 2 3/5 miles in 10 minutes 49 seconds drawing 408 pounds.



rather short in the back, croup horizontal and muscular; short, strong joints, tendons weak; foot excellent; sometimes the hoofs are protected by hair growing above the coronets; this makes the feet of such Percherons often appears flat, although they are not in reality; still they never have a quantity of hair on their fetlocks, a true shelter for grease in the heel, which is greatly aggravated by the snow and frosts of winter, causing a footrot that nothing can cure.

The Oriental blood has been a powerful factor in the formation of the actual Percheron race. What the Darley Arabian has been to the Thoroughbred, the gray Arabian Smetanka to the Orloff, the gray Arabian Gallipoli has been to the Percheron horse of France. In former times, the overthrow of Abderam and his 300,000 Saracens (732 A. C.) left the fine Arab and Barb steeds of the barbarian cavalry in the hands of the victors, between Poitiers and Tours. The returning crusaders, with many fine Arabian stallions, and such infusion of Oriental blood as was kept up for many years by lord de Mondoubleau, Geoffroy IV, comte de Rotrou, marquis de Mallart, comte Roger de Bellesme, and many others, have been the principal factor in the Percheron breed.

The Oriental blood! the *fons et principium* of all breeds! The Arabian horse! The primitive horse, as created by the Almighty in the world's first dawning, the true horse well kept and not altered through the centurys!

The lucky horseman who has had in his possession a true Oriental horse, does not wonder at the qualities of the Percheron—the great nephew of the Arab.

Those qualities, to sum up, are :

1. The imported pure breed Percherons are unexcelled in their style and action among all draft horses. They are the

fastest walkers and trotters with an heavy load of any breed of horses in the world.

2. They have the best feet of any draft breed. In this, *there is a conspicuous excellence.*

3. Their power of endurance has won for them friends everywhere (1). It is particularly valuable for its astonishing precocity and produces by its works, as a two years old, more than the cost of its feed and keep.

4. It is exempt from the hereditary bony defect of the hock, and where it is raised, spavin, jardon, bone spavin, periodical inflammation are unknown; and they are sure to transmitting their good qualities to their colts.

5. Good temper, kindness and trustworthiness are the prevailing moral qualities found in these noble animals. A child can handle them with safety; as the numerous visitors at the Haras National will bear witnesses.

6. The pure bred Percheron foal is very small, and the fears of disaster in breeding small mares to large pure bred stallions has been fully demonstrated to be unfounded, especially on the horse ranches of the Far West and California, on a large scale for instance, at the Black Hills horse ranch of the Percheron and Arabian, Importing Horse Co., (S. Dakota) at the Post Percheron Horse Company's ranches (Wyoming), or at the model Farm of senator Palmer, near Detroit, U. S.

(1) The gray Percheron mare of Mr. BEAULAVORIS, at Almenesches (Orne), made 55 3-5 miles over a hilly road in 4 hours and 24 minutes.

The gray Percheron mare of Mr. COUTURIER, at Fleury-sur-Andelle (Eure), made 58 miles and back, on two consecutive days, over a difficult road, the first day in 4 hours, 1 minute and 35 seconds, the second day in 4 hours, 1 minute and 30 seconds. The 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ last miles were made in 1 hour.

Both mares were harnessed to a travelling tilbury.

The excellence of the Percheron among the draft breeds, as well as the superiority of the Thoroughbred from England among lighter breeds, we would proclaim, even if we were alone against thousand century's old prejudices; but, happily, such is not the case, as the reader will remember; besides, for twenty-five years, the Americans, our neighbours, have given a decided preference to Percherons and Normans, both as draft and carriage horses and imports many thousands of them every year.

Still, this population is formed of all sorts of nationalities of which each one was naturally pledged at first in favor of the horse that came from his fatherland. It is well known that in the great horse's fairs of Chicago and New-Orleans, Percherons have always won prizes over the other draft breeds, especially in the great battle of Races at

Chicago 1881.—VIDOCQ (483-732).

Chicago 1883.—LA FERTÉ (5144-452).

Nouvelle-Orléans 1885.—BRILLIANT (1271-755).

In order, that a timely array of facts bearing upon the relative merits of the different breeds of draft horses that are being bred in the United States and Canada, might be known to the people, that they might pursue the most profitable course of breeding, representatives of the *Chicago Daily Tribune* (the acknowledged champion of the agriculturists of the great North-West), were instructed to procure of the well known and leading dealers in the New-York, and Chicago, horse markets information, upon the best draft breed.

Here, then, is what men who supply New York city and Brooklyn have said on the subject:—Dahlman (1), Whitson

(1) Handle between 9,000 and 10,000 horses annually.

Oakley, Smith, Hayman, Stein, Richey, J. Dahlman and Newman, who handle nine-tenths of all the draught horses sold in these great cities, unite in saying that the Percherons give the best satisfaction to the people who buy them to wear out; that they last longer; that they stand the hot weather best; that their feet stand the work on the pavement better: that they sell for higher prices, and are more sought after than any other breed; and all these dealers unanimously recommend the farmers of the country to breed to stallions of French blood in preference to all others, to raise horses to sell on the Eastern market. A. J. Heineman, of Mansfield, O., who handles about two thousand horses yearly, principally for the New-York market, says: "I handle more of the Percheron or Norman horses because there is more demand for them. They have more body, are finer lookers, and better movers than the other breeds." Barey, Mewgrass, Cooper, Lamb, Klea, Towsig and Beckett (1), of Chicago, all express similar opinions, and say: "Breed horses of the French blood for our market." The above evidence is from men who handle perhaps fifty thousand horses per annum, and is the reflex of the opinions of the men who have the horses actually at work (2).

A. S. Chamberlin, of 147 East Twenty-fourth street, New-York city, runs what is known as "The Old Bull's Head" stables. He has been longer in the stable business than any man in New-York city, having been so engaged for upwards of forty years. Mr. Chamberlin said:

"Some years ago we used to get a great many horses from Upper Canada. There were Clydesdales, and would weigh

(1) Has handled during the war 33,000 horses in one year.

(2) Fiss-Doerz and Solomon Mehrback of New-York, prefer the Clydes

from 1,000 to 1,400 pounds, but they did not seem to answer the purpose ; as a general thing their feet were thin-shelled and flat, and being heavy horses their feet would become sore and would not stand the pavements. The French horses have good feet and stand the pavements better than the Clydesdales. That is the reason they sell better. The Norman horses are the finest looking and most attractive ; have better action, are quicker-stepping horses and stand their work better than the Clydes. The Norman horse brings a better price on the market.”

Finally, we will remind those, whose ironical faces have shown us open prejudice and antipathy, from the very beginning (1) the opinion of *The British Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*—a very high agricultural quarter.

The British Quarterly Journal of Agriculture says : “The Percheron horses are a capital race for HARD WORK AND SCANTY FARE. I have never seen such horses at the collar, under the diligence, post-carriage, or clumsy cabriolet, or for the farm cart. They are enduring and energetic beyond description. With their necks cut to the bone they flinch not. They keep their condition when other horses would die of neglect or hard treatment. A better cross for some of our horses cannot be imagined than those of Normandy, provided they have not the ordinary failing of too much length from the hock downward and a heavy head.”

(1) As these pages are printed, a western man who calls himself “a plain spoken critic” attacks the Percheron breed and the Haras most violently and concludes that, the Percheron colts are “a lot of dung-hills” (North-West Farmer, Winnipeg, June). With such a “dung-hill” critic, there is only one thing to do : leave him among the “plain spoken” stable men where he comes from, no doubt.

After those general praises, no wonder that the renowned german agriculturist Thaer exclaimed in Paris (1860) :

“ Above all, I admire your handsome and courageous Percherons : they have no equals in the world.”

With such magnificent acknowledgements of the value and superiority of the Percheron race, we are and we hope that the reader is content.



THE PERCHERON IN CANADA

“An inspection of the Percheron will convince any one that this race is the origin of the Canadian pony, about the valuable properties of which, little need be said, as they are well known and highly prized in this section of the country, and still more to the north, where they have undoubtedly given stamina and character to the horses of Vermont, New-Hampshire, and the northern section of New-York, which makes them so highly valued all over the Union as road horses: while it is a remarkable fact in those States where the attention of breeders has been exclusively devoted to the English race-horse, the carriage horse and stage horse is almost universally supplied from the north. It remain therefore for breeders to determine, wether it is not better to resort to the full sized Percherons to cross with our light and already too highly bred mares, than to use the degenerated Canadians (degenerate in size only), through the rigor of the climate, for it must be admitted that the little animal retains all the spirit and nerve of his ancestors, and lacks strength only in proportion to its size.) My own opinion is that a due proportion of French blood mixed with the English will produce a stock of horses invaluable, as combining all properties that are required for quick draft on the road or the farm.”—Dr. E. HARRIS, of Mooretown, N. J. *Farmer's Cabinet*, 1842.

This article is replete with interest, especially for Canadian breeders, and we fully agree with the author, and have come to the same conclusions about the Canadian breed.

The carelessness of the breeders generally, the influence of a northern climate, after a succession of generations has given us the tough, shaggy pony of Canada: if we would not have in course of time, a race as diminutive as the Shetland ponies, we must counteract such causes, such carelessness; and this, the Haras National is bound to do.

The "French Canuck" resembles the Percheron in form and in many of its characteristics, and may claim close consanguinity (1). Indeed, on July 16, 1685, 12 mares and 2 stallions sent to Canada by the King of France, were unloaded at Quebec. It is highly probable that, coming from the Havre, they were Normans, Percherons.

Those horses—the first importation in America for breeding purposes—won a great fame among the red warriors, quite delighted at seeing what they called the "cariboos de France", so gentle and apt to labor.

The mares were given to Mess. de Talon, de Chambly, de Sorel, de Contre-Cœur, de St-Ours, de Varennes, de la Chesnaye, de Repentigny, de Le Bert, on the following terms: On the third year, a yearling was to be given to the king; or hundred "livres"; if through any carelessness of the proprietor, a mare died before the third year, a penalty of 350 livres was to be paid to the king.

The two stallions, were given to Mr. de Chambly and the king paid him twenty "livres" annually for their keeping.

(1) The Percheron "Clement", 32172 of the Haras National, now at Indian Head (Assa) (season of 1801), has been often mistaken for a Canadian sire.

Thus was established the first Haras in America.

In 1826 or 1827, J. McNitt of Washington N. Y. purchased near Montreal a gray horse, known as "European Norman" imported from Le Havre in 1816.

His son, the "Morse's horse" (1) was the sire of Alexander Norman, the founder of the famous Norman family. It is highly probable that "European Norman" was a Percheron.

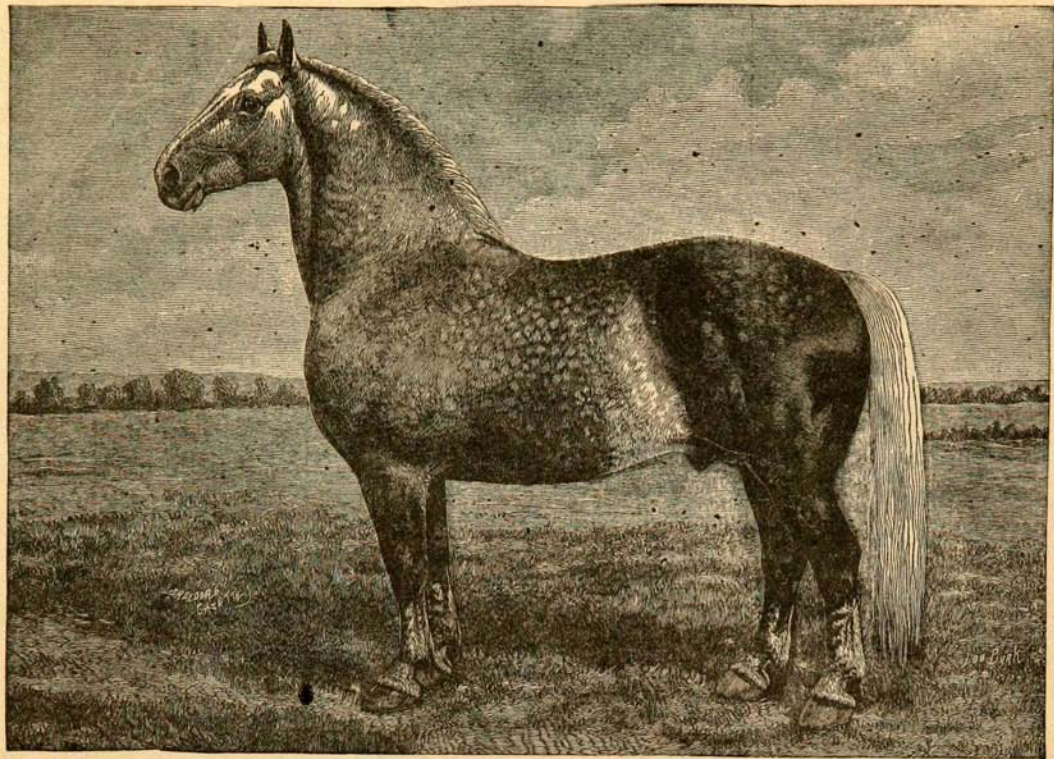
From this family have sprung the Blackwoods and the wonderful trotter Lula, May queen. He was extensively patronised in Washington and surrounding countries. It is not at all unlikely that many of the so called gray Messenger mares, that come from that region were, of his get. (2)

In 1867, J. X. Perrault, Esq., of Montreal (to whom we are indebted for interesting notes about the first horses brought to Quebec) imported some Percheron stallions, who have bred superior colts in Verchères and l'Assomption: Many a gray team, sprung from them, can be seen in the streets of Montreal: but people wished too rapid results: and as proceeding too fast is a greater error than stopping the way, they reduced to very little the results of several years of success.

Still, when the merits of their descendants have been so thoroughly tested, our farmers bitterly regret not having retained them in their counties. Their progeny has been really remarkable, large, strong, active, and selling at figures rarely under \$150 or \$200, and it is that past experience of our province, which has induced and justified the Haras in renewing such breeding.

(1) The "Morse's Horse" was gray, foaled in 1834, dam Beck by Harris Hambletonian son of Bishop's Hambletonian 2d dam by Peacock, blood unknown.

(2) Pilot, Old Copperbottom, Columbus, Royal Georges have Canadian sires as ancestors.



LA FERTÉ (5144-452.)

NORMAN OR FRENCH COACH

“ The valuable qualities claimed for the French Coach (Normans) horses over those of other coach breeds are based upon a system of breeding not possessed by any other race. Instead of being the product of a multiplicity of ideas, the French Coach horse has been developed under the exclusive guidance of the Director-General of the National studs of France ; and as those officials are educated in the same schools, trained in the same system, and taught to seek the same qualities and form, it is easy to understand how such great perfection and uniformity in this breed has been attained. These horses are the descendants of the Arab, the famous breed of the Merlerault and the French and English Thoroughbreds. The uniting and concentrating of all the valuable qualities of these breeds through so many generations, has developed a race of such size and wonderful endurance, combined with perfect symmetry and graceful carriage, that our idea of perfection in a coach horse has been attained, while their breeding assures their power to transmit these qualities to their offspring. The most famous trotting families of this breed are the result of the mingling of the blood of the Norfolk trotters, a breed that, through imported Belfounder, has given to American trotters much of their renown, imported

Phenomenon in France corresponding to imported Belford in the United States. Young Rattler was imported about 1820 and the stallions of his get gave the qualities which the French people especially fancied for coaching uses.

No other coach horse can approach them in the combination of size and stylish action, for though they may never attain as high a rate of speed as the light-weight American trotter, yet their achievements over the inferior tracks of their native country, in their three to seven miles races, stamp their endurance as something wonderful—a quality that can only be obtained by a horse of their size.”—M. W. Dunham.

Many of these horses weigh from 1,300 to 1,400 pounds, and yet are as graceful as a fawn and quite beautiful. The prevailing color is bay, but there are many chesnuts among them and blacks are occasionally seen.

These horses are often called “demi-sang” (half-blood), as produce of the union of French Norman mares with Thoroughbred sires.

As J. H. Sanders says in the “Horse Breeding”, it is only within a recent period that French Coach horses have attracted attention at the hands of American importers and breeders: the draft horses of that country having largely monopolized the attention of American stock raisers travelling in France. But within the past two or three years the growing demand for stylish, high-stepping coach horses in America has led to the importation of French Coachers in considerable numbers. The course of breeding that has produced these horses in France is much the same as that which has created the modern Cleveland Bay of England, the blood of the Thoroughbred largely predominating in both, the only difference being in the mares that have constituted the basis.

The French Government own about 2000 of those stallions, chiefly bred in Normandy, and from such fact, are frequently spoken of in France as *Normans*.

Between 11000 and 12000 owned by the Government have been recorded in its Stud book established in 1833.

A great future there is in Canada for the Coacher.

We are confident that such horses which will prove as valuable and successful in Canada as their ancestors have done in France.

THE HARAS OF FRANCE, GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA

It was during the reign of Louis XIV, in 1665, that the first state Haras was established in France, under the administration of the great statesman Colbert, and from that time down to the present day, the French Government has kept one central object constantly in view, the encouragement of the people by every possible means to adopt a higher standard of breeding (1).

To day the French Haras owns over 3,000 stallions (2) includ-

(1) The Haras of Pin was established in 1714, and the Haras of Pompadour in 1775.

(2) In 1690, there were in France 1600 *Royal* or *approved* stallions (many were brought from Spain, Turkey, Barbary).

In 1789, there were 3239 *approved* and *government* stallions, which served 115,000 mares, producing 56,000 colts.

From 1815 to 1883, the French Haras bought for their studs 826 stallions from the finest of the improved breeds from government stallions, 853 stallions from the Perche and Normandy, and 223 stallions imported from Arabia and the foreign countries.

ing Thoroughbreds from England, French Coach, Arabians and Percherons. The credit necessary for prices offered to farmers in the different horse fairs, is \$300,000 per annum ; \$10,000 per year is granted to make experiments with Arabian and Anglo Arabian mares at the Haras of Pompadour.

In the winter these stallions are kept in the Haras, 400 being assigned to each : in the spring, when the breeding seasons begins, they are sent all over France " en station " two or three are taken to the same district (station) where horses are bred. The charge for the service of these magnificent animals, is but a nominal one, varying from \$5 to \$10. As each mare is served (the choice of the stallion is generally left to the manager of the " station ", the owner receives a certificate to that effect, giving the name of the stallion, with his pedigree in full and the time of date of the service.

In addition to these there are two classes of stallions receiving governmental recognition.

First *approved* stallions, which after inspection by the authorities are granted a subsidy varying from \$50 to \$600 à year, for remaining in the country, and serving mares at prices fixed by their owners. Besides, a subsidy of from \$20 to \$120 is given to approved mares with colts by the Haras stallions. (Dec. 9th, 1860).

The second class are *authorized* upon inspection to serve mares, but receive no subsidy. To further prevent the use of inferior individuals, a decree was issued in 1885, excluding from public service all stallion not authorized by the government.

Thus the horse breeding of France has been reduced to a science. For centuries the history of the French horse has been identical with the history of the nation, and amid all the

turmoil of its political strife, the safety and improvement of the horse has been a prevailing sentiment. Every year governments agents are sent to the different horse markets to purchase three years old stallions. Should a horse be offered for sale, the owner setting its value at a given sum, but the government agents judging it to be of a greater value, their valuation is paid for it. Such liberal action has encouraged breeders in producing none but the finest breeds. Thus the government has made France one of the greatest breeding country of the best strains of heavy draught, fine carriage and showy horses.

“ The laws and regulations of the French Haras, are, I think, admirable ”, says H. Quetton St-George, of Oakridges, in his very interesting book “ On the Breeding of Horses in Canada.”

There are similar systems of Haras in Europe, which meet with great success.

For instance :

In Germany, at the Haras of Trakehnem (Arabians and Thoroughbred.

In Austria, at the Haras of Mezokegye.	} Thoroughbred from England, Pure Arabians, French Coach and Percherons.
“ “ of Babolna.	
“ “ of Kisber.	

And the splendid Haras of Galicie.

In Russia :

At the Haras of *Tschesmensky* : English Thoroughbred and pure Arabian sires ;

Of *Derkul* : Draft sires, Percheron, Suffolks and Orloffs mares ;

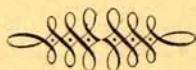
Of *Streletsk* : pure Arabian and Orloff-Rostoptschin mares ;

Of *Nowo - Alexandrowsk* : Orloff-Rostoptschin sires and mares, and Thoroughbred sires ;

Of *Limaewsk*: English Thoroughbred and Arabian mares;

Of *Chranowoy*: Orloff sires and Orloff mares.

The overthrow of the Khan of Crimea, during the sixteenth century, by the Russians left in Russia, about 60,000 Arabian sires which improved greatly the native horse. In 1680, the great Peter established the first state Haras of Russia, definitely organised in 1843. The famous Orloff race (bred by the count Orloff-Tschesmenskow), comes from the cross of Arabian sire with Danish and Dutch mares (3). Such has been the origin of the Russian horse—this horse which rode in May 1889.—2457 verstes; 1637 miles in thirty days! —(From *Lubeny* (Poltawa) to *Paris*, lieutenant Michel Asseef, of the 26th Russian Dragoons, with *Diana*, an officer's saddle mare, and *Vlaga*, a soldier's saddle horse.)



THE HARAS NATIONAL Co.

AND WHAT IT INTENDS DOING ?

They are two ways of crossing, applicable to any breed :

1o Regeneration through itself, or by selection : This interbreeding is not yet practicable in Canada of our days.

2o Improving by foreign blood ; such will be the course of the Haras, and so doing, it will create a draft horse combining *swiftness* with *strength* and the best carriage horse of America.

They are two varieties of Percheron which may be classed as follows :

1o The light Percheron. Prevalence of sanguine temperament ;

2o The draft Percheron. Prevalence of muscular force.

The Haras will breed Percherons of the lighter type where they will develop notable trotting qualities, and heavier Percheron in the richest farming country, where the fall of snow is light. The colts, if a trial is allowed, will quickly enough tell their own story. The Haras will breed Anglo-Normans and Thoroughbreds all over the Dominion (1).

(1) The Haras has sent this year :

Light Percheron stallions to the counties of Bellechasse, Berthier, Portneuf, Champlain and Chicoutimi, P. Q. to Indian Head, Assa. and Montreal.

Heavy Percherons to the county of Vaudreuil and to Ottawa, Brandon, Winnipeg, Man. and Montreal.

French Coach to Brome Ct, Terrebonne Ct, P.Q. Ottawa and Montreal.

Besides, it intends to prevent as much as possible the use of the stallions before fully four years old and the fillies being put to breeding before reaching their 3rd year.

All will be done with time, without haste. The breeder must have an unflinching attention, an unwearied patience. If the first crossing is not all that has been wished for, such imperfections will disappear at the second crossing in a great measure, and from the third and fourth crossing, the problem will be solved : size and vigor, weight and elegance, strength and swiftness.

Finally, the Haras will advise the farmers to march perseveringly, systematically in the same way of breeding, without ever listening to advice which would modify the work commenced. How many farmers are now breeding their mares, the first year to a Clyde, next to a trotter, and then to a Percheron ! What *can* be the results of such foolish crossings, if not miserable scrubs ?

In 1890, the Agricultural Society of Hochelaga Ct, P.Q., rented for the season a Clydesdale stallion for \$1000. This experiment formed the basis of a somewhat similar contract which was granted by the Province of Quebec to the Haras for the furnishing of a certain number of pure bred stallions to Agricultural Societies throughout the Province every year. *Any stallion becoming sick or disabled to be replaced at once by another one*, from the stud of the company. A small nominal fee per mare for the season was added in return of the privilege to select the number of horses required out of a greater number kept at the Company's stables and also as an encouragement to this Company who has undertaken to import and keeps constantly on hand these horses for hire or for sale. The Haras entered into a similar contract with the

department of Agriculture of the Dominion for sending some pure bred sires to the Experimental Farms.

Such will be the work of the Haras National. It is created: the "principium" is laid, and will not die, no matter who will manage it. It bears ~~no~~ malice to none, but asks the good will of every one in such a national work. On a very modest, very small scale. it intends to begin and to do in Canada, what the State Haras of France, Austria, Germany, Russia, have done in their respective countries. It will enrich the Dominion. The Canadian Equine History of the next twenty-five years will verify the truth of this prediction.



NOTES.

THE AVERAGE SELLING PRICE OF THE COMMON HORSE IN 12 STATES (ILLINOIS, IOWA, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, KANSAS, NEBRASKA, DAKOTA, WISCONSIN, OHIO, MISSOURI, KENTUCKY, MINNESOTA.) \$96.67 COMPARED WITH AN AVERAGE OF \$163. . . . FOR GRADES.

	Service fee	Total Cost	Selling Price	Net Returns
Comm. horse.	\$ 5 00	\$55. . . *	\$ 96 67	\$41 67
Grade horse.	20 00	70 00	163 00	93 00
Profit of grade over com. horse				\$51 33

* Owing to the long winter, the cost of producing an horse at maturity in Canada is about \$90.

THE FIRST HARAS IN AMERICA

1670

Depenses pour Canada et Acadie

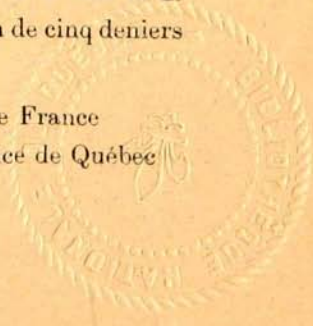
Saint Germain en laye, le 3e jour d'avril 1670.

Garde de mon trésor royal.

M. Estienne Jehannot sieur de Bartillat, payez comptant au Trésorier Général de la Marine, M. Olivier Subleau, la somme de trente neuf mille cent trente huit livres quinze sols pour employer au fait de sa charge, mesme celle de x. x. x. ll. m. 9me x. v. lbs au payment tant du passage et nourriture de cent engagez et cent cinquante filles qui passent au dit païs de Canada, que pour l'achapt et passage de douze cavalles, deux estallons et cinquante brebis pour le dit païs ; scavoir x. 9 lbs pour le passage et nourriture des dits cents engagez à raison de c. ll. chacun, x lb. 9. pour les cent cinquante filles, ll. 9. c. x. ll. pour l'achapt des douze cavalles, deux estallons et cinquante brebis à raison de 9. x. x. ll. pour chacune cavalle, No 4, pour chaque estallon et c. lb. pour chaque brebis et x. 9. lbs. t. pour le passage et la nourriture des dits bestiaux et aultres frais, et b. ll. un x. x. x. bus. ll. x. bs pour les taxations du dit trésorier à raison de cinq deniers pour livres.

Manuscripts relatifs à la Nouvelle France

Archives de la province de Québec



RECENSEMENTS DE LA NOUVELLE FRANCE

14 novembre	1681.....	78 chevaux
	1683.....	56 “
	1685.....	156 “
	1686.....	175 “

En 1734 les chevaux de service coutaient à Québec 100 à 150 francs.

Archives de la province de Québec.



SOME OF THE PRIZES

WON BY

THE HARAS NATIONAL

IN

— 1888 —

- Société des Agriculteurs de France, Paris. { Class: Breeding Percheron mares, any age.
1st Prize: *Fanchette* 15107.
Silver Medal: *Fanchette* 15107.
- Agricultural Exhibition of Hochelaga County, P.Q. { Class: Two years old Percheron stallions.
1st Prize: *Joly* 15168.
Class: Four years old or over draught stallions.
1st Prize: *Roi de Bignan* 1499.
- Central Canada Exhibition Association, Ottawa. { Class: Two years old Percheron stallions.
1st Prize: *Joly* 15168.

— 1889 —

- Agricultural Exhibition of Hochelaga County, P.Q. { Class: Three years old Percheron stallions.
1st Prize: *Joly* 15168.
Class: Four years old or over draught stallions.
1st Prize: *Roi de Bignan* 1499.
Class: Breeding draught mares.
1st Prize: *Fanchette* 15107.
- Eastern Townships Agricultural Association, Sherbrooke, P.Q. { Class: Three years old Percheron stallions.
1st Prize: *Joly* 15168.
Class: Three years old coach horses.
Diploma: *Marquis de Puisaye*.
1st Prize: *Marquis de Puisaye*.

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