

Demobilizing Four-footed Heroes of War

England Must Dispose of More Than Half a Million Horses, Many of Which Bear Wounds Received in Battle.

BY LLOYD ALLEN

Special Staff Correspondent.

LONDON.—Over half a million four-legged heroes of the war, many of them "gold stripe" horses, are being given the only kind of honorable discharge a horse can receive: sold to English and other civilians to fill the pressing need in this country's transport system.

We thought, in America where thousands of these horses came from, that the British army horse led as precarious an existence as the machine gunners in the first line of trenches. During those first months of war, when British army agents were buying horses in the United States, there were many who honestly believed the American steeds would last about one week in that inferno of shell fire.

You should see the American horses now being brought to England from France if you ever believed the life of a horse at the front was a hundred-to-one shot that death would come in the form of a Hun shell. By the hundred thousand these sleek, well kept, well fed quadrupeds are being auctioned off to eager buyers.

Many were in France four years; many were wounded in action, but were carefully cared for by the army veterinarians and bear today the honest scars of battle as the memento of the days when they helped win civilization's war.

One of the first lots sold went under the hammer at Ware's Edgeware road repository, about the middle of December.

"Here's a horse that deserves the Victoria Cross" the auctioneer shouted when the first horse, a black gelding, was trotted out. "He's got two wounds to his credit and is still going strong." The gelding was sold for about \$150 American money.

Equine Losses Announced.

Major General Sir W. H. Birkbeck, director of remounts in the British army, has just announced the losses among the British war horses during the entire period of the war.

"During the last four months of 1914," General Birkbeck declared, "the armies in France lost 14 per cent of their horses, or about 3 per cent a month. That period included the retreat from Mons, the first battle of the Marne, and the first battle of Ypres. "In the following year the losses were fourteen and a half per cent for the whole twelve months. In 1917 the losses rose to 28 per cent, 10 per cent of which took place during the last three months of the year, the balance of the losses being chiefly owing to the heavy fighting at Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, and the beginning of night bombing."

During the last year of war comparatively few horses were lost; two and a half per cent being the official estimate. Among the British commercial firms something like 20 per cent of the horses are always either sick or resting, as an annual average, while the official British army reports reveal the fact that in France, due to the careful attention of the veterinarians, the usual average was a bit more than twelve per cent.

Whether American can profitably follow the accepted British system of demobilizing army horses is a grave question. With the present shortage in ships and the pressing needs of European peoples for foodstuffs, together with the mighty job of transporting General Pershing's army home, it is possible that some horses must needs be either left behind or sacrificed, to add somewhat to the already staggering debt of war.

The British people have been told that in all probability some thousands of horses and mules in far-away Egypt will have to be disposed of in one of three ways: repatriation, destruction, or sale.

Oppose Shooting of Animals.

There is a strong sentiment against shooting the faithful animals. And there are a number of practical obstacles to such a plan. The carcasses of \$25,000,000 worth of horseflesh cannot be disposed of simply by signing an army order even though Egypt does afford wide wastes of uninhabited



American horses at demobilization station near London.



Decorating veteran of fierce fighting near Peronne.

No animal more than twelve years old will be offered. These steeds will go into a surplus that must be disposed of in Belgium and Northern France where the peasants are trying to repair war damages and get back to a peace footing, and where the cities are faced with the problem of settling back into the pursuits of peace.

There is a wide variety of stock for the civilian buyer to choose from, varying from the heavy Percherons to the light type useful for the ordinary wagon and including sad-

deserts and plenty of vultures. Fundamentally, however, it is the Briton's sincere love for the horse that forbids adopting any ruthless expedient in reducing the Egyptian forces to a peace time footing.

General Allenby, the British commander in the Near East, has cabled that every effort will be made to place all surplus horses in the hands of natives who will "treat the animals well and infinitely better than the peoples of many European nations."

Naturally the horses will be returned to industry at a slower rate than they were mobilized. When Sir J. Cowans came to the war office shortly after the British declared war on Germany, he had to obtain 135,000 horses in 14 days. His methods were successful. The horses were supplied by the business people of England and included the best of Leicestershire. The Kitchener divisions, however, demanded the services of at least 700,000 horses.

Then it was that the British horse buyer made his appearance in force in the markets of America. At the same time buyers were busy in Spain, Argentina, China, Australia, Tunis, Algiers, and Somaliland.

Confronting the authorities are a number of grave problems just now. First of all there is an urgent need of disposing of all surplus army stock with the least possible delay. But there are too many horses. Only seventeen per cent of all army stock actually came from England. Manifestly it is impossible to return one hundred per cent to England and thereby glut the market and demoralize the present schedule of prices. So even though the horses are literally eating their heads off at great cost to the government the number of sales must be regulated to meet the actual demand.

Also, the horse sales must be held in all sections of the country, and the quantities offered must conform to the needs of each community.

Sell 25,000 a Month.

Following this system as closely as they can, the army men hope to dispose of some 25,000 horses a month.

die horses and driving stock.

In the first lots that have just been sold the Irish horses were prominent in breeding and hardness but were rather excelled in size by the Trans-Atlantic classes graded with them. Doubtless many of the American horses will be bought here for hunters.

Army men speak highly of the American mule. On the battlefield the mule made good. But among the British horse owners there is a grave distrust of this imported luxury.

As a matter of fact the mule is the chief problem in this side of demobilization. Nobody wants him for peace work. There are thousands of them in the army, trained to harness or saddle. Yet even the most optimistic army person here is wondering how on earth the government is going to enthrone the civilian buyer or the subject.

May Use Same as Food.

While the war office is devoting a lot of thought to getting rid of surplus horses, the food controller, acting independently, has possibly suggested a kind of remedy—horseflesh has just been put on the list of food stuffs the price of which is controlled by government order.

"Owing to the increased demand for horseflesh for human consumption, it has been found necessary to control the prices both to retailers and consumers," the official order reads.

The prices fixed are interesting. The household buying at retail will have to pay no more than 31 cents a pound for the best cuts. The heart, liver and head meats cuts, known here as the offal cuts (no joke intended), may be sold to retail trade at 16 cents a pound.

Eating horseflesh is merely a feature of the meat shortage England and all of Europe are now experiencing. Meat and butter are going to be hard to get here for the next year or so. That one fact is the only point in the whole food problem on which the food ministry officials stand pat.

Meat sellers may be able to dispose of some of the horses, over the counter in pound lots, but what of the 10,000 friendless mules here awaiting sale?

TRADE BRIEFS

The United States is now supplying about 80 per cent of the shoes imported into Chile, whereas before the war started the share was less than 20 per cent.

The importation of shoes into Cuba is constantly increasing. The importance of this trade should be thoroughly realized and market conditions carefully studied by American manufacturers desirous of extending their foreign sales.

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

THE OTHER DAY.

"Thursday is working today," said the other days.

"Yes," said Friday, "it will soon be my turn. I always work when Thursday is through. Thursday always gets through at just the same time. We all do our work in the same way. We don't work too much and we don't work too little. We just make a rule of working twenty-four hours once a week in our right turn."

"Well," said Saturday, "I am feeling very unhappy. Now and again I feel quite happy, especially when some one says there is going to be a special party or treat or entertainment 'some day' and I am chosen as the particular day."

"That happened to you not long ago," said the other days.

"Yes," said Saturday, "it did, and it happens to all of us some time. But I'm sad now."

"Why are you sad?" asked Friday. "Please tell me before I go to work. Then you can tell your story over again to Thursday who will probably want to hear it."

"Oh, dear," said Saturday, "it was very sad. I felt dreadful about it, and I still feel bad about it."

"Tell it to us," said the days, "and perhaps we may be able to comfort you."

"I will," said Saturday. "Some children were talking and one of them



How Sad to Have Such Things Happen on Saturday.

said, 'I was sick the other day. Oh, I didn't feel like doing anything. I don't mind being sick on any day as much as I do being sick on the day I was sick.'

"Well, how did you know it was Saturday?" asked the other days. "The child said it was the 'other day.' Now you know how little that means and how much it is said. Folks are always speaking of the 'other day' and not treating any of us as though we amounted to anything. It is just as though people spoke of children and said, 'The other child,' and didn't mean any particular child—in fact, had forgotten what child they meant. That is the way they do with days. They don't remember about us as well as they should."

"They say that things happened and perhaps they may remember that they happened the week before, but they won't remember whether Tuesday or Wednesday or which of us was on duty."

"That's so," said Saturday. "But then I know they meant I was the one. For the other child said I got a splinter in my finger the other day, and it was the day you were sick."

"And a third child said, 'I cut myself with my new knife the other day.'"

"Oh, how dreadful I did feel, and oh, how bad I feel now, for days, listen to me."

All the days, except Thursday, who was working, drew nearer, and Saturday said, "The awful thing about it all is that I was the 'other day.'"

"Oh, cheer up, Saturday," said the days, "it might have happened to any of us."

"Yes," said Saturday, "when people speak of the 'other day' when something or other happened, it is not paying us a great compliment, for they forget about us, or can't be bothered to remember which of us happened to be about. But when everything happened on the 'other day' and it turned out to be me—oh, woe, woe, sadness and tears!"

"But Saturday, how did you know you were meant by the 'other day'?"

"Because," said Saturday, "each child said afterward how sad it was to have such things happen on Saturday, which was always a holiday."

"Cheer up, Saturday," said the days. "You may have been a sad 'other day' several times, but you are the beloved day of children—Saturday—the holiday. Doesn't that make you rejoice?"

"Ah, yes," said Saturday, "I surely have my share of joy, and I wouldn't appreciate it if I didn't have a little trouble once in awhile. Ah, yes, it was wrong of me to grumble when I am the children's day—the holiday—Saturday!"

Tied Down by Your Work.

Do not say that you are "tied down" by your work. Congenial work, well done, is not a drag, but an inspiration. It gives you wings to lift you above a thousand little stumbling blocks. The worker on fire with enthusiasm forgets his weariness in the pleasure of achievement. If you have chosen your life-work wisely, it does not tie you down, but lifts you up.

Destined to Play Many Roles



A simple but rich-looking toilette is among the new displays of suits and dresses for spring, but with all its simplicity it reveals two original and very effective style features that are noteworthy. The first of these appears in the combination of two very different satins. The plain skirt is made of one of those heavy, lustrous, supple weaves, much used for separate and sport skirts, and the smart and rather elaborate coat is fashioned from a heavy satin such as we have been familiar with for years. There is no rivalry between these two dissimilar satins, but it is unusual to see them used together. Just how successfully they may be associated appears in the suit for spring shown above.

This is a formal suit that will hold its own for afternoon or restaurant-dinner wear, and prove useful for other very different occasions. The skirt and coat may part company—the skirt serving with various blouses for any smart, informal dress, and the coat doing its efficient part with a cloth skirt or one-piece dress in lighter fabrics, merely as a coat. It proves to be an

interesting garment with details of cut and decoration that bespeak considerable effort on the part of its designer.

The body of the coat is merely a blouse opening at the front to the waistline and closed there in the manner of a surplice. It has a rolled collar, faced with or having an over-collar of white satin. The sleeves are gathered into a very deep and eccentric cuff of satin, with three satin-covered buttons as a finish. The picture describes it better than words can. The skirt of the coat is rounded at the fronts and laid in two deep inverted plaits at each side. These form pointed panels over the hips that widen from the waistline to the bottom. The panels are decorated with embroidery in two colors, one of them the same as that of the coat and one of them a light, contrasting color. The grille is shaped with points upstanding at each side, over the underarm seam.

The front and back of the coat are prettily finished with narrow silk braid in parallel rows, starting at the waistline and terminating in little satin-covered buttons at each side.

ALLURING HATS FOR SPRING



About this time dwellers in the northern states begin to watch for the first robins, and others of the early signs that spring is on the way. Long before the hardy and daring red-breast pipes his cheerful prophecy of summer, the first spring millinery has enchanted us with the same prophecy. It is made for those who leave the lands of snow to journey to lands of sun, but they are not the only people interested in it. Spring hats are alluring in midwinter and some of them find their way to southern tourists and the fashions crystallized by the hats worn at the famous winter resorts.

Here are three of the new patterns that are destined to make successes in all localities, first because of their excellence, and next, because they are not unusual, but beautiful and becoming shapes that with little modifications, are worn every year.

At the top of the group there is a little demi-season hat of ribbon and straw of the sort that makes its appearance in January for the benefit of tourists. If the weather is at all favorable it goes strong in northern, as well as southern latitudes. It is of black lisle—a highly lustrous straw and narrow grosgrain ribbon. A broad quill of glycerined ostrich trails out from the side crown and defies

the rain or snow, which will not cause it to droop. Just below it another between-seasons hat is shown made of crepe georgette and satin, with thread embroidery of heavy silk floss on the upper brim with a group of loops and ends at the sides, curiously and cleverly arranged as if peeping out from the base of the crown.

The third hat belongs to any season of the year and is destined for those hours of ease and luxury when its wearer dons evening or afternoon clothes. It is made of malines, with a binding of satin about the brim edge and a band of folded satin about the crown, finished with a bow at the front. The smallest steel beads, in little rings, are set about the inner edge of the binding and at the top of the loops in the bow. It is in black, and merely veils the bright hair and demure eyes of its wearer. These three hats will fill the millinery needs for spring of the average woman, and may be relied upon for good style.

Julia Bottomley

If you are going South away from winter, your picture hat could be of white tulle with a pink satin crown and upon the brim a pink rose wide open to the heart.

CONDENSATIONS

Electricity has been adapted to 48 different purposes about the household.

About 60,000,000 acres of land is given over to tobacco cultivation in the world.

Life insurance carried in the United States at the end of 1917 exceeded \$30,000,000,000.

Carbons for lighting and electrochemical purposes are made in Sweden from tar by a new process.

A horse has been known to live 17 days without eating or drinking.

Time equivalent to 3,000,000 days is said to have been saved to the women of the United States by the electric washing machines sold last year.

A unique roadway of solid salt, forming a part of the Wendover highway in Tooele county, Utah, is projected by the Utah State road commission.

The only movable part of a new flour sifter is a flat coil of heavy wire which passes back and forth over the wire mesh as the implement is shaken.