

Horse Breeds Rise and Fall

By GRANT MacEWAN

HORSE breeds, like political doctrines and women's clothes, feel all the fickle whims of public fancy. The draft breed with the largest number of registrations for all Canada in 1935 had the smallest number of registrations in 1952 and some breeds like Shire and Suffolk, that were still recording a few head in the annual Stud Books in 1935, have disappeared from the registration lists completely in the recent year for which figures are available. Still there were twelve breeds of horses being registered in Canada in 1952 and a thirteenth, the Palomino, gained incorporation under the Live Stock Pedigree Act of Canada.

It may be assumed that the numbers of purebred animals registered with the National Live Stock Records each year can be taken as approximate indications of breed popularity. The annual report of the National Live Stock Records tells a strange story of change. The three draft breeds that dominated the registration scene as recently as 1940 have sunk to minor positions, while two light horse breeds, Standard Bred and Thoroughbred, together accounted for more than 60% of the total horse registrations in 1952.

Only two of the twelve breeds of horses have shown reasonably consistent increases in numbers from 1935 to 1952. They are the Standard Bred and Hackney. The breed which maintained the most even numbers over that period was the Thoroughbred and in 1952 was second only to the Standard Bred. Throughout that period of seventeen years, the province of Ontario has consistently maintained its lead in the number of Thoroughbreds registered with Alberta being an equally consistent second. In 1952, Ontario furnished 217 of the 513 Canadian registrations for that breed and Alberta furnished 112. The relationship is about the same as it was in 1940.

As testimony to the revival of interest in roadsters and in harness racing, the Standard Bred, which had less than 6% of the total horse registrations in 1935, had more than one-third of the Canadian total in 1952. Again Ontario has been the source of most of the breed registrations, with Quebec being the second province. Of the 745 new registrations for that trotting and pacing breed in 1952, Ontario owners had 499 of the animals; Quebec, the second province, had 111 head; Saskatchewan had

CANADIAN PALOMINO HORSE ASSOCIATION

This Association, organized in 1944, has made excellent progress. We are now Incorporated under the Live Stock Pedigree Act of Canada, 1949, and affiliated with the Canadian National Live Stock Records Office at Ottawa.

Horses to be eligible for registration must have at least one parent previously accepted by our Association or by an approved American Association. All such horses must still pass inspection before being registered and entitled to the rights and privileges of purebreds.

Over 350 horses have been accepted, and these form the basis for the original Stud Book.

Particulars of the Association can be obtained by writing to:

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President
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Calgary, Alta.

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Box 52
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47 head; Manitoba was next with 40 head; and in the tiny province of Prince Edward Island, in which rugby, hockey and baseball are indifferent forms of entertainment compared to harness racing, there were 18 Standard Bred registrations.

Although numbers are still small, the Arabian is showing one of the most striking increases for horses registered; with 12 Arabians registered in 1950, there were 22 in 1951 and 27 in 1952. Arabians, along with Morgans, Tennessee Walking Horses, German Coach and Highland Cattle, share the General Stud and Herd Book, this being a general record book for those recognized breeds which do not have their own national breed associations. It should be noted that while no Tennessee Walking Horse was registered in 1952, there were 2 in the previous year and 2 Morgans were registered in 1952.

The proud and elegant American Saddle Horse had 53 Canadian registra-

tions last year, with 36 of these from Ontario owners. It is apparent that the greatest breeding interest for this breed is centred in Ontario. There were 6 registrations from Alberta.

The Hackney horse, which has been enjoying growing popularity, registered 21 horses in 1940 and 122 in 1952. In this breed also, Ontario horsemen have furnished most of the animals registered.

The most spectacular decline has been in the breeding of draft horses. Clydesdales, Percherons and Belgians together registered 2,407 in 1935, with the Clydesdale breed accounting for just over half. The corresponding total for 1952 was 427, with the breed order being exactly reversed; Belgians led with 149 registrations and the Percherons were close behind with 148. Clydesdales had 130.

In those early years, the Province of Saskatchewan was regarded as a Canadian stronghold in draft horse breeding. For the year 1935 it furnished either the highest or the second highest number of purebred horses registered by each of the three draft breed associations. In 1952, however, that province failed to

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rank as first or second in any breed, its place being taken by one or other of the Eastern provinces. In Clydesdales and Percherons, Ontario registered the largest number in 1952 and in Belgians it was Quebec. Ontario was second in Belgians, Quebec second in Percherons and Alberta second in Clydesdales.

Registration numbers for other breeds were 74 for ponies, 40 for Canadian Hunters and 28 for the breed of Quebec origin, the Canadian. Although quite an old breed, the Canadian is still confined to its native province and in the last calendar year all the Canadian horses registered, with one exception, were from that province.

While the shifts in breed popularity are very marked and the draft horses have suffered a serious decline, it is worth noting that the number of horses of all breeds registered in 1952 was down only 27% from the 1940 total.

What of Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, Pintos, etc.? These strains have not gained recognition as breeds in Canada although real progress toward breed status has been made in the United States. The Palomino, which has only recently qualified for official recognition, affords a demonstration of some of those essential steps in breed formation.

The Canadian Palomino Horse Association was organized in July, 1944, and immediately began recording foundation stock which was correct for color and approved for type and quality. Three hundred and fifty mares and stallions were accepted. None but quality animals could gain admittance to the record and, after nearly nine years, the association was permitted to take the next step. From this time forward, no horse will be accepted unless it meets all the former standards for type, quality and color and has one or both parents recorded or registered. All pedigrees will be issued by the Canadian National Live Stock Records. Palominos recorded by the Canadian association in the calendar year, 1952, numbered 80, and were made up of 31 stallions, 48 mares and one gelding.

Saskatchewan Again Pays Premiums

Saskatchewan Government premiums will be paid again this year to purchasers of purebred bulls, Agriculture Minister I. C. Nollet announced recently.

Premiums will be \$50.00 for Grade "A" bulls and \$35.00 for Grade "B" bulls of the Aberdeen-Angus, Hereford, Short-horn, Red Poll, Ayrshire, Holstein and Jersey breeds. The Ayrshire breed is added this year for the first time.

Applications for grading of beef bulls is made to Alex Hall, Room 3, Victoria Park Building, Regina, and of dairy breeds to S. P. Regan, Fort Qu'Appelle. In either case application should be made as soon as possible to ensure a workable graders' itinerary. Grading cannot be assured if the application is not received before June 15th. Bulls will not be graded before they are one year of age and no application will be accepted after a bull is 24 months of age.

After a bull is graded, application to the Department for a premium must be

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made on a form usually obtained from the grader, but also available from the Department or Agricultural Representatives.

The objective of the policy is to develop a higher standard of type and a general improvement in the quality of

cattle raised in Saskatchewan, Mr. Nollet said.

In the 1952 calendar year, the Minister added, over \$100,000.00 was paid in premiums on 3,243 graded bulls, the majority being Herefords. Over 4,000 bulls were graded.

Morris Hanson, B.Sc., D.V.M.

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