

Horse-
breeding.

367. Horse-breeding prevails more or less generally in Canada, but it is being made a special industry in Alberta, N.W.T., where it is rapidly becoming of importance, and it is expected that in a few years a large number of serviceable horses will be available. Though owing to the jealousy of British agriculturalists, the Imperial Government has discontinued, for the present, the purchase of horses in Canada for the army, there is not much doubt that the demand will be ultimately revived, and it is to be hoped that Canadian farmers will employ the interval in profiting by the advice and remarks of the officers sent out to purchase, with reference to the style of animal required, that when the time does come again, as it inevitably will, a far larger supply will be found available than was the case in the first instance; and even if the animals thus produced are not required for army purposes, they will be found greatly improved for general purposes. The market is sure to come, and there is likely to be much money made out of the trade.

Horses
and cat-
tle in
Canada
and U.S.

368. The total number of horses in Canada in 1888 was about 1,099,279, and of cattle, 3,791,908. In the United States at the same time the number was of horses, 13,663,294, and of cattle, 50,331,042.

Ranches
N.W.T.

369. The number of ranches in operation was 108, comprising 3,252,378 acres, and the quantity of stock in the district of Alberta and Assiniboia was, as far as returns were available, 108,361 cattle, 23,868 horses and 31,435 sheep. The actual numbers are undoubtedly larger. Forty-four leases were cancelled during the year, and there has been a great falling off in the number of applicants for leases since April, 1887, when the Government decided to grant them only by public competition. The cattle industry was very successful during the year, the winter having been very favourable for stock.