



Foxbridge was not utterly alone in his glory, however. Robin Goodfellow provided six fillies and six colts which brought 7,500 guineas and included the top-priced filly, a chestnut out of Sunny Maid, for which Mr. C. C. Davis, of Christchurch, paid 1,550 guineas. His top-priced colt was also a chestnut, this time out of Horomea. For it Mr. F. Firetti, Taita, gave 1,375 guineas. Second-highest price of the sale was the 1,800 guineas given for a brown colt by Bulandshar out of Kana, with Mr. W. Owen, of Christchurch, as the buyer. Another Bulandshar colt from Portadown brought 1,500 guineas, and altogether nine colts and two fillies brought 8,695 guineas. There were only four offerings of Balloch stock, but they sold very well, three colts from Anteroom, Numulus, and Nassau bringing 1,600, 1,000 and 1,400 guineas respectively and a filly from Wyndale 1,400 guineas. Thus four Balloch yearlings earned 5,400 guineas. Six Coronach colts brought 4,205 guineas and two fillies 1,900 guineas, 6,105 guineas in all; and 12 Nizami fillies 7,020 guineas and three colts 920 guineas, a total of 7,940 guineas. One Night-march filly out of Praise brought 1,500

guineas and another by Variant 650 guineas, with a total for three fillies and two colts offered of 2,360 guineas.

Yearlings like these almost sell themselves. With others the auctioneer has to fight for every guinea. The story he tells is worth listening to. He begins with typical buoyant optimism, and proceeds to his final "All done? Can't dwell. Must sell!" through a bewildering variety of moods. He is alternately reproachful, threatening, coaxing, sometimes angry and, as a last resort, pathetic. The buyers are always shy and difficult. Very seldom do they begin the bidding at anything near the market value of an animal, although once the bidding is begun it goes on very swiftly in the case of a popular breed. The auctioneer starts the ball rolling with his few comments and a suggestion as to the price: "Wonderful family, gentlemen, wonderful family." Then, briskly, "Well now, where shall we start? 1,400 guineas, 1,200 guineas, a thousand? Come now, gentlemen, we've got to start somewhere. What about 500 guineas? Thank you, sir, it's far below his value, but we've got to start somewhere." Soon enough, if the auctioneer is lucky, the price is up to 950 guineas,