



DESCENDING A STEEP HILL.

THIS HORSE WAS KILLED.
His rider landed on top of the embankment unhurt.**HORSES TRAINING HARD.****Cavalry Mounts to Go Through Hair Raising Feats Near Rome.**

In the Grand Hippodrome of the Post-Graduate Cavalry School, at Toro de Quinto, near Rome, in the spring of each year, is held an International Concours Hippique, a contest open to the army officers of all the nations of the world and their chargers, the object being to single out the horse and rider with the best training and greatest endurance.

Besides fox hunting of the early spring in Italy, this is the greatest sporting affair of the season, and it is witnessed not only by military commissioners of all European nations, but also by thousands of other interested spectators.

Last year there were 103 contestants. Of these ninety-two were Italians, seven Belgians, one Russian, one Spaniard, one Rumanian and one from the Argentine Republic. The horses in the contest were mostly Irish, with a few thoroughbreds and one Anglo-Arabian. They cost from \$600 up to \$1,000 each.

For the first tests of these tournaments, early in the morning of the first day the riders start out by themselves at intervals of a few minutes on a ride of about thirty miles, following a road that has been mapped out. At certain points indicated upon the map each one must leave the road and follow a flagged course of over six miles, in which he has to "take" natural obstacles, such as fences, stone walls, creeks and steep descents. The officers carry arms and ride with packed saddles in this "race," and four hours are allowed to make the ride. Judges are stationed at all obstacles, and, at the finish of this test, they forbid any horse not in good condition at any obstacle to take further part in the contest.

The horses able to go on after a rest of five hours are required to gallop over a course of nearly four thousand yards and take twelve obstacles on the Hippodrome turf track. Six min-

utes and a half are allowed for this trial. In this the men use an English saddle and ride in undress uniform, without their officer's arms. If a horse refuses to take an obstacle he loses two points, and if he falls, five points.

On the afternoon of the following day these

horses which have successfully completed the two previous tests are required to gallop over a distance of about twenty-seven hundred yards, with eighteen very difficult objects in the way and many tortuous turns to be made. Six minutes and fifteen seconds are allowed to cover

this course. If the horse strikes an obstacle or puts two feet in a ditch he loses two points.

In the concours of last year one Spanish officer and his charger and one Italian met all the requirements of these three trials, and had to undergo an additional test to decide the championship. This was made by putting narrow obstacles in a zigzag course between marked lines, and the horses were required to remain in the lines while going at a very fast gait. The Italian's horse went through this without a fault, but the Spaniard's rapped his hind foot on a stone wall, and so lost first place.

At the last international contest in horseman, ship in London the horse of an Italian officer won the first prize.

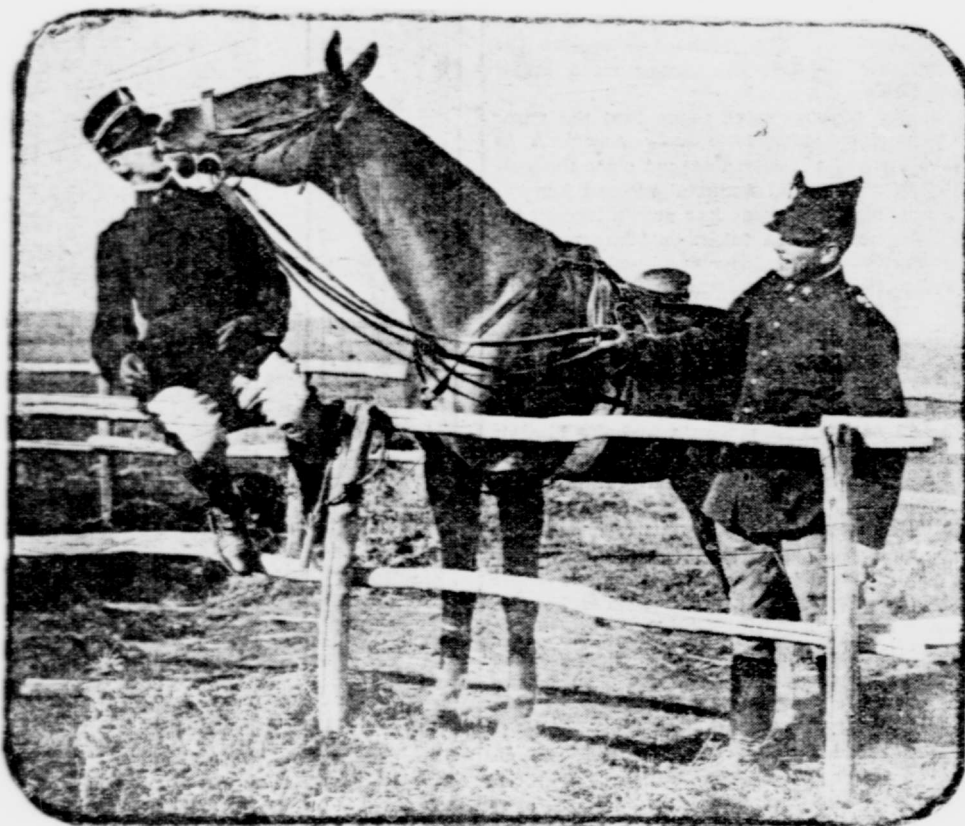
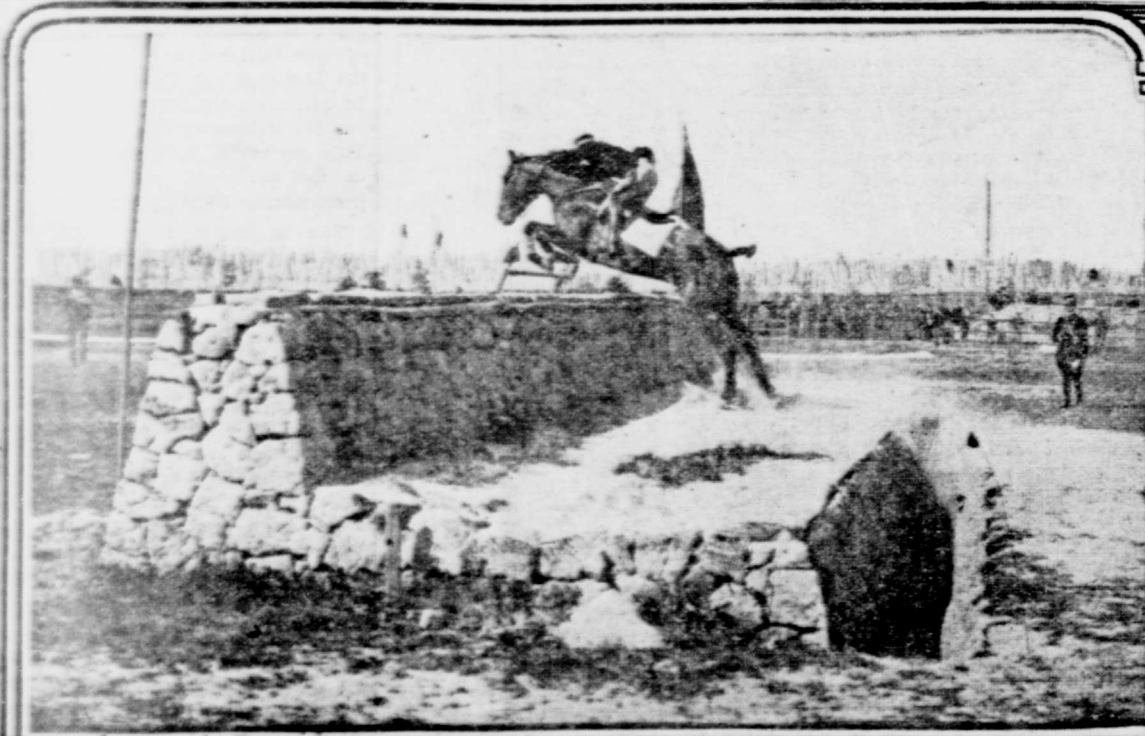
It requires much time and patient training of a horse to enable him to perform these wonderful feats. The new Italian training school is known as "Campagna Romana," and its aim in instruction is to allow the horse natural movements, as in the gallop of the fox hunt. The mounts are trained to move on "straight lines," as opposed to the old school of concave and convex as well as straight movements. Members of the cavalry trained in the old school of riding say that this was best, as it gave the rider full possession of his horse and allowed the animal to see ahead of him, as he cannot so well do now on the "straight" lines of movement, and so there are many more accidents than there used to be.

The horses are taught to make the descent of a steep bank by first being trained to walk down artificial banks. Afterward they are taken to the mountains and made to descend the steepest and most dangerous precipices. This practice is considered injurious to the horses, and is hard on the nerves of the rider.

By arts like these Læonida nursed of old her hardy sons; And Rome's unconquered legions urged their way, Unhurt through every toll, in every clime.

LAZY MAN'S WISDOM.

"Sometimes it pays to be slow going," said Uncle Eben. "De faster you travels de harder you bumps if dars a collision."—Washington Star.

INSISTING ON A KISS.
The men teach their charges many tricks.

A DOUBLE JUMP OVER DITCH AND WALL.

A CLUMSY JUMP.
Dismounting of the rider seems certain.