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PROTECTION OF HORSES

RECENTLY we protested in this column against the slaughter of England's working horses. It is satisfactory to know that the Government has ordered an immediate inquiry into this matter.

What is disturbing members of all parties in Parliament is not only the depopulation of working horses and ponies, but the cruel way in which, it is alleged, some of these animals are slaughtered. However, in the Premier's words, there is now "complete agreement that this matter must be pursued with vigilance and vigour."

All working horses should be registered, and the law should insist that anyone wishing to slaughter a horse should first obtain permission from the local authority.
Cruelty to horses probe

By DOUGLAS BROWN

The Prime Minister has ordered immediate action to wipe out cruelty in the slaughter of horses in this country.

"This matter must be pursued with vigilance and vigour," he told the Commons yesterday.

The Government has decided:

1. To consider, as a matter of urgency, whether one Minister shall take over responsibilities now shared by several.

2. To hold an immediate inquiry to see whether it is necessary to bring up to date the findings of a committee which investigated the trade in horses for slaughter and export two years ago.