

Swine.

PRICES FOR BACON HOGS.

Toronto Market unsatisfactory—Drover do better at Buffalo.

To the Editor of FARMING :

I have read several articles at different times in your valuable farming paper on the hog market, giving a great deal of advice to farmers on producing hogs, which I think is not necessary, as the farmers are well up to their business. They were advised that they could not over-stock the English market with Canadian bacon, as it sold so much better than the American. What are the farmers getting now? Why, the past year hogs in Buffalo have been selling higher than in Toronto. Those that are culled in Toronto are in Buffalo only a few cents per cwt. under the best. The fact is, four dollars per cwt. in Buffalo is as good as \$4.50 in Toronto, because of the way they are culled. In Buffalo hogs are always fed and watered in large closed-in buildings, as comfortable as the pen they left at home. How is it in Toronto? Why, they are left in the car freezing all night in winter, and crowding and suffocating each other in summer. It is really cruelty to animals. All other animals are unloaded and fed. Why should hogs not be? Just because the packers will it so. There is just one buyer in Toronto for hogs, and if a drover should feed his hogs it would be the worse for him.

There should be a law that all animals should be fed on arrival at the market. They certainly require it after the unmerciful pounding they get in the car, caused by the air-brakes now used or *misused*. There is no knowing how long the hogs have been on the way. There is another injustice. Some drovers travel 100 to 150 miles, others 10 or 20 miles. Some hogs will be over 30 hours and some three or four hours off feed, but both have to accept the same price, while if they were all fed it would make them equal. As to the remarks on the deterioration of the Canadian hog in your last paper, why, you should not print such stuff.

I have had a long experience in the matter, and say that there has been more improvement in Canadian hogs than any other animals. Think of the grand show of hogs in Toronto last fall.

It could not be beaten in America. I know that farmers feed and attend better than ever before. Many have built splendid pig pens. Years ago, any pen was thought good enough. If Canadian hogs are soft, why all the hogs in Buffalo are so't also; but they fetch more money. Besides, the Americans send three hogs to England to Canada's one.

A farmer said to me a few days ago: "We shall have to say good-bye to the hog, as the average farmer cannot produce them at less than \$4.50 per cwt." Though scientific gentlemen write that they can produce them for \$2.50, it is only on paper. If it could be done for that no other animals would be raised on the farm.

FARMER AND DROVER.

SUPERIOR CANADIAN BACON.

A member of a leading provision firm of London, England, has the following to say of Canadian bacon :

"Your Canadian bacon is, owing to its superior quality, taking a high place in the British market. It is, for instance, being used largely in the west of London and fetches a better price by a about 30 per cent. than the United States product."

Asked as to what he attributed its superiority, he promptly replied: "To better feeding and a better selection of hogs. United States pork is chiefly corn fed, yielding an oilier bacon, while the Canadian product is firm and sweet, and much leaner, owing to its being fed on the coarse grains of the country. What you are going up against is the Danish and Irish bacon, and, as I believe, putting both out of the market. In fact, I think that in from three to five years you will see the Canadian hog-industry vastly increased beyond its present extent.

We in England were somewhat afraid lest the abolition of the duty on corn should lead to the feeding of Canadian hogs on that grain, thus deteriorating its quality. But, fortunately, the farmers of Canada have had sense enough to stick to the native coarse grains. When the Canadian farmer takes to feeding his hogs on corn he will find that the price which Canadian Bacon will fetch in London will be regulated simply by the competition of the American hog product."

