

Report of the Swine Commission

(Continued from page 5.)

with the swine industry in England, Scotland and Ireland, Denmark, and also to some extent Holland. Existing conditions were enquired into and the information gathered has been compiled in a most instructive manner. The time of the Commission was spent among successful men and associations, who willingly revealed their methods for examination. Nowhere was there obtained evidence of success being obtained through curious methods or secret processes. Intelligent management was found to be the key to the system followed. Everywhere there was found a tendency to intensive methods which demand careful attention to details. Nowhere was there a haphazard work associated with satisfactory results. Swine rearing as organized in Europe is a highly organized branch of agriculture secondary to and almost always associated with dairy farming.

METHODS RECOMMENDED.

As a solution for much of the buying difficulty in Canada, the commission suggests resorting to auction markets such as are in vogue in England and Scotland and which are practised in Canada more or less in connection with cattle. Such a system of paying alike for all kinds, good and bad, and should stimulate competition, which is now limited to a minimum in country sections in Canada.

CO-OPERATION IS THE REMEDY.

Co-operation is, however, believed to be the best solution as indicated in Ireland and Denmark. The members of the co-operative bacon factory at Roscrea, Ireland, are satisfied with their lot as pig raisers looking for full returns from their hogs. In Denmark, the industry has grown rapidly and substantially and is thriving on the principle of co-operation. Co-operation in Denmark had its origin in dissatisfaction with the packer. It may pertinently be asked, "Can co-operation succeed in Canada?" The answer of the commissioners is "Yes." They point out that co-operation, as we tried it in Canada a few years ago, is not co-operation, and that success in a brand of co-operation could not succeed in any business, and that it would have as surely failed in Denmark had her farmers been of such poor staying material. The early organizers of that country foresaw the rocks ahead and added a penalty clause to the rules.

The Commission concludes that a successful co-operative society with a strong leader and a faithful membership will work in Canada as it does in Denmark and having come into contact with a large class of farmers who are growing rich through co-operative bacon raising, the Commission confidently recommends it to the pig raisers of Canada who will do their duty towards it.

As alternative remedies for what appear to be the chief barriers to a

prosperous swine rearing industry in Canada, the Commission suggests the following:

1. The adoption, on the part of the packers, of an attitude of sympathetic co-operation between themselves and the producers, whereby every possible aid and encouragement would be given farmers to increase the quantity and improve the quality of their hogs. This would involve a constant, earnest desire and readiness to afford every facility on their part in co-operation with the producers, to investigate and solve problems which may give rise to dissatisfaction. It would require the adoption of a careful grading of the prices of hogs throughout the year, guarding against discouraging low levels. It would require the control of buyers and the recognition of quality in the prices paid for hogs.
2. The co-operation of farmers in engaging a salesman for their hogs, as is carried out by the Eastern Counties Farmers' Association of England.
3. The adoption of the system of selling swine on the open market as applied to cattle and sheep. By the co-operation of neighbors carloads could be sent forward at regular intervals.
4. The establishment of co-operative

missions and its specific investigations in the countries aforementioned. The Commission has done its best to get the report is a most readable one.

It is attractively printed, well illustrated and is of such interest that all pork producers into whose hands it will ultimately fall will be induced to read it and profit thereby.

Information About Silos

I want a little information through Farm and Dairy on silo building. 1. Is a stone silo satisfactory? 2. Should there be an outlet for juice of corn to get away? 3. Is 15 feet diameter (inside) too large for a stock of 30 head for winter feeding? 4. How many cubic feet of space does it take to hold a ton of ensilage (35 ft. high)? Any other instructions will be gladly received—Geo. A. D. Huron Co., Ont.

1. Yes, very satisfactory, provided it is smoothly and evenly finished off inside with cement or extra good lime plaster.
2. Yes, but unless soil is very porous, that is quite sandy or gravelly, I would advise putting in no bottom in which case surplus juice would escape into soil.
3. No, I would prefer 16 feet, or larger rather than a less diameter for



Members of the Swine Commission on a Tour of Inspection in Ireland

Considerable time was spent by the Commission in Ireland where co-operative bacon curing is commencing to obtain a foothold. Mr. Ballantyne, chairman of the Commission, may be seen on the driver's seat of the rear cart. Next him sits Mr. Jones, and to the latter's left, Mr. Rye. On the rear cart Mr. Garreau holds the reins. Mr. Sinclair may be recognized sitting to the rear of the cart, while behind him is Mr. J. B. Spencer, secretary of the Commission.

packing houses as conducted in Denmark and in Ireland.

The Commission, as well as remembered by Farm and Dairy readers, was composed of farmers residing in various provinces of Canada who rear and market swine in greater or less numbers each year. The members of the Commission were: W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford, Ont., Chairman; Wm. Jones, Zenda, Ont.; Geodon Garreau, Three Rivers, Que.; Joseph Rye, Dugby, Alta.; J. E. Sinclair, Springfield, P. E. I., and J. B. Spencer, Ottawa, Ont., secretary and editor.

Readers of Farm and Dairy will also remember the circumstances under which the Commission was appointed; how the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, acting on a suggestion published in Farm and Dairy in November, 1908, approached the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, with a request that a commission of practical farmers and swine raisers be appointed to investigate the conditions of the bacon industry in these countries, particularly in Denmark, that were successfully engaged in this industry.

JUSTIFIES ITS MISSION.

Although much unfavorable criticism was advanced from various quarters as to the need for such a commission, Hon. Sydney Fisher wisely foresaw the advantage that would accrue to our Canadian industry through the appointment of the Com-

mission and its specific investigations in the countries aforementioned. The Commission has done its best to get the report is a most readable one.

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To Prevent the Growth of Horns

For several years caustic potash has been used at the University of Wisconsin to prevent calves from growing horns. G. C. Humphrey, Professor of Animal Husbandry, gives the following method, which has been very successful:

The caustic potash should be applied as soon as the "button-like" horns can be felt after the calf is three days old. If postponed the operation may give unsatisfactory results. To apply the potash the hair is removed from about the horns close to the skin. The potash is moistened slightly and rubbed over the skin which covers the point of the horns until the skin is white.

If it is not necessary to rub the skin until blood comes, as this will cause unnecessary soreness. One such treatment is usually sufficient to prevent the growth of the horns.

The following precautions should be taken: The caustic should be wrapped in heavy paper to protect the hands of the operator; the caustic should not be moistened too much, so that the liquid will run down the side of the calf's head; for this will cause unnecessary pain; the calf must be securely fastened so that the head may be held still to avoid applying the

caustic anywhere except over the horns. One stick of caustic potash if preserved in a tightly corked bottle will serve to dehorn many calves.

Feeding Barley To Horses

Which is the best way to feed barley to horses—whole and boiled, or ground and raw?—Inquirer, P.E.I.

Barley is not generally fed to horses. Since when ground and mixed with the saliva, barley, like wheat, makes a paste in the mouth and is therefore unpleasant to the horse while eating, it is better to feed the barley whole and boiled than ground. If it is to be fed raw, it would be better to have the grain crushed flat between iron rollers. It is then more palatable and acceptable to the horse. On the Pacific coast, especially in the States, barley is used exclusively for feeding horses at all kinds of work.

Effect of Soil.—I am convinced that on sandy or gravelly loam Thoroughbred and Standard Bred horses, will do better than on clay loam. I would like to see experiments conducted to determine what difference there is, if any, between grains grown on such soil and those grown on clay soil in the formation of bone and muscle. R. Reid, Waterloo Co., Ont. Secretary Canadian Jersey Cattle Club.

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