

I.—INTRODUCTION.

In securing data for this bulletin, the writer has drawn not only from personal experience and observation, but from every other reliable source of information within reach. Especial acknowledgment is due to Prof. G. E. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont., who has been freely consulted, also to representatives of leading Canadian packing companies. The work of the experiment stations of leading pork producing countries has been as far as possible carefully gone over, and such matter selected as was likely to be of value to Canadian farmers. In this part of the work the writer is much indebted to the very complete summary of the work of the experiment stations given in Prof. Henry's 'Feeds and Feeding.'

The great expansion of dairying in Canada during recent years has, as a natural sequence, brought about a corresponding increase in the swine rearing industry. It soon became evident that the Canadian farmer could not compete with the Americans in the production of the thick fat hog; which is a by-product, not of the cheese factories and dairy farms, but of the great corn fields of the middle, western and southern states. In these portions of the United States large numbers of pigs are reared on the blue grass and clover. They receive a little additional feed, which is usually corn, until they are of suitable age, when they follow the fattening cattle in the corn fields, in the proportion of four pigs to one bullock; these pigs pick up the ears that the cattle break down, and otherwise consume the waste. It is said by some feeders that the cost of production by this method does not exceed three cents per pound. but in this way only the thick, fat type of pig is produced—not the finer classes of bacon. It follows then that, while Canadians cannot compete in the production of the thick, fat pig the American feeders are not likely to produce the finer classes of bacon; even if they could, it is doubtful whether they would be willing to change their entire system of breeding and feeding to the extent that would be necessary to produce the Wiltshire sides and other fine grades. It became necessary, therefore, for Canadian packers to seek for a market, in which they would not be brought into direct competition with the cheap, though inferior product of the American corn fields. This they found in the English demand for prime, lean bacon in the form of the Wiltshire side. (See Fig. 5.) London is the centre of this market, which, although willing to pay liberal prices for suitable goods is exceedingly fastidious. This is a discriminating market for a fancy product, and the competition, which is practically limited to Canada, Denmark and Ireland, is not so much a matter of facilities for cheap production as of skill in the production of a high class article.

The class of hogs bred in Canada fifteen years ago was quite unsuited to the requirements of this trade, and the packers began to ask for a hog of a quite different conformation. Some enterprising breeders and some of our packers took steps to meet this demand by importing animals of the type that the British bacon curers pronounced the ideal one for their purpose. At first, the advent of breeds of the new type was not heartily welcomed. It is true that there was a pretty steady demand for them, but it was, in the beginning, the demand that always arises for something new, rather than the recognition of the value of these pigs to the country. Then again, there was the determined opposition of breeders of long established breeds to overcome, who could see no merit or usefulness in the new type of hog. Time, however, wrought wonderful changes, and now these same breeders are devoting their skill and energy with considerable success to the modification of their breeds to meet the requirements of the packer.

We are frequently asked, 'Why is it that the thick, fat hogs bring prices on the Chicago and other American markets almost equal to those received for lean singers? It is to a large extent the fresh pork trade in Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati, Louisville,