

As at present constituted, the Canadian National Live Stock Council is made up of the following representatives: Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Calgary, Alberta; F. H. Auld, Regina, Sask.; Dr. S. F. Tolmie, M.P., Victoria, B.C.; J. L. Walters, Clive, Alberta; and Andrew Graham, Pomeroy, Man., are the five delegates from the Western Canada Live Stock Union. W. A. Dryden, Brooklin, Ont.; Geo. Pepper, Toronto; and J. D. Brien, Ridgetown, Ont., represent the Eastern Canada Live Stock Union. Robert Miller, Stouffville, Ont., and W. F. Stephen, Huntingdon, P.Q., are the Record Committee's delegates; while William Smith, M.P., Columbus, Chairman of the Record Committee, is President of the Council. John W. Brant, Accountant of the National Live Stock Records, is Acting Secretary-Treasurer.

It will be noticed that the personnel of the National Council does not include a delegate from the Maritime Provinces. This has not been overlooked, and the intention is to make room for a representative from the east so all parts of Canada will have a voice.

Enough has been written to show how any breeder of live stock can proceed to have matters adjusted that concern himself or his community. There is first the local club, then the provincial association, after which there are the Eastern and Western Canada Live Stock Unions, all leading up, step by step, to the Canadian National Live Stock Council, which concerns itself with big things of Dominion-wide importance. Surely Canadian stockmen are in a position to express themselves with considerable influence and power.

It would not be fair to overlook in this connection the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, Ltd., which is also a Dominion alliance of stockmen who have their wool graded and sold co-operatively. This was born last February, and was really the first Dominion-wide organization to take an active part in matters pertaining to the live-stock industry.

Canada's Growing Bacon Trade.

Feed conditions and market requirements have combined to give us two distinct types of hogs. In countries where corn is raised extensively the fat or lard type predominates, as corn is a feed which has a tendency to produce fat at the expense of lean meat. Thus the stockmen of the Corn Belt have found it to their advantage to specialize in the lard type of hog, and have found a ready market for their product. There is, however, a class of people who demand comparatively lean meat, and what is known as the bacon type of hog dresses out a carcass which combines the lean and fat in the proportion to satisfy their taste. This class of hog is successfully and profitably grown in countries where skim-milk, shorts, oat and barley shop compose the major part of the hogs' ration. These feeds tend to produce a type of hog from which the "Wiltshire sides" are cut. Great Britain is the principal market for this quality of pork, and her wants in this commodity have been catered to very largely by hog raisers of Canada, Ireland and Denmark. So far as the production of feeds for the growing and finishing of the bacon hog is concerned, these countries are similarly situated. They can grow the feed for producing this class of pork, but would find the corn-growing belt too keen a competitor in the fat class of hog.

Conditions in Canada are particularly favorable to the development of the bacon industry. We have the desired type of hog in the Yorkshire, the Tamworth, the York-Tamworth cross, and the Berkshire breed is fast coming into popularity in this class. We can successfully grow the proper feeds for making the most economical gains. Canada has built up an export trade in bacon of which she may well be proud for a young country. True, there have been ups and downs in the trade during the past score or more of years, and competition from other bacon-producing countries has been very keen. The Canadian producer of bacon has had to be very careful of the quality of product which he shipped in order that his product might find a place on the world's bacon market. Around the year 1900, or from then until about 1905, the bacon industry in Canada was at high-water mark and the export of this product ran to around 130,000,000 pounds. From 1905 there was a gradual decrease in the amount exported, due, to a large extent, to an increase in population in Canada, until in 1914 the export of bacon dropped to 23,859,754 pounds. Denmark, Canada's rival, during these years was increasing her output of bacon, and, being considerably closer to the market, was gradually pushing the Canadian product into the background.

When the war broke out Denmark was obliged to decrease her stocks and this left an opening for Canada to fill, and she has done it as indicated by the great increase in the amount of bacon exported during the past two years over pre-war days. From around 23,000,000 pounds in 1914, the export of bacon jumped to over 76,000,000 pounds in 1915, and, according to the Canada Food Board, exports of bacon and lard had increased by 125,000,000 pounds or 571 per cent. per annum by 1917. Canadian bacon is meeting the demand for that product on the Old Country market, and an effort should be made by the hog raisers of this country to hold this market against all comers. It can be done. As previously stated, Canadian conditions are suitable for the production of this class of hog. That the bacon hog is profitable to raise and finish has been proven by experiments carried on by our colleges and demonstration farms, as well as by private individuals. This does not mean that we cannot produce the fat type of hog, but, if a country has a special market for a certain product is it not well for it to centre its attention on that line of production? If we are to retain our present position on the British market

it is necessary that the output of bacon or the Wiltshire side be maintained at a much higher level than it was in pre-war days. Not only must the volume of supply be great, but the quality must be of the best.

With a permanent outlet for the product practically assured, it behooves the bacon producers to keep their stocks to the point where there will be sufficient quantity for export that the demand will be reasonably well met. A falling off in our output of bacon will give countries like Denmark an opportunity to step in, and, owing to her close proximity to the market, to largely monopolize the trade which Canada has now secured.

In order to encourage the production of the highest quality of bacon, a system of grading on the market should be carefully followed out and the breeder paid according to the quality of stock which he produces. When light, heavy, thin and thick hogs bring practically the same price there is little encouragement for a breeder to produce that long-bodied, smooth, trim pig, not too deep nor too thick in the body, that is desired for the making of the Wiltshire side. The quickest way to get quality in quantity is to place a premium on it. The greater the premium the more the inducement for breeders to keep Canada in a position to hold the trade which she had acquired in pre-war days, and which has opened up abundantly to her since the European countries were plunged in warfare. Specialize in the bacon hog. We cannot compete with the corn belt in the production of the lard hog, but we can rival the best on the open market with our bacon product.

Let the Shoats Glean in the Fields.

During the fall there is usually a large number of hogs to be finished for market, and this year there is an unprecedented number for Canada owing to the campaign of last winter for an increase in the hog population. Spring litters have been carried along as cheaply as possible on pasture, soiling crops and the minimum of concentrates. The feeder with a liberal supply of skim-milk and some of last year's oats in the granary has undoubtedly been able to bring his hogs along more economically than the man who must depend entirely upon millfeeds. It seems to take the skim-milk to give the young pigs a start, although some have had fair success by using substitutes. Through the summer and

for a combination of heavy grains and by-products for finishing the hog, but it is possible to bring the brood sows and the shotes along on a minimum of grain, especially during the summer. They may advisedly be turned into the stubble fields where they will pick up a lot of heads which have become broken off during the harvest. They will pick up a good bit of their living in the clover field, and also in the root and corn field after these crops are harvested. The pigs continually confined to a pen are not likely to return as great a net profit to their owner as those given the run of a clover or rape paddock.

Do Prices Indicate an Animal's Worth?

The price of pedigreed live stock the world over has reached a high level this year. New records have been established and re-broken. Even the common breeding and butchers' stock have sold at unprecedented prices which is to a certain degree an indication that the supply is not keeping pace with the demand. There are pessimists who contend that breeders have gone "pedigree wild" and that the animals for which they pay such enormous sums as have been realized at the 1918 live-stock sales will never return interest on the investment. The stockmen accustomed to pay around one hundred and fifty dollars for a female and who never exceeds the two-hundred-dollar-mark for a sire opens wide his eyes when he hears of bids mounting up into the thousands and straightway decides in his own mind that no animal can be worth the figure. Twenty, twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars for a single herd header is an enormous price, but may not the beef animals for which such prices are paid be well worth the money? From the standpoint of pedigree they are practically unexcelled while the most critical could find but little fault with their type and conformation. It is a well known fact that improvement in the herd comes by using a sire that is superior to the females on which he is used. The competition among big breeders to secure the best the breed has produced has resulted in prices soaring to the present high level. Barring accident these high-priced sires may reimburse their owners by the added value their blood gives to the progeny of the females in the herd. The influence and effect of a sire's blood



Finished Porkers.

Part of a load of hogs which averaged 266 pounds at seven and one-half months. Fed by Ed. Barnard, Huron Co., Ont.

even at the present time, shorts or middlings are scarce and high priced. Many feeders have found it difficult to secure a sufficient quantity. Very few oats have been coming on the market, and corn, the mainstay for hog feeding, in some sections was not to be had in large quantities. The hog feeder has been laboring under handicaps all summer, but with the garnering in of an excellent spring crop, and the threshing of the same he will have feed of his own to finish the hogs for market. All cannot get threshed at once, consequently many will yet have to depend on what feeds they can purchase.

A certain portion of corn in the finishing ration is good even for the bacon hog. Barley is richer in bone and muscle-forming constituents than corn, but is scarcely as fattening. Oats which are grown in large quantities on practically every farm have not been favorably considered by hog feeders. However, we believe that they might advisedly be used in larger quantities than they have been in the past. We have seen ties that they have been around 200 pounds which have been raised and finished for market on a ration of shorts and oats. We have seen others that have been finished and on oat dust, a by-product of the oatmeal mill, and the feeder claimed that he had never had pigs do better when using other feeds. There is just this point, however, that when using a single grain or by-product the pig does not receive a combination of food constituents which is generally considered necessary for the best growth. As a rule, a ration of mixed grains or by-products will give more economical returns than will a single feed. It was with this idea in view that the standard hog feed was compounded. It contains protein, carbohydrates, fats, ash and fibre in the proportions which have proven satisfactory. Milling companies also put out hog feeds of a special brand.

If the pig has been properly fed from the time it was weaned and has the frame and constitution when four and a half or five months of age, it will stand heavy feeding for the last few weeks, and it is during this time that the most economical gains are often made. True, the hog at five and a half or six months of age will consume a large quantity of feed, but he also lays on a fair quantity of fat each day. It is doubtful if there is any substitute

does not stop with one animal nor with a generation but goes on and on generation after generation, ever broadening and widening out as his offspring scatter to the four winds.

While prices have ruled high in Great Britain, the home of a number of our prominent breeds, the top prices have been realized in America where breeders readily pay the price in order to get what they want.

In an American sale ring, that show bull, Village Supreme, changed hands at \$16,500 and Rodney, an imported bull went under the hammer at \$20,000. In England Rodney brought in the neighborhood of \$5,500 early in the year. Some of the highest priced animals at Shorthorn sales in England this year were Everlasting, selling for \$18,500; Proud Conqueror at \$16,000 and Pride of Millhills at \$15,500. Females went as high as \$2,500 in England and to \$7,500 in United States.

Hereford sales have set a pace in prices which will not quickly be exceeded. The bull, Ardmore, an animal of show-ring calibre brought \$31,000 and the cow, Clive Iris 3rd and her bull calf were considered worth \$13,850 by an ardent White-face enthusiast. In England the late Lord Rhondda's yearling Reformer had the distinction of topping his breed. In the neighborhood of \$7,250 was paid for him.

The Aberdeen-Angus breed has also shared in the high prices. The bull, Blackcap Poe, sold for \$9,200 in United States, while in England as high as \$7,000 was realized for a single individual.

The dairy breeds have not fallen behind the other classes of the bovine family in setting new price records. Holsteins have taken the lead, but there have been thrilling times in Ayrshire, Jersey and Guernsey sale-rings as the bids went far into the thousands.

Hogs and sheep have shared in the good times and remarkable prices have been paid for breeding stock of the right calibre.

Whatever the future has in store for breeders of live stock, remarkable sales have been made so far in 1918. Stockmen are awakening to the fact that the best of blood and individuality are none to good, as indicated by the spirited bidding for good stuff at public sales.



Graham.



Tolmie, M. P.



Walters.



H. Auld.



Richard.



W. Brant.