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### BACON HOG PRODUCTION.

Whatever may be the merits of the arguments presented on either side of the controversy between the farmers and the pork-packers, one fact does not diminish in importance. This is, that if the bacon trade of this country is to continue to improve, it is necessary that the hog raisers adhere to the class of animal best adapted to the British market. The Live Stock Commissioner at Ottawa considers this matter of so much importance that he is distributing a circular dealing especially with it. In this is briefly sketched the ideal which should be held by the Canadian hog raiser compared with him of the United States; and this distinction of object must always be borne in mind by those in this country who, in spite of obvious lessons, seem disposed to take the model of the latter for their own. For various reasons, Canada cannot successfully compete with the United States in the production of hogs of the lard type. A large proportion of the cattle there are fed on snapped or shelled corn. Herded with these are hogs that thrive and fatten on the undigested corn left by the steers. These hogs constituting a by-product of cattle feeding are produced at a cost much lower than pork can be raised in Canada. True, all United States hogs are not fed in this way, but a large proportion of them have the advantage of cheap corn, than which there is no better feed for producing fat hogs of the lard type. "Let the Canadian farmer go back to the thick, fat type of hog," says a man well informed on the question, "and it will not be long before the price of Canadian bacon will have fallen to a level with the United States product which is usually from ten to fifteen shillings per hundred, and twelve pounds lower than the quotations for Canadian 'Wiltshire' sides."

In spite of the general supposition that pork is more cheaply and easily produced from hogs of the thick, short American breeds than from the three English breeds which are favored for bacon production, re-

peated tests have shown that hogs of the Yorkshire, Berkshire, and Tamworth breeds produce pork as cheaply as those of the Poland China, the Chester White, or the Duroc Jersey breeds. In the opinion of Prof. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, who is foremost among authorities on bacon production, the lusty, growthy pig of the bacon type is the most economical pork-maker we have, especially when reared, as bacon hogs should be, largely on such foods as roots, soiling crops and dairy offal.

### THE WOOLEN MARKET.

The receipts of circulars from various dealers in wool in London, Boston, New York, and elsewhere, serves to remind one how exceedingly difficult it is to say much of a new or definite character respecting the state of the market for wool in this country at the present time. Quotations have remained at practically the same figure for a long time past; but the truth is they represent but little. For purposes of transacting new business, wool has been out of the market for a long time past, so that the prices given are purely nominal. So far as one can gauge the situation, however, in the absence of any movement, the tone of the market is firm, and manufacturers look forward to continuing to pay the prices which they have had to pay for their raw material during the last year or more. And indeed there would appear to be no special reason why values should decline to any extent, though of course the wool markets of the world are sometimes very erratic.

It is true that in recent sales in London the large increase in offerings of merino and the finest cross-breeds caused some to think that a fall in price was imminent; though, as a matter of fact, at the last sale for which report has come to hand, viz.; Tuesday last, there was an actual increase of price in these lines of

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