

A Contrast in Pig Form--Soft Bacon.

The term "bacon type" has a significance which hog-raisers are gradually coming to recognize, for when the buyer comes round "form" is one of the characteristics he looks for. Fig. 1 represents the form or type that approaches the packer's fancy, although the specimens represented do not satisfy the breeder's eye as well as the blocks in Fig. 2. The two lots were selected from among four double-deck carloads at the Canadian Packing Co.'s yards in London, Ont., by the manager of that concern, as typifying pigs of the bacon form, and those too short, thick and fat for that purpose. We were not able to learn much about the history of the two lots, but we were told that those represented in Fig. 1 are grade Yorkshires that were fed and shipped



FIG. 1.—TYPICAL BACON PIGS.
SELECTED BY CANADIAN PACKING COMPANY.

by Messrs. White Bros., of St. Mary's. They were fed in large runs on skim milk and buttermilk from St. Mary's Creamery, together with shorts, corn and oat chop. They are about seven months old, and weigh about 180 pounds each. While they do not appear to represent rapid and economical thrivers, they carry the desired class of meat to suit the English market, for which they are destined.

The pigs shown in Fig. 2 have the appearance of possessing Poland-China, Essex, and possibly some Berkshire blood, and look more like American corn-fed than what Canadian bacon-curers desire to handle; in fact, such pigs are bought at a lower figure when brought to the factory.

There is, however, a worse feature than fatness in many of the pigs received at the factories at the present time. We were taken through the rooms where the boxes are packed to be shipped, and shown the cured sides just out of the cold curing chambers, and the proportion of soft sides among those examined was alarmingly large. The fat and flesh on the edge of a firm side feels almost as firm to the touch as if frozen, while a soft side has a mushy, greasy feel, not much firmer than when newly killed. There were all degrees of this condition to be seen, which, of course, have to be graded and sent forward under three different brands. Mr. Ginge, the manager for the Company, showed us the record of shipments since last March, which showed that fully one-third of all the bacon shipped since then has been graded "soft." The cause of this condition is evidently not well understood by pig feeders, who doubtless could prevent such a loss if they knew how, and were paid the better price a firm quality would warrant. While several experiments have been conducted, and reported in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, there is still need of repeated and very thorough investigation in this direction.

Mr. H. Dudding's Sale of Shorthorns and Lincolns.

This event, which is one of the most noted of the annual sales of cattle and sheep in England, took place at Mr. Dudding's farm, at Riby Grove, Stallington, Lincoln, on the 25th ult. Upwards of 500 visitors attended the sale, which was throughout most successful both for cattle and for sheep, the former this year being the most successful. Amongst those who attended the sale were Mr. P. L. Mills, who presided, the principal export buyers, the leading English and Scotch and Irish breeders, and the representative of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, who was privileged to enjoy the generous hospitality of Mr. Dudding.

There was a strong demand for females, no less than seven being taken at high values for Argentine, including the cow that made top price; whilst for bulls the demand was beyond strong for the best specimens, and they were fairly scrambled for. Of the fifteen, no less than ten went to the Argentine, including all the highest priced ones. The sale of the bulls, especially, will be of great benefit to Mr. Dudding, whose grand herd of Shorthorns, numbering upwards of three hundred head, has never yet been so fully known and appreciated as it is worthy of. The highest price for a bull was \$1,800, and for a cow, \$430. Twenty-nine cows, heifers and calves sold for £1,184 8s., an average of £40 17s. 6d.; 15 bulls brought £1,535 2s., an average of £102 6s. 10d.; 44 head, in all, sold for £2,719 10s., an average of £61 16s.

The demand for the sheep was a useful one, and though there was no thousand-guinea ram nor nearly so many high individual prices as last year, the whole sale was a thoroughly good one, the top price for a ram being £231, and the average for the whole of the fifty sold was £33 5s. 6d.; whilst the ewes sold at prices from £26 5s. per head for the three unbeaten show ewes, downward, the whole 34 yearling ewes making an average of £8 4s. 10d.

The Horseless Age.

A writer in the *Saturday Evening Post*, of Philadelphia, tells of a bright genius in that city who sees a fortune for capitalists in buying up horses to distribute at different points to haul off the streets the automobiles that are continually breaking down. He will have them at stations all ready harnessed, and when the motor collapses the millionaire owner will telephone to the nearest station for help. "Talk about the horseless age! Why," he exclaimed, "horses are just entering upon a new sphere of usefulness."

Lincoln Ram Sale.

The first sale of Lincoln Long-wool rams of the present year took place at Lincoln on the 21st of August. The entry comprised 374 yearling rams, many of capital merit, but there were some considerable number hardly up to that standard that one would have expected to find at a sale where the reserve or upset price was \$25 per head, below which no ram was sold. Without doubt there is a check in the Argentine demand, and hence the present time is a most favorable opportunity for Canadian buyers to step in and take advantage of the lower values now ruling, before a shorter supply and increased prices again take effect. This certainly will be the case, for unless the newer ram breeders find remunerative sales they will revert to their former practice and castrate their lambs, and thus the supply of rams will be so reduced that the value will assuredly rise again, as the Argentine demand, even though it continues in reduced form, will be strong enough to keep prices, especially for those of tiptop quality, at a very high level. The great average of \$165, made by Mr. H. Dudding at his home sale, followed by the average secured by him at this sale for his five rams of \$372, shows that the value of the best rams is still very high. Mr. Tom Carswell's consignment, which numbered twenty-one, is still further evidence of this fact, for these rams were eagerly competed for at prices from \$1,000, and averaged for the entire consignment \$200 per head. Then, again, Messrs. Wright, whose flock is noted throughout the world as one of rare merit and quality, secured for their twenty an average of \$145 per head, and equally satisfactory was that secured by Messrs. S. E. Dean & Sons, whose

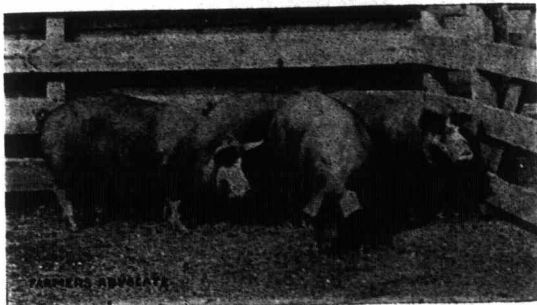


FIG. 2.—HOGS TOO FAT AND SHORT FOR BACON

twenty averaged \$126 per sheep; whilst the two best rams from Mr. Goodyear's flock made \$365 per head. Mr. Herd sold one at \$300, and Mr. Pears one at \$325. All demonstrate the high value of selected sheep.

VENDOR.	No. Sold.	Highest Price.	Lowest Price.	Average per head.
H. Dudding.....	21	\$ 300 00	\$100 00	\$355 00
Tom Carswell.....	21	1,000 00	70 00	200 50
Messrs. Wright.....	20	270 00	52 20	138 00
Messrs. Dean & Sons.....	20	250 00	40 00	120 25
H. Goodyear.....	10	375 00	40 00	112 00
T. Herd.....	7	300 00	40 00	90 70
J. Pears.....	15	325 00	37 50	75 75
F. Scorer.....	1	75 00		75 00
G. T. Melbourne.....	6	250 00	37 50	73 33
C. Clarke & Sons.....	8	160 00	37 50	64 27
T. Brown.....	6	110 00	37 50	55 41
J. T. and A. W. Needham.....	10	105 00	40 00	50 00
C. Clarke.....	7	110 00	37 50	48 57
J. Anderson.....	5	45 00	37 50	41 00
J. B. Nelson.....	8	40 00	37 50	39 70
E. W. Howard.....	2	40 00	37 50	40 50
W. Drakes.....	3	40 00	37 50	38 33
Taylor Sharpe.....	9	40 00	37 50	38 05
W. C. Tong.....	2	40 00	37 50	40 50
J. Brocklebank.....	3	37 50		37 50
G. Hoyles.....	3	37 50		37 50
T. Atkinson & Son.....	1	37 50		37 50
Sir J. H. Thorold (Bart.).....	1	37 50		37 50
173 averaged.....				\$102 50

Raising Bacon Pigs on Annandale Dairy Farm.

Annandale Farm, owned by Mr. E. D. Tillson, Tilsonburg, Ont., has become famous for its extraordinary working dairy herd of 55 cows, that in 12 months and 3 days made the phenomenal average record of producing 11,472 pounds of 3½ per cent. milk. It may be remarked, too, that this wonderful herd of largely grade cows were not selected from other herds and paid for at extreme prices, but it has been very largely built up from a foundation stock of grade Shorthorns, intelligently selected and crossed with Holstein sires of high-producing ancestry until the present results have been secured. Our readers are also aware that the development of the heifers and the breeding of the cows have been directed with the same intelligence and enterprise

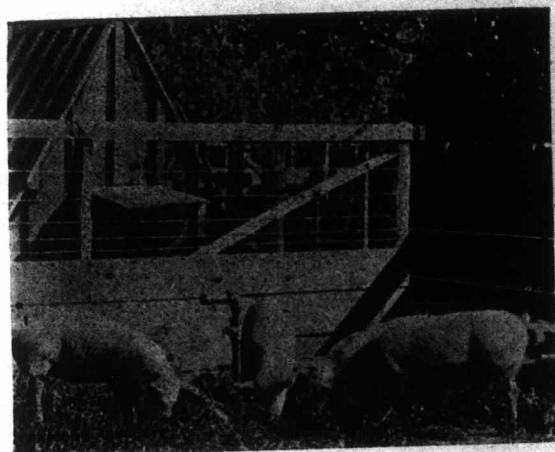
as characterized the selection and mating of the breeding stock.

Nor is it the dairy herd alone that absorbs the attention of the management of the Annandale Farm, as the bacon hog is here produced in as perfect and profitable a form as the dairy herd. In our issue of Feb. 15th, 1898, we portrayed and described Mr. Tillson's newly-constructed, elaborate and very complete piggery, but the bacon-producing industry soon outgrew even these extensive quarters, which are now chiefly used for brood sows and their young litters in the winter season, and the finishing hogs at all seasons of the year. The production of ideal bacon was recognized by Mr. Tillson and the farm manager, Mr. MacLeay, to require pig-growing as well as pig-fattening, and to this end a system of outdoor ranges of one-sixth of an acre were set apart, and provided with movable 8x8 foot board pens, shown in the photographic illustration, giving a bird's-eye view of a portion of the yards. These pens have board floors, are battened up, and answer well for either summer or winter. The illustration, taken from the south, shows the door or entrance, which swings on a pivot at the top, so that the pigs can pass in and out by shoving the swinging door ahead of them. At the back of the pen is a window, and near the peak is a 6-inch round ventilator, which can be closed if desired. Even in the very cold weather of last winter it was not found necessary to use much straw in order to keep the pens plenty warm enough. In fact, before the ventilating holes were put in the pens were too close. Each pen is banked around in the winter time a foot or two high with barnyard manure.

Especially for the summer season this plan of yarding and housing pigs is an ideal one, as there is no "piggy" smell noticeable, and the most healthful conditions prevail. Some of the yards have apple trees growing in them, providing shelter from the sun, which is secured by the others in their pens and along the fences. The yards have a complete watering system, and some of them were sown with rape, tares, oats, etc., for green food, which provided a valuable supplemental food.

The brood sows used to produce the stock are 30 in number, which will be increased probably by five or six within the next year. Their breeding is an admixture of Poland-China, Chester White, and Yorkshire, with Yorkshire blood predominating. They are all very lengthy, deep-bodied sows, and were selected because of their favorable form and vigor. The boars used are pure-bred Yorkshire, of the best obtainable type, and from the form and thrifty condition of the litters, it would seem as though little improvement could be made upon the mating practiced. The bunch of four sows portrayed represents selections from the herd that are to be put into the breeding pens. They are about three months old. The illustration hardly does them justice, but it shows their length and thrifty look. They are in nice growing condition and should prove satisfactory as matrons. Two of them are pure-bred Yorkshire and the others are from a half-bred Yorkshire and Poland-China sow and Yorkshire boar.

Two Litters a Year.—While sows farrow twice a year and at all seasons, it is arranged, as far as possible, to have a large number of litters farrowed in February and March, so as to be ready for market in August, when the price is usually high. During the first two weeks of August, this year, there was shipped from the farm \$500 worth of pigs, averaging 180 pounds, and before September 1st \$500 worth more will have gone out from the pens. They were sold alive, at 5½ cents per pound. Besides these, there were some 300 young growing pigs in the



GROUP OF YOUNG SOWS OF BACON TYPE.
IN THE HERD OF MR. E. D. TILLSON, TILSONBURG, ONT.

paddocks and pens, which will be ready to go forward at six to seven months old. It is found that the sows that are allowed their liberty during pregnancy farrow large, strong litters, as the litters suckling at the time of our visit averaged about 10 living pigs, which is quite enough for a sow to rear well.

How the Pigs are Grown.—As already mentioned, the sows farrow in the large new piggery, which can be heated by a stove in the cold weather. From May 1st to October the litters are turned into outside yards, when two weeks old, to get earth, exercise and freedom. They are weaned when from six to eight weeks old, according to the way they are eating. They are kept in the one-sixth-acre