

is a tall, coarse growing perennial weed with deep roots and numerous thick, underground stems or rootstocks, commonly spoken of as "roots." Upon these at intervals of a few inches are borne buds which develop into new plants. The stem is smooth and hollow and the whole plant is filled with a bitter milky juice. The leaves are pointed, 4 to 12 inches long, deeply cut with the segments pointed backwards (runcinate), slightly prickly. The flowers, or more correctly speaking, the heads of flowers are about 1 to 1½ inches across, and bright orange in color. The involucre, or, as it is commonly called, the flower cup, and the peduncles or flower stems are covered with distinct, yellow glandular bristles. The seeds are dark reddish-brown in color, about ¼ of an inch long, somewhat spindle shaped with blunt ends, and each surface bears a number of very deeply wrinkled, longitudinal ribs. Each seed bears at the top a tuft of white silky hairs (pappus) which, when dry, acts as a parachute and enables the seed to be borne long distances by the wind.

HOW IT IS SPREAD

The Perennial Sow Thistle is being rapidly and widely spread by means of its numerous seeds, which are blown far and wide by the wind, and to some extent by its abundant underground rootstocks which, with remarkable rapidity, spread through a field sending up new shoots which soon entirely cover the ground and choke up all other vegetation. The rootstocks when broken up are often carried from field to field by harrow or cultivator. It has been estimated that an average plant produces 2,000 seeds. There are thousands of these plants going to seed on neglected farms, on road sides and in fence corners. Many more mature plants are harvested with the grain and their millions of seeds scattered at threshing times. Is it to be wondered that the Perennial Sow Thistle is becoming such a serious pest in Ontario?

Dehorning Cattle

R. R. Elliott, Grey Co., Ont.

Inquiries as to the advantages or disadvantages of dehorning are common with the stabling of the stock. The question is not such a live one as it was a few years ago, at which time men were going about the country districts with their outfits taking the horns off of one herd after another. At that time, dehorning was a fad and was carried to the extreme.

The object of dehorning is to render the cattle more docile and less harmful to man as well as to one another. Calves that have had the young horns destroyed by caustic or other means grow up as naturally "mooley" cattle and are frequently very rough with their heads. The full advantages of dehorning are gained only where the cattle have known the use of horns and then have had them taken off. Such dehorning renders them very quiet and docile.

There are two cases where dehorning is a distinct advantage, first in the case of a bull who shows any disposition to be ugly. Don't wait till he has injured some one or even attempts to make use of his weapons. Take his horns off at once. Second, where stockers are being wintered over loose in box stalls.

No farmer can afford to take the horns off of young cows or from short-neck steers. Dehorning is a painful operation up to about five years of age and will result in a loss in milk or in flesh. As the animal becomes older, the core of the horn gradually changes and becomes solid. Then there is very little pain from dehorning aside from the excitement connected with the operation. Many a cow has had her value decreased from \$5 to \$10 by the loss of a fine pair of horns and the timidity shown afterwards. Where a cow has sharp horns and is inclined to make good use of them, it is advisable to cut about an inch or so from their tips with a saw.

For performing the operation of dehorning, I prefer a fine tooth saw to any clipper I have seen. While it is not so rapid, the saw does away

with the crushing effect of the clippers and the stub does not bleed so freely, and they seem to heal over much more readily.

DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE HOG QUESTION

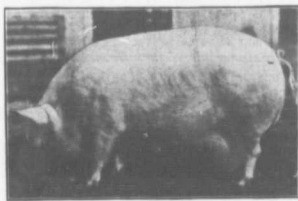
Since the publication in the Nov. 18th issue of The Canadian Dairymen and Farming World, of a letter from the Geo. Matthews Co., Limited, showing that the Danes, during the past three years, have been driving our bacon off the British market, we have received two letters, relating to this subject, and both from farmers. An editorial relating to this question appears in this issue.

The letters in question are as follows:

THE BACON INDUSTRY

Ed., The Dairymen and Farming World:—While discussing the bacon situation with the proprietor of a well-known packing establishment, a short time ago, he said that it looked very much as though Canadian bacon was going to be crowded out of the British market, (in the not very distant future), by Danish competition, and that by hogs which are said to be largely fed upon American grown foods. If that is the case there is something wrong, and we had better ask ourselves a few questions. If the farmers of Denmark can afford to buy foreign grains to feed their hogs we ought to be able to feed that grain at home at a profit, and increase the fertility of our farms at the same time by so doing.

Do we lack the knowledge necessary or do we



A Mother of the Bacon Hog

The first prize aged Yorkshire sow at the Canadian National Exhibition, 1902, owned by D. C. Platt, Millgrove, Ont. Note the smooth shoulder, the even, well-arched top line, the excellent spring of ribs, the good length of side and the fullness at the heart, showing abundance of constitution.

neglect to do the best we know? I think the latter is nearly correct. While we must admit that help has been very scarce and consequently expensive, both for the farmer and the packers, much more so than in Denmark, yet it seems scarcely possible that it would counterbalance the cost of freight, handling, etc., of American feeds on which the Danish bacon is largely produced. It behooves us as farmers to bestir ourselves on this important question and look into the industry more carefully. While we have had more or less cause to complain about the way prices have been manipulated by the packers, we have apparently lost no sleep trying to cheapen the production. This, I claim, is the one thing necessary if we would keep the Canadian farmer raising hogs.

Notwithstanding the fact that hogs have sold at fairly high prices for some time, there is not a large profit on them with feed and labor at present prices. One of the first things for us to do, in order to command more uniform prices, is to so regulate the breeding that we can furnish the packers with a more regular supply of hogs, instead of glutting the market every fall as is now the custom. This practice necessitates the packers running night gangs at a disadvantage, which we, as farmers, no doubt, help to pay.

Another thing that is necessary is that hogs should be finished first and then marketed. I mean by that they should not be marketed too thin, nor yet held until they become too fat. This

can be regulated best by the packers paying for the goods according to quality or in other words by discriminating against the undesirable articles.

Perhaps the next and most important question is how can we cheapen the cost of production. One of the many ways is to provide red clover and rape for summer pastures, or alfalfa as a soiling crop to be cut and fed to the hogs in a yard or pens. (I am of the opinion that pigs would kill out alfalfa if they were allowed to pasture it closely). For a profitable winter ration pulped sugar mangels or beets and finely cut red clover or alfalfa mixed 12 to 24 hours before feeding makes a remarkable cheap feed that the hogs will do well on during the growing period, if a sprinkling of meal is mixed in, also, all the better.

The bacon industry is a very important one and can be kept alive only by profit making, as the hog is an animal that the farmer will not feed at a loss, if he knows it. Let us look into this matter intelligently and find what we can do to hold the good name that Canada enjoys in the British market as a bacon producing country. In order to do this we must have the co-operation of the packers. If they will keep the prices at a reasonable range we will supply the goods, but as soon as they drop the prices to that point where farmers begin to unload their brood sows in large numbers look out for the other extreme within a year. These extremes I believe, cost the packers more than if they had kept the prices at a living basis for the farmer.—R. H. H., Middlesex Co., Ont.

THE BACON SITUATION

Ed., The Dairymen and Farming World:—In your issue of Nov. 18th you give some figures from the Geo. Matthews Co., Ltd., on the subject, "Danes Increase Pork Production." The Matthews people think it strange that the Canadian farmer finds hog raising unprofitable and so is going out of the business, while the Dane, on the other hand, finds it so profitable that he is increasing his output year by year, and all this notwithstanding the fact that the Canadian farmer raises his hog food while the Dane must buy 60 per cent. of his. Allow an interested farmer to say that if the Dane has to import his hog food he does not have to export his bacon across the Atlantic ocean: Also, that the Danish farmer shares in the profits of the packing house, the latter no small consideration seeing that one of the largest packing houses in Canada makes a statement to the effect that in three successive years its profits were something like \$6,000 and 120 per cent. and that its stock was selling at 400 per cent. above par.

What seems very strange to the Canadian farmer is that the packing houses of this country are not beginning to tire of continually loading down the agricultural press with their statements on the hog industry.

To-day we will be told that "our agent in England" (or some one else connected with the packing business), thinks the Canadian farmer is becoming too high-classed (is he going to become low-classed in order to furnish the packer with hogs or the Englishman with bacon?); to-morrow some one interested in the packing business will tell us, hog raising is the most profitable line of farming; of course we who breed and feed the hog cannot figure out whether he pays or not. Next day (and this was in the last of August), we will be told that the English hunting season is beginning to depress the bacon market. In the