

means of improving the situation. The British consumer is, so to speak, very fastidious about his food, and will pay a good price whenever the quality is at the top, and, realizing this, the British producer is adopting the wiser course.

But the British live stock breeder is also looking to another source for the disposal of more of his stock. England has been the source for many years from which the purebred herds of live stock in other countries have been replenished and is likely to continue to be so. The supplying of this trade has been a profitable business, and will likely remain so. With the revival of the live stock trade in America, an increased demand for new blood may be expected, and the British farmer seems somewhat inclined to pay more attention to developing this trade than endeavoring to hold the home market for himself. The farmer of the United States, Canada, etc., with the abundance of cheap feed at his disposal may be able to produce beef and land it in England at a cost less than the British farmer can produce it. But to produce a quality of beef that will command the price in the British market, the outsider must have good stock, and to keep up his herds he must go back to the original source of good breeding stock, viz. the live stock herds of Great Britain.

English exchanges just now are giving considerable attention to this side of the British live stock trade, as being one that is capable of further development. In this connection, however, it is a notable fact that during the past few years the home market has been the best one for pedigreed stock, and English breeders have not depended so much upon the foreign trade as an outlet for their young stock. With the revival of the live stock trade in other countries, the demand for pedigreed stock will increase, and the British farmer will not feel the competition in the home produce market so keenly.

The Poultry Industry of Canada

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(Continued from last week)

BREEDING, FEEDING, AND MATING OF GESE.

The following notes are from the pen of Mr. Samuel Cushman, late poultry manager of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, and should be of great service to those who keep geese:

Although old geese lay a greater number of larger eggs, and are more reliable breeders, it is not always best to attempt to buy old geese. Owners are unwilling to part with well-tried breeders that are really profitable, as it says better to keep them than to sell them at what would be considered a reasonable price. Quite often the old geese offered for sale are those found to be unprofitable. It is, therefore, usually better policy, and saves time, to buy young geese before they are killed for market, rather than to attempt to secure any number of old geese.

Young ganders are better for breeding than young geese. Ganders not over five or eight years old, mated to old geese, give the best results. Young geese do not lay as many fertile eggs and produce as many goslings the first breeding season as they do the second season. If geese, whether young or old, are changed from one place to another after January 1st, they are liable not to breed well that season, and they breed better the third season they are on a place than they do the second season, all other conditions being equal. Therefore, breeding geese should be secured as early in the fall as possible, not later than October, to ensure the best results. This gives them sufficient time to become acquainted with their new surroundings and feel thoroughly at home before the breeding season. It is also well to have, at this date, all birds which are to be mated penned or yarded by themselves. Breeding geese should be kept active and moderately thin in flesh through the winter by light feeding, and by allowing them free range, or such facilities for swimming as will induce them to take much exercise. If deprived of the latter, they

must not be fed such fattening food. They require no houses or protection from cold or storm, and seem to prefer to stand out exposed to the wind in midwinter rather than seek the protection of an open shed, except during a heavy snow storm.

Geese are grazers as much as cows, and can be spoiled by too much grain. To ensure the fertility of eggs, access to a pond, puddle, or tub of water, set level with the ground, as well as an abundance of green food, is of the greatest importance.

Very early laying is not desirable, as goslings hatched before grass is plenty do not do well, and cost more than they bring. Goslings do best when put out during the day on short grass with water to drink, no other food but grass being given for two days, and then a light feed of scalded cracked corn three times daily in addition to the grass. The supply of grass should always be ample, and the water dish should never become empty. They should always have an opportunity to get into the shade, or they are liable to be overcome with the heat of the sun. If huddled on fresh green sward daily, and kept in a rat proof house at night, they grow more uniformly, and less are lost than if brooded by geese or hens. They should be managed so that they will be active and eager for their food most of the time.

The Canadian Bacon Trade.

In the issue of the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England for the quarter ending March 31st, 1898, Mr. L. M. Douglass gives a comprehensive and exhaustive treatise on the subject of "Bacon Curing." The article is very profusely illustrated with cuts of typical sides of bacon so arranged as to show the size and style of cut that will bring the most money on the British markets. The writer quotes a number of statistics to show the possibilities of different countries in supplying the English bacon trade. He admits that it is impossible for the British farmer to supply this trade, and that he will have to compete with the farmer of Canada, Denmark and elsewhere. He points out that the success of the Danish bacon trade is largely due to the fact that the Danes have recognized the close association between dairying and bacon curing. This is also the case in regard to the Canadian bacon trade. The bacon-curing countries are given in the order of their producing capacity as follows. (1) United

to none, and all that is necessary to keep up the quality and retain and enlarge the market is for our farmers to grow the right kind of hogs for the bacon trade. This is of most vital importance to the country at the present time, and it will depend upon what attention our farmers give during the next few years to the growing of hogs suitable to the trade whether our export bacon trade will go forward as it should.

The English and Danish and United States farmer is beginning to feel Canadian competition most keenly. The following extract from Mr. Douglass' article shows how the bacon trade situation is viewed by one living outside of Canada.

It is safe to say that the coming rival of all other countries in the production of bacon is Canada. The attention given to the breeding of pigs by the agricultural authorities and the enthusiastic co-operation of the farmers are alike contributing to this result. "Pea-fed Canadian" is fast displacing Danish meats and taking the leading place in the English market. No doubt the supplies from Canada will continue to increase with the same leaps and bounds as of late years so long as the Dominion farmer devotes as much attention to the quality of hog produced. It is said now that one house alone in Canada often kills as many hogs in one week as the whole of the Danish slaughteries.

In another paragraph the writer says:

Denmark has undoubtedly been our chief source of supplies of high-class bacon till within a year or two. Canada has so rapidly come to the front that there is but little doubt that the supplies from thence have injuriously affected the market for Danish meats.

Later on the writer shows that the production of bacon in Denmark is declining. The number of pigs slaughtered for bacon averaged in 1894 about 22,000 to 25,000 weekly; while the average of 1897 was not over 17,000 weekly.

From all this it will be seen that the growing importance of the Canadian bacon trade is being recognized abroad in no insignificant manner. What then is the duty of the Canadian farmer? It is, as we have already pointed out, to raise a quality of hog that will produce bacon suitable for the British market. To do this it is necessary to have the right type of hog and to provide for it a suitable kind of food. According to Mr. Douglass, "pea-fed" bacon seems to meet the requirements of the market. We will have more to say on this point later on. The kind of hog required is one that will produce a long and deep side of bacon. Too many of the hogs kept for bacon purposes in Canada are too short and do not give a long enough side. Then the position and amount of fat distributed through the side of bacon have considerable effect on its quality. The value of grow-

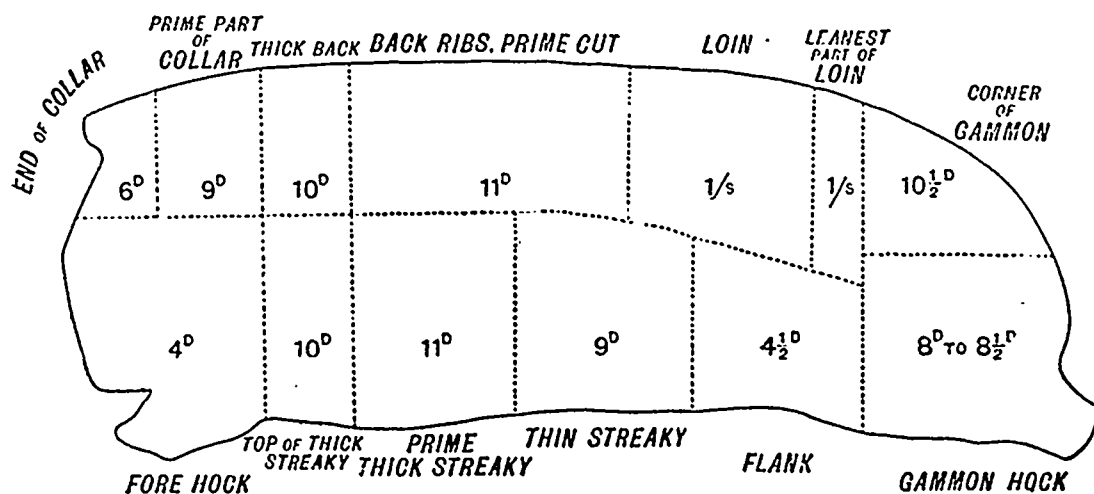


FIG. 15.—Diagram showing various cuts of a side of bacon, and the average prices realized for each during 1927.

States; (2) Canada; (3) Denmark; (4) England; (5) Sweden.

It will be interesting to know that Canada ranks second in importance in this particular. If the scale were based upon the favor with which Canadian bacon is meeting in the British markets, Canada would lead, or at least would be a long way ahead of the United States. Canadian bacon has been growing in favor in England during the past few years. The quality of bacon which our pork packers aim at producing is the kind that will command the highest price in the British markets. Our system of curing bacon is second

ing a pig that will give a good length of side will be seen by reference to the accompanying diagram taken from Mr. Douglass' article. It will be seen that the loins and the prime cuts sell for the highest prices. In fact the whole centre of the side is of considerably more value on the whole than either end.

Do You Want Eggs for Hatching from Thoroughbred Stock? If so, read our premium announcement in another column. It will prove to be profitable reading to any one desiring to improve their breeding fowls or to raise first-class poultry either as a business or for pleasure.