

Why the whole lot of hogs were not tested is not stated. Selected specimens give but a partial idea of results.

*English markets.*—Mutton, as we mentioned in our last issue, seems to be creeping up in value, and beef is worth nearly a half penny a pound more than last year. As is invariably the case, small neat downs are selling much higher than anything else, though small Scotch sheep come very near them. Think for a moment: long wool ewes are quoted at 3s. 4d. a stone of 8 lbs., and best 60 lbs. to 64 lbs. down wethers are easily worth 6s. 4d. Would it not pay our people to breed and export some of the latter rather than send over stock that can only find a market in the slums of the larger towns?

*Cheese.*—While Canadian Cheddars are fetching 59s. to 62s. a cwt. of 112 lbs., the finest English and Scotch Cheddars are selling for 80s., both, of course, of last year's make. New Canadians; fodder-cheese, we suppose; are only worth 55s. to 57s. Trade very dull.

*Butter.*—Nothing new in the butter-trade, business being strictly confined to immediate wants. In many parts of the eastern district, good dairy-butter is being "given away" at 12 cts a pound. Finest Danish is worth up to 105s., and New-Zealand, where dairying is improving vastly, fetches 96s.; but the season in Australasia is pretty well over, so Canada has a chance to slip in to the trade.

*Bacon and hams.*—Fortunately for our people, the trade in these articles in England is very lively, prices in the open market being much higher for all the best qualities. Irish bacon is up 2s. a cwt., all kinds going as dear as 66s. Best Irish hams are worth from 78s. to 86s. No kind of stock fluctuates as much as pigs. They are quickly produced, and a run of high prices is soon followed by over production. In England, cheese and bacon are of the greatest importance to the labourer as articles of food, and the present certainty of higher rates of wages obtaining, not only in the manufacturing districts but still more in the case of the farm-labourer, almost ensures a continuance of the present high range of prices for the working-man being permanent.

*Lucerne and rape.*—One would really think, from the articles in the U. S. agricultural papers, that these two crops are of recent introduction. It is not so; we ourselves remember them as being well known in the South-east of England more than 60 years ago. A writer in *Heard* speaks of lucerne, or alfalfa (the word should be written *al falfa*, i. e., *the clover*), as being of great value to the farmer as a soiling food, but he recommends its being sown, on prairie-soils, two or three inches below the surface. If this is done, we doubt if the plant would ever make its appearance above ground. It should be treated just like any other clover: sow it, at the rate of 20 lbs. the imperial acre, with the spring-grain; harrow it in with light harrows; the chain-harrow if you have one; after the grain is harrowed, and finish the job with the roller. If to be sown with fall-wheat, sow the lucerne as soon as the land is dry in the spring, and cover it with the harrow, which disturbance will do the wheat much good. In England, we *always* harrow wheat in the spring.

*Lucerne or alfalfa.*—"Where alfalfa can be grown the farmers have a soiling food that is simply unexcelled. It is unfortunate that we yet know so little about the areas that are capable of sustaining alfalfa in good form. It is peculiarly unfortunate that the idea has become current that alfalfa is only specially adapted to those rainless or nearly rainless regions of the west and southwest where irrigation can be practised. And it is even more unfortunate that men, and good men, have preached that alfalfa has no mission for the farmers where good crops can be grown. The strong features of alfalfa, as compared with clover, are its duration and the number of cuttings. When once established it will last for many years. And without irrigation it should yield two or three crops a year. The first cutting would be ready before the first of May. (1) Where this crop grows well the farmer would not need to give himself much concern about any other soiling crop. In sowing alfalfa, prepare the ground in autumn. Arrange, when practicable, to sow on clean soil, as after a cultivated crop. The sugar beet crop leaves the ground in the best condition for alfalfa. On prairie soils put the seed two or three inches below the surface. Sow from fifteen to twenty pounds of seed per acre. Sow in the

(1) Here, by the 20th to the 25th of May. Ed.