

PART I.—SOME NOTES ON BREEDING, FEEDING, MANAGING AND HOUSING BACON PIGS IN CANADA.

Geographical position, climatic conditions and foreign market requirements unite to lend an evergrowing importance to the Canadian bacon producing industry. The various problems confronting the farmers who engage in this industry have received at the different Dominion Experimental Farms close attention during the last fifteen years. Some of the information gained is given below and thereto is added a compilation of the results of a number of experiments conducted at Ottawa as well as the results of some work at Nappan, Brandon and Indian Head Farms.

Pigs were introduced upon the Central Experimental Farm in 1890. The breeds invested in were: Berkshires, Improved Large Yorkshires and Essex. Since that time Chester Whites, Poland Chinas, Tamworths and Large Blacks have been added and tested for different periods. The only breeds now kept are Improved Large Yorkshires, Tamworths and Berkshires.

Canadian packers demand pigs of a type suitable for the production of Wiltshire sides. Poland Chinas, Duroc Jerseys, Essex, Large Blacks and in a lesser degree Chester Whites have been found faulty in this respect.

The chief objection offered against these breeds has been the too great proportion of short sided, heavy shouldered, thick fat pigs found among them. Pigs possessing any one of the above peculiarities are not considered suitable for the manufacture of first-class bacon. Pigs having all these characteristics are quite impossible of conversion into prime Wiltshire sides.

THE BACON PIG.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

Bacon hogs ready for the market should possess long deep bodies with straight or slightly arching top and straight underlines.

The shoulders should be fairly upright, joined closely to the body and rounded nicely over the top from side to side. The bodies should not, however, be any thicker through the shoulders at points more than half way up from the underline to the top line than through points at a similar height situated between the shoulder and the ham.

The croup should slope but slightly from the loin to the root of the tail. It should be of good length and should maintain its width throughout, which width should be the same as that of the body and shoulders.

In short, a straight-edge laid against the side from the shoulder point to the tail should touch at every point.

The ribs should spring out well from the spinal column but should fall in fairly vertical lines once their greatest curvature is attained, thus making a deep bodied rather than a round bodied animal.

The body should be carried on good stout, clean, straight-boned legs, free from cakiness at the pasterns and with square set hocks.

The feet should be strong and compact, the animal standing right up on his toes.

The neck should be of medium thickness with no tendency to coarseness.

The head should be clean cut and free from flabbiness at the jaw.