

Our English Correspondence.

BACON FACTORIES FOR ENGLAND.

The scarcity of bacon, and the high prices ruling for the last twelve months, have given a great impetus to the movement for establishing bacon factories in England. A company has been established at Dunmow, Essex, on a fairly large scale, and a smaller factory has been started in Lincolnshire. Prospects in both cases are said to be good, and farmers will watch the success or non-success of the experiments with much interest, especially in the case of the Dunmow factory, which is on a co-operative basis. Denmark, in the last twenty years, has proved abundantly the feasibility of the co-operative factory.

A great evil in pig-breeding in England is the widely-fluctuating prices, and it is an advantage in the factory system that it steadies prices by constant demand, and, should prices of bacon be ruling low, the product can be held for a more remunerative market. Pigs are still selling at very high prices, and pig-breeders are reaping fair profits—not so great as might be thought, as feeding stuffs are also high in price. Only a small proportion of the pork products consumed by the British people are produced at home. The imports exceed in value £20,000,000 annually, largely from Denmark, so there is a large field before the home producer if he will only supply, at a reasonable price, what the market demands.

MILKING SHORTHORNS.

Great attention has been paid in recent years in England to the improvement of the milking qualities of Shorthorn cows by a number of prominent breeders, and considerable success has followed their efforts. Mr. Taylor, of Cranford, has done excellent work in this direction. He reports that when he commenced his herd records, the milk average was 600 gallons per annum. Now it exceeds 800 gallons. Speaking recently on his method of management of his herd, Mr. Taylor stated that in the summer time the grass fields are largely depended on for food, but freshly-calved cows get an extra allowance of cake. The amount of cake allowed is from two to eight pounds daily. In winter, the herd is kept in night and day, but the cows are allowed out for water and exercise. The bulls are kept in open yards. Good ventilation and light in the stables are made a special point, because they mean much for the comfort of the cow, and a comfortable cow means a large milk supply. Indian corn is sown almost the first week in May, and has been found to be an excellent supplement to pastures from August onward. For green food in winter, cabbages and mangolds are grown.

YOUNG VS. AGED COWS.

Many dairymen are strong believers that young dairy cows give richer milk than the older animals. The Lancashire County Council has been making some inquiries along this line, and the figures they publish bear out this impression. Not only is the percentage of fat greater, but the solids not fat are also present in greater quantity. The actual figures are as follows:

	Fat.	Solids not fat.
2 years old	3.72 p. c.	8.89 p. c.
3 " "	3.63	8.91
4 " "	3.60	8.78
5 " "	3.55	8.70
6 " "	3.46	8.71
7-8 " "	3.52	8.62

This advantage in quality is, however, more than balanced by the great superiority of the older cows in the production of large quantities of milk up to the age of seven or eight years.

WHEAT EXPERIMENTS.

How the wetness or dryness of a growing season affects the yield of wheat is well shown by some experiments carried on last year by the Bedford County Council. Eighteen varieties were sown, and some returned double the yield of others. As the season was a very wet one, those varieties which stood up best gave the best yield. Revits gave 47½ bushels per acre; White Stand Up, 39½ bushels; while Canadian Red Fife yielded only 20½ bushels.

Taking the eighteen varieties as a whole, those which had the ability to stand up in a wet season filled and ripened better than the others.

COST OF REARING CALVES.

An experiment has been completed in County of Cork, Ireland, to ascertain the relative cost of rearing calves dropped in April and November, respectively. Five calves were selected for each period, and fed for twelve months. The November calves consumed 114 gallons of new milk, and 1,143 gallons of separated milk. In addition, they were fed calf meal, crushed oats, hay and roots. For grazing, £1 was charged. The cost for 12 months' feeding was £5 3s. each. The

April calves consumed 143 gallons of new milk, and 1,165 gallons of separated milk. Other foods were the same as for the November calves; grazing being for a shorter period, was charged at 12s. per head. The April cost was £5 10s. per head for feeding.

When the November calves were sold they realized £7 8s. each, but the April calves only sold for £6 10s. each. The total income from the November calves was £37, and the profit realized was £2 5s. 8d., after allowing for first cost of calves, labor and interest. The April calves realized £32 10s., and, after allowing for all charges, showed a loss of £4 2s. 1d.

Throughout the whole period the November calves were more thrifty than the others, and made greater daily gains at lower cost. One result of the experiment was to show that separated milk fed to November calves had nine times greater value than when fed to April calves.

SOUR-MILK TREATMENT.

We are hearing a great deal in England now of the "sour-milk treatment," which is said to prolong human life to a healthy and vigorous old age. Prof. Metchnikoff, a famous bacteriologist, has discovered that a diet of specially-prepared sour milk has great health-giving properties. It has long been noted that the peasants of the mountainous regions of Bulgaria, who drink large quantities of sour milk, are exceptionally long-lived. This wonderful property of sour milk is claimed to be due to the presence of immense numbers of lactic-acid bacilli, which are the deadly foes of the putrefactive and disease-producing bacilli which swarm in the large intestine. Several London dairy companies and chemists advertise pure sour milk, and for those to whom sour milk is distasteful, the lactic-acid bacilli are provided in the form of tablets, made of chocolate and the bacilli combined. So the human race has to add one more good attribute to the many already possessed by the domestic cow.



Commodore =77697=.

Shorthorn yearling bull, sire Prince Imperial; grand dam Helen 23rd, by Imp. Merry Master. This young bull's sire and dam were both out of the same cow, Helen 21st (imp.). Owned by John McKenzie & Son, Columbus, Ont.

CHINESE PORK BUSINESS.

In spite of much press ridicule, "Chinese pork" must now be considered an established business in England. Three thousand six hundred and forty-seven Chinese pigs arrived recently on one vessel, and many more are on the way. The pigs are stated to be of Poland-China breed. They are too large to cut up for pork, and so are used in bacon-curing. There has been considerable opposition to these importations on account of pigs in China being the scavengers of the country, but the health inspectors have passed them as fit for human food.

Lambing reports are good, though not uniformly, as rather heavy losses are noted in some districts, and abortion has been more prevalent than usual.

Then Who Will Feed the Hungry?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We read a lot about the high price of meat, and combinations forming to force the price down, mostly by the laboring class. That will affect the farmer. Suppose farmers join together and refuse to buy the machinery that these men make? What will be the outcome? Who will be the worse off, the laborer or the farmer? In my mind, these combines are not in the best interests of the country. They are the forerunner of hard times. If meat prices go too low for profit, farmers will go out of the business. Then, whom will they go to when hungry?

E. M.

THE FARM.

"Yard" and "Cord."

Please explain or define the terms "yard" and "cord," as used by contractors. Also say which is mostly used in letting municipal jobs, such as gravelling, etc.

ENQUIRER.

Ans.—Gravel or crushed stone are commonly teamed or bought by the yard, or half cord. Quarries usually ship crushed stone by the ton. Field stone, piled for crushing, is usually paid for by the cord.

A yard (cubic) contains 27 cubic feet, and a cord contains 128 cubic feet. A cubic yard of stone or gravel is the same as a cubic yard of any other material. And a cord of stone has the same volume as a cord of wood, 4 x 4 x 8 feet.

A wagon box should hold a yard and a half or two yards of gravel or crushed stone. Thus, a wagon-box measuring inside 8 feet long, 3 feet 2 inches wide, and 2 feet 1½ inches deep, will hold approximately two cubic yards. This, if teamed a mile or more on ordinary roads, will settle in the box to a generous yard and a half.

A half cord is 64 cubic feet, and is contained in a wagon-box measuring 8 feet long, 3 feet 2 inches wide, and 2 feet 6 1-3 inches deep. Measurement of quantity should be at the work, and wagon-boxes should provide for settlement.

In letting municipal jobs, to prevent misunderstanding, the contract may clearly state that "a yard is 27 cubic feet, a cord is 128 cubic feet, measurement to be in the wagon at the work."

W. A. McLEAN,

Provincial Engineer of Highways.

Curtail the Dog Nuisance.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It is a well-known and regrettable fact that the sheep industry is at a low ebb in the Province of Ontario. It is also generally admitted that, under favorable conditions, it is one of the most profitable branches of stock-raising in the Province.

It is also well known that the greatest handicap or discouraging feature in the business is the dog nuisance. That it should be abated, I think all agree. But how shall it be done? is the question—to my mind, a question not hard to answer.

Legislation requiring each municipality, including towns and cities in Ontario, to send to the Government once a year the number of dogs kept in such municipality, and also the amount of damages done by dogs to sheep, and also to the human family, in such municipality, would enable the Government to determine the taxes to be levied on each dog for the year following.

Then, each municipality would collect from those who keep or harbor dogs the taxes levied, and send them to the Provincial Government to form a "Dog Fund," from which to satisfy all just claims for damages done by dogs in the Province.

An exception should be made in the case of solvent owners, if located, who must pay damages done by their dogs. Leading sheepmen feel that they have a right to better legal protection for their flocks. Our fish and seals of the waters, and our game of the forests, are properly cared for by law. Are not our people and sheep as valuable?

We are not seeking a subsidy, but indemnity, restitution. The most painful thought in this connection is the terrible fact that so many people are bitten by dogs, some of which are "mad dogs." Then, the anxiety, the pain of body and mind, and the costs, and possibly the uncertainty of a permanent cure. All these considerations call for prompt relief.

S. T. PETTIT.

Elgin Co., Ont.

In the long list of winners of sweepstakes prizes at the great Essex Corn Show, the first and most important four are as below: Best ten ears of dent corn in the show—Wm. Woodbridge, Kingsville; best ten ears flint corn in the show—Ed. Smith, Ridgetown; best single ear of dent corn in the show—Leonard Malott, Kingsville; best ten ears of corn suitable for ensilage purposes in Central Ontario—Philip C. Fox, Leamington.