

**MEAT INSPECTION**

Packers complain that the Dominion meat inspection act is handicapping them in their efforts to build up an export trade. The act, which came into force last September compels packing houses, doing an inter-provincial export trade to have all the animals killed in their facilities subjected to inspection. As this act is a Dominion one it does not apply to packers doing a local or provincial trade, and therefore animals slaughtered by them are not subject to inspection.

Excesses of the past few months has shown that from 3 per cent. of the hogs, and in some cases as high as 10 per cent., are condemned and the packers who export, claim that they are under considerable handicap in competing for home business with those who are not under inspection. They also claim that efforts to get farmers to assume part of the loss have not been successful owing to the readiness of the uninspected packers to take the loss without requiring any guarantee as to health. The export packers have no fault to find with the act other than that this and before it would be better if all were treated alike.

A phase of the question worth considering is the effect this act has on the quality of meat supplied to the local trade. It is just as important that consumers at home should have their meat supply free from any taint as the consumer abroad. The difficulty is to enforce a law that would apply to the local packer. There are hundreds of persons who kill in a small way for the local trade and it would cost an excessive amount to have the same inspection for these as for the larger packing houses. Public abattoirs erected at convenient points would help to solve the problem.

**THE HOG SITUATION**

The evidence that our packers have been and are importing large quantities of American dressed pork seems to be accumulating. It is to some extent influenced by the price of Canadian hogs, though it will not altogether account for the great slump in values the present winter. The weathering of hogs has been greater than the demand for hog products and consequently the price has been down. Danish killings have averaged 50,000 a week the past couple of months, as against the usual number of about 35,000 weekly. American exports have been large. All this has had its effect upon the British bacon market upon which the prices paid for live hogs in Canada are based.

What strikes the Canadian consumer and producer alike in this connection is the high level of prices for hog products and hence for local markets. The prices of Wiltshire bacon to the consumer in Toronto are the same as the same as it was a year ago, when hogs were selling at from \$1.50 to \$2.00 more than they are at this winter.

Why is this? Is the packer making the Canadian consumer pay for the same quality which he claims to have had on all he has exported the same as he has on the same quality the consumer and producer would like to know. The English consumer gets his Canadian Wiltshire cheaper if not cheaper than the consumer here can get it and this winter is getting it a good deal less. Is this fair? At this point our farmers should remember that at this juncture, is that the conditions that are making for low prices now, will bring about a reaction before many months. A continued period of low prices soon produces a scarcity, many get out of the business, the supply drops below the demand, values jump up quickly, and the farmer who has hogs to sell makes big money. The experience of the past proves this, and the same condition is likely to follow the present period of low prices. The price for our farmers to do is not to get entirely out of hogs, keep enough breeding stock so that when the advance does come they will be able to take advantage of it. Taking the average of the past few years hogs have paid well. It is unfortunate, however, that low values have come along at a time when the high price of feed makes it impossible to produce hogs for a profit. One would expect the reverse of this. But markets are sometimes hard to fathom.

**CLOVER**

What the outcome will be from the present condition of the clover seeds market is difficult to say. One thing is quite sure, that is the high prices will curtail the amount of seed to be considered. This is lamentable when we consider the value of the seed and the value of the roots as a fertilizer, to say nothing of the fact that clover is the greatest crop to have to check noxious weeds. Clover is the most important crop to grow to destroy *Peronospora Thlasia*. Even at the present high prices there should be a large amount of land sown upon every 100 acre farm. Speaking of varieties, for general conditions red clover is the best to grow. Where *Alfalfa* will thrive, it is king; it will not thrive where water lies near the surface for any length of time. To make a success with *Alfalfa* the land should be well drained with tile or be naturally rolled and should be free from other grasses when seeded. Grasses which do not grow or whose grass will gradually choke it out. *Alfalfa* is one of the most valuable crops that can be grown in America, and it can be grown in almost any locality. Farmers will study its requirements and sow accordingly.

How plenty of clover, even though the price is high. It will pay.

**WINTER WHEAT**

The winter wheat throughout the West are not of Ontario seem to have come through the winter in good shape. Judge by its present healthy condition there is every encouragement to look for a good crop. The acreage now is about on an average with the past five years. Feed is holding out well. Farmers have more confidence in planting winter wheat than it place. Many farmers have used practically no bedding in order to make sure of plenty of straw. One straw has been better fed than usual and has been fed cheaply. In most cases it has been cut up and mixed with hay and carried to horses or colts.—R.H.H., Riding Co., Ont.

**GOSSIP**

Clydecastles for Canada.  
Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Kirkcubright, last Saturday shipped to Mr. Wm. Colquhoun, Mitchell P.O. Ontario, the handsome big horse King Duke (1904), and three other good horses. One was bred mare, King Duke was bred by Golin Munro, Tallich, Manuldy, and got by Duke King, out of a mare by King-Lover. He has held the Sneyde premium, and being a good doer, is sure to be popular in Mr. Colquhoun's hands. The mares are headed by the four-year-old Lady Dorothy, bred by Mr. James Murray of Volmace Castle, Striding, she was got by Up to Time, out of Lady Baron, by Baron's Prince and her grand-dam, the noted Kate of Newfield. It will be seen that she has a double dash of the famous Baron's Pride blood, and there can be little doubt but that she will prove a fine sire breeder. Her two companions, Lady Flora, bred by Mr. Walter Reid, Greenbrae, Bridge of Allan, and Miss Brims, bred by Mr. Wm. Brims, Thuxter, Tharso, are both three-year-olds. The former was got by The Dean, a noted son of the Cawdor Cup winner Royal Bartley while the latter was by the Royal and Highland Society winner Prince Shapere. Mr. Colquhoun has many several fine-race shipments in the past, and his present one is quite in keeping with the high average of his former purchases. In addition, the Messrs. Montgomery have sold to another Canadian customer, the well-bred stallion Kippendavie Stamp (1897). It will be remembered that this horse was got by the celebrated Sir Everard, while his dam was the grand Old Time mare Beatrice, one of the most noted members, in her time, of the famous Kippendavie stud. Kippendavie Stamp, in his youth, won several prizes, and has left a lot of useful stock.—Scottish Farmer.

Mr. Wm. Maharay, Russell, Ont., has purchased from Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Kirkcubright, Scotland, the well-bred big horse, Percy. He was bred by Mr. J. F. Hand, near to Alnwick, and was got by the premium horse *Historian* (1875), out of *Lambton Amy* (1814). He was the *Alford* premium horse in 1897, and has a good record for getting stock. He is a horse of big size, with plenty of bone and substance. All his ancestry are of the big class, and he has four numbered dams in his pedigree. He should be fitted to do good service in Canada.



**BUT IT IS FREE TO YOU FOR A 2-CENT STAMP TO COVER POSTAGE**

From cover to cover, its practical directions for erecting every farm building—great and small—are so valuable that it is absolutely protected by United States copyright and can only be secured from us.

It is brimful of detail plans, sketches and the latest building hints. This book is for complimentary distribution only. Send your address at once—ask for free copy of Bird's 'Practical Farm Buildings.' Not a theory in it, but practical advice by an expert authority. Incidentally it gives you information on the roofing question which anyone who believes in getting his money's worth will be mighty glad to have. Tell us when you write if you're interested in roofing.

Locking the barn door so good as far as it goes, but there's danger to stock from quite another source.

Guard against dangerous dampness and draughts. PAROID READY ROOFING (sold under money-back guarantee) is absolutely tight in the hardest storm.

But this is one reason only—you will learn the others and a great deal more when you get the book.

DON'T miss the book—send for it—send NOW.

F. W. BIRD & SON, Est. in U.S.A. 1817. (Dept. 9) Hamilton, Ont.

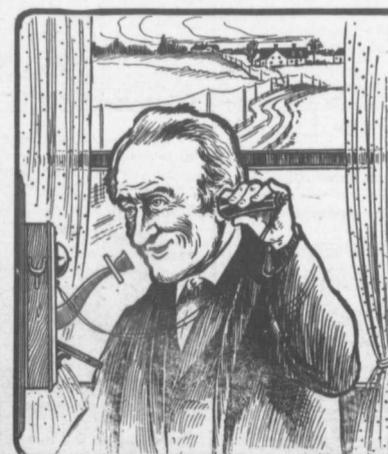
**COUNTRY NOTES AND PRICES**  
**PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY**

Rose Hall—Clover and fall wheat have come through the winter so far in good condition. The weather is cold and backward with plenty of snow and considerable frost for this time of year. Stock has come through thus far in good condition but feed is getting scarce. Quite a number of farmers are asking about feeds and the some are already buying. Indications point to a late spring. Potatoes, 75c a bu.; \$1 a bag; milk cows, \$35 each; springers, \$25 calves, \$8; beef, 4c to 5c a lb.; l.w.; stockers, 5c; export, 5c; butchers, 4c; hogs, 5c; lambs, 8c; weathers, 5c; ewes, 6c; chickens, 75c a pr. hms. 6c; fresh eggs, 2c a doz.; creamery butter, 35c a lb.; rolls, 20c; salt, 20c; tub, 30c; prints, 30c; colored cheese, 12c; white, 15c; hogs, 7c a lb. w.; chickens, 10c; hens, 10c; Timothy hay, \$15 a ton; clover,

er, \$15; mixed, \$17; straw, loose, \$5 a load; bran, \$22 a ton; shorts, \$24; oats, 55c a bu.; barley, 55c; corn, 70c; peas, 85c—G.M.C.

**NORFOLK COUNTY**

Courtland—The weather is now beginning to get quite springlike and the prospect of birds tells us that winter is over. The cheese makers may be men on the roads these days selling their milk and preparing for this season's business. The outlook is quite hopeful. Mill feed is scarce and very expensive. Hay Timothy, \$15 a ton; clover, \$10; mixed, \$12; bran, \$23; shorts, \$27; oats, 55c a bu.; barley, 55c to 60c; corn, 65c; peas, 85c; eggs like a doz., butter 35c a lb.; rolls 25c; tub, 30c; salt, 35c; prints 35c; potatoes, 55c to 60c a bu.; 75c to 90c a bag; milk cows, \$30 to \$40 each; springers, \$20 to \$45; calves, \$4; hogs, 8c a cwt., l.w.; calf skins, 55c to 60c each; hides, 4c to 5c a lb.—W.A.B.



**The Social Side of the Telephone**

It is well worth considering. The roads may be too bad to take out the horse—you may not feel like going for a long drive. Yet you want to know how sick friends are getting along—what the news of the neighborhood is—or perhaps arrange to buy a new suit, having something to say to any of the dozens of duties that busy the farmer.

That's where the telephone comes in.

**Canadian Independent Telephones**

owned and operated by you and your friends, bring the entire neighborhood within easy talking distance.

Especially in the evenings—when the day's work is done—this social side of the telephone is one of its greatest attractions.

Just think, too, of the driving it saves—what a help in case of accidents and serious illness—how quickly you can call for assistance in every emergency.

Our booklets explain about Canadian Independent Telephones and show how a neighborhood telephone system may be installed so as to give the best service at a fair price, independently of the trust.

Write for full information.

**Canadian Independent Telephone Co. LIMITED**  
**26 DUNCAN ST., TORONTO, ONT.**

It is desirable to mention the name of this publication when writing to advertisers.