

The Farmer's Advocate

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EDITORIAL.

Plant more corn than ever

Put in more potatoes than usual.

Get ready for the corn planting.

Do not forget a few mangels for the calves.

A good garden is half of the summer meals.

Times do change. Canada got free wheat.

Larger markets keep coming to Canada.

If your land is suitable try a few beans this year.

Do not neglect spraying this year. The clean fruit will sell first.

Unskilled labor is not of as much real value to the farmer as it once was.

Canadian pigs should be bred and reared to grow into choice bacon hogs.

Plant all food crops so that the maximum of cultivation may be done with horses.

No matter how expert the farmer is the weather often plays hob with his plans.

As soon as the producer is paid a premium for quality just so soon will he produce quality.

The better the farm is worked the sooner will the war be won. Food is a factor of first importance.

In the live-stock business it costs no more to feed and house the best class of stock than it does the scrub.

The farmer is called upon to feed them all. Everyone hopes that his efforts in 1917 will yield enough to do it.

The Allies have taken such a bite at the Hindenburg line that "Hindy" may have to get a new line very soon.

Send your wool to Guelph to be graded, and reap all the benefits of selling on a quality basis through co-operation.

A scarcity of labor always means more land in grass and more live-stock products in proportion to cereal grains.

Some noted Germans say that defeat means the end of the Hohenzollerns. In that case the German people would reap the maximum benefit from Germany's drubbing.

We have wondered if it would not be possible to train a number of battalions for home defence in Canada without putting them under canvas for the entire summer. There are many men who could spare one to two afternoons weekly and two or three evenings a week for drill, who find difficulty in leaving their business for the entire summer. Of course, everyone admits that a better training results where the men are under canvas for the summer, but the defence forces might be augmented by adding to their numbers a number of men trained in their home cities and towns in spare time.

Selling by Grade.

No greater stimulus will ever be given to the production of choice farm products of all kinds than that which will follow selling by grade in all those lines where grading is possible. Nothing more discourages the farmer who takes pains and goes to considerable trouble to produce a product of a higher class, than to see his careless neighbor getting the same price for an inferior article which has cost him little effort. Too often, in the past, the producer of the best has suffered at the hands of his careless fellow. That is to say, the man who put inferior goods on the market many times got a higher price than he should, while the man whose goods were extra fine was compelled to accept a lower average than his goods were actually worth. This only encourages carelessness and discourages the production of extra quality. Selling by grade will put each in his proper class. The careless will get the full penalty of his carelessness. The careful and efficient will reap his full reward and there will soon be a higher percentage careful and efficient and the resulting products will soon share a proportionate increase of quality. Extra effort demands better returns and better returns will bring extra quality. Ontario is laying plans to grade butter. The West grades cream. All Canada should sell dairy products according to grade. Eggs should go the same way. There is talk of selling pork and other meat products strictly to grade. Grain already goes to market on grade. It is good business to make it pay to produce the best. Selling by grade is the best business.

Canada's Opportunity in Bacon Production.

Some twelve or fifteen years ago Canadian bacon was a big factor on the markets of Great Britain. This country at that time exported in the neighborhood of 35,000,000 pounds of this product annually, but, owing to a number of causes among which were the growing urban population at home and the unstable market for hogs, the export dwindled to a negligible quantity in the years just before the war. Since the outbreak of the great struggle, however, with the increased call for foodstuffs of all kinds, Canadian bacon is going to Britain in larger quantities than ever before and is establishing a name on that market. At the present time imports of bacon hogs into Britain from Denmark, the source of greatest supply before the war, are very much curtailed. Previous to the outbreak of hostilities Denmark sent in the neighborhood of 40,000 hogs to England in the form of bacon each week. The Danes formerly drew upon Germany for grain to feed their hogs and also upon the United States from which they imported large quantities of corn to feed in conjunction with the dairy by-products of which they had sufficient to make a suitable combination with corn for the production of choice bacon, although the Danish packer would prefer that the hog feeder used as little corn as possible. Denmark depended on dairy by-products to make choice bacon, for that country shipped to Britain practically the same number of pounds of butter as of bacon each week. But the war has upset that trade and Britain has called upon Canada for more bacon, and packers in this country cannot get the hogs to supply the demand.

What does it all mean? Simply this—Canada has an opportunity right now to hold the British market for Canadian bacon, but our breeders and feeders must produce for export nothing but a high-class, uniform product and this in larger quantity. This will mean breeding and feeding more bacon hogs. If we go about it right the future market is assured. Canadian bacon is already establishing itself on the British market, but preparation must be made for after-the-war competition.

The outlook is bright. Denmark has lost a large portion of her trade. The United States has no export trade in Wiltshire sides because that country produces the lard type of hogs almost exclusively. An abundance of corn and the lard type go together. The bacon hog can be produced in Canada cheaper than in any other country. Experiments have shown that the right type of bacon hog puts on weight as economically as any other type. Now is the chance.

Why have we not more bacon hogs? Largely because of the fact that the market has not been stable. When farmers had a number of hogs the bottom would suddenly drop out of the market and declines of as much as \$2.00 or \$2.50 per cwt. would come very suddenly. Consequently, the farmer lost confidence and curtailed his pig-breeding and pig feeding operations accordingly. When the farmer had few hogs the price was high; when he was well stocked up with finished bacon the price was forced down. The market could not be depended upon.

Then, too, there was a growing demand for pork for home consumption and this did not so exactly demand the bacon type. Some believed that they could produce a little thicker hog at smaller cost, and the home market took the hogs at a price on a level with that paid for the choice bacon. Buyers who went to the farmer's pen or yard to buy hogs did not offer any difference in price for choice bacon as compared with hogs a little too thick to be choice. The farmer got no price consideration for producing extra quality and so, as every other business man would do, he did not in most cases put forth any extra effort to produce the long, lean bacon, and no one could blame him. His hogs were bought at so much per found f. o. b., his nearest shipping point, and all the hogs from the neighborhood, regardless of type, went into the same car at the same price. The result was not good for the production of Wiltshire sides.

But a big opportunity now offers. If Canadian bacon can secure first recognition on the British market and the Canadian breeders, feeders and packers can supply the uniform, choice article demanded, as we believe they can, then the hog business will be on a stable basis in this country. Then all hands can have confidence. It is important to feeder and packer alike. It is to the interests of both to establish a permanent export trade. The time to start is now.

First, a community breeding centers should be established in which all will breed and feed the best type of bacon hogs, preferably of the same breed. Farmers' Clubs and other organizations already in existence could give this phase of the work a big boost. They could look after the shipping to market which could be done co-operatively. Many believe that shipping to the central market to be sold, thus getting rid of f. o. b. buying would prove a great help. Then the hogs would be sold on the open market on their merits and according to grade. The man who produced the best bacon hog would get the best price. It looks feasible and certainly should induce breeders and feeders to produce the recognized type. Expert graders could be employed to do the work of grading.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture is alive to the importance of the bacon industry. Prof. Day, as announced in last week's issue, is taking charge of the campaign for more and better bacon hogs. The market is assured if Canada produces the hogs. A regular and permanent supply must be forthcoming. Right now is the time to start. Elsewhere in this issue is a page of illustrations showing different types. Better prices for hogs of the right type will be the result of grading. A stable market can be built up. Breed the bacon hog and sell him on his merits. All hands are anxious to get the best that is in the British market. That means a stable market and more uniform prices. We have confidence in the future of the Canadian bacon hog.