

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

VOL. XXII

TORONTO, DECEMBER 1, 1903

No. 21

Attend the Winter Fair

EVERY farmer who can do so conveniently, (and who cannot), should attend the Winter Fair at Guelph next week. This fair, with its series of lectures on all branches of live stock, is one of the greatest educational institutions in Canada. Visitors can see the fat animals judged alive and can afterwards inspect the carcasses, thus gaining valuable information as to the type of animal best suited to meet the needs of the market. The show throughout is thoroughly practical. Look up the condensed program elsewhere in this issue, and arrange to be present at least part of the time.

The Outlook for Bacon Products

There is a feeling among some in the trade that this fall's slump in prices for bacon hogs will be of longer duration than usual. For a few years back the "slump" has generally disappeared with the beginning of the new year and prices have returned to what they were before the fall weakening in values began. If the opinion of some of our packers can be relied upon this return of good prices will not come till the new year is well advanced if it comes even then. The reason given for this continuation of a weak market is the increased production of hogs in the United States and the low prices that are being paid there for live hogs. The best American hogs are quoted at Chicago at about from \$4.60 to \$4.80 per cwt., or nearly \$2.00 per cwt. lower than last year at this time. Having a large supply of cheap hogs and consequently a large supply of hog products to dispose of, it is stated that the Americans will seek a market for this surplus product in Great Britain, where it will come into competition with the cheaper Canadian brands. This competition will mean loss of trade and consequently lower values, which will react on the trade here and bring a continuation of the lower prices now being paid in Canada for bacon hogs, well on into 1904.

Such is the view of the bacon hog market taken by some of our packers. Whether their point of view will prove to be the correct one remains to be seen. It might be noted, however, that during the past year or two, when American hog products were scarce and consequently high, the Canadian article was introduced into many new quarters in England to supply the place of the American article, upon which dealers had formerly relied for their regular supply. This enlarged the market for some of the lower grades of Canadian bacon and helped to sustain values for the finest Wiltshire as well. There are

evidences now that the Americans are endeavoring to get back their lost trade and that during the next few months large quantities of their hog products will find their way back to the old avenues of trade and will crowd out the Canadian article, because of the low values at which they will be sold. While this American stuff will not come directly into competition with the best Canadian Wiltshire, it may indirectly affect values and cause a lowering of prices here for even our best bacon hogs.

While it is to be hoped that the effect of this competition will not be so serious as has been pointed out, hog producers should be on their guard. The only way to meet the competition and likewise the more formidable competition from Denmark and Ireland, is by producing a superior quality. We have the hope that the English consumer in the sections referred to, though accustomed for years to the inferior American product, will, having once tasted of the superior Canadian article, be loth to return to the "old love" even though the price is made a temptation to him.

But however this may be, there should be no lessening of effort on the part of our farmers to produce the right type and the right quality of bacon hog. In this connection, the article by Prof. Day, elsewhere in this issue, is most timely. Quality counts in every article produced on a Canadian farm, but in none more so than the bacon hog. Our strongest competitors in the English bacon market, Ireland and Denmark, are bending every energy towards improving quality, and Canadians must do the same if they wish to retain, let alone enlarge their present market for bacon. Prof. Day's article will bear careful study and our farmers will profit by putting into practice the feeding principles therein laid down.

Farm Help Still Scarce

As shown by the summary of the Ontario crop report, published elsewhere in this issue, the farm help situation in this province is just as acute as ever. While a large number of men from the old country have been brought in to relieve the situation, it would seem as if as many had left the province as came into it. The exodus of Ontario's sons to the West and the new parts of the country still goes on and consequently the farmer who remains at home must suffer. The situation has reached an acute stage and some attention might well be given to the matter at the Institute meetings.

Several correspondents advise bringing in Chinese and Japs, as farm help

Last spring an interesting discussion as to the advisability of bringing in Chinamen took place in the FARMING WORLD. The view we took then was that the Chinaman, though by no means an ideal workman for the farm, might by proper training be made to fill the place of the average farm hand, who is so scarce an article at the present time. It is a way out of the difficulty that might be given a trial. If the Chinaman fails to fill the bill, why go harm will be done. Were there any other sure and quick way of relieving the situation, we would say by all means leave the Chinaman where he is. But he is a good gardener and tiller of the soil and makes a good domestic when properly trained and might make a good farm hand if well looked after.

The newer portions of Canada, both New Ontario and the great West, will likely continue to draw from older Ontario and the Eastern provinces for many years to come, and the extensive railway building that will take place during the next few years in Canada will draw a number more. The outlook, therefore, is not very hopeful for any permanent relief from the scarcity of labor for some time to come, and any help from whatever source will be gratefully received. The problem is one of the most important which our farmers have to solve at the present time.

Why Not Grind More Wheat in Canada?

Canada is fast becoming one of the world's greatest wheat producing countries. Why should she not become a great flour producing country as well? We have splendid milling power going to waste which, if properly utilized, would develop an industry that would become second to none in the Dominion. Already considerable has been done in this direction. But the milling facilities we have at present are only sufficient to convert a comparatively small amount of our annual wheat output into flour. The question then arises, why not greatly enlarge our milling facilities and grind a large portion of our wheat into flour at home.

There are many reasons why such an undertaking would prove of advantage to the country. To carry wheat a distance of several thousand miles to be ground by the English miller must be an expensive process. If this same wheat were ground into flour in Canada and flour exported instead of wheat, a saving would be effected in many ways. It would cost less to get it to the consumer, and any profit that might result from the conversion of the wheat into flour would be kept in Canada. Besides,