

perhaps, if in future he gives more attention to developing a market in Western Canada for his goods. There are indications that a reaction has set in in that part of Canada in regard to American breeding animals. They no longer command the prestige that they did a year or two ago, and Western breeders are beginning to look more to other sources for their supplies. The time, therefore, seems opportune for the Eastern breeder to get a bigger slice of this Western business than he has had heretofore.

But the most encouraging feature of the West at the present time is, perhaps, the large market that is being developed there for good draft and work horses. Already this market is beginning to assume proportions that the Western farmer and breeder cannot begin to reach up to. Ontario and Eastern Canada will be looked to to make up the deficiency, which will mean a good market for many years to come for our surplus stock of horses. The mistake should not be made, however, of thinking that any old kind of a horse will do for the West. The quality must be right and this can only be had by adopting right methods in breeding. No haphazard methods will suffice. There must be system and good judgment in the selection of both mares and stallions for breeding purposes.

On the whole the general outlook for the horse breeder was never better than at the present time. Not only is there a large and growing demand in the West, but also in other parts of the country. The era of railroad construction in both old and new Ontario, upon which we are just entering, means an enlarged market for good draft and work horses. There is also an excellent demand for high class carriage, saddle and other kinds of light horses in our towns and cities. Indeed, the demand at the present for work horses for the farm provides a good market for a large number of the animals produced. Every farmer, however, should raise, not buy, his work horses. If farm work horses have to be bought it means an outlay of capital which a farmer should not be called upon to make. He should provide for the time when more work horses will be needed by raising them himself. And it will pay well to do a little more than this and have one or two good ones to sell every year.

Nature About the Farm

In this issue Mr. C. W. Nash begins his regular series of articles on nature about the farm. These have proven most instructive in the past and, we are assured, will prove even more so during the coming summer and fall. Owing to Mr. Nash's engagements during the winter on farmers' institute and other special

work, he has not been able to keep up this department in *THE FARMING WORLD*. We hope, however, to have it continued regularly for some months at least, and we trust that our readers will take full advantage of it by asking questions and submitting specimens for identification.

Special attention is directed to the list of prizes for insect and weed collections mentioned by Mr. Nash in this issue. Boys and girls on the farm cannot spend their spare time to better advantage than by taking part in this contest.

The Bacon Trade

According to the statement of our English correspondent this issue, Canada is not the only place where hogs are scarce. In Great Britain, in Holland and in Denmark, farmers appear to be neglecting the hog, with the result that not for some years past have pork products been as scarce as they are at the present time on the London market. Those who are so fortunate as to be "in hogs" at the present time are likely to do well out of them. History will, however, probably repeat itself and in a year or two there will no doubt be an over-supply. But this should not deter farmers from raising hogs again, if they are so unfortunate as to be out of them at the present time. From present indications there is very little danger of low prices for this year at least and perhaps for the larger part of next year. It will therefore be a safe investment for the farmer to at least double his present output of select bacon hogs.

The question that arises just here is whether the causes which have contributed to a shortage of hogs in the countries above named have been the same as those which have brought about a similar result in Canada. From all that we can learn there was no agitation in the old land against the packer, so we may be perfectly safe in attributing the scarcity of the hog supply abroad as being due largely to the market conditions of a year or two back, when prices were more often below the profit line than above it. It is a question, however, whether farmers were wise in going almost entirely out of hogs, as many of them have done, because of these low prices. In the light of our present knowledge on the subject we would say that they were very unwise. To curtail the supply somewhat in a time of plenty and low prices is common sense, but to go entirely out of the business and conclude that it is too unprofitable to engage in further is foolishness. Every industry has its ups and downs and the bacon industry has no more of these than any other in which the farmer is engaged. It is the farmer who has stayed in the "game" right along who

is making money out of hogs at the present time. So far as prices go, if the whole period during which the bacon industry has been a feature of our agriculture were taken into account, it will be found that the years have been very few indeed when swine raising was not a profitable business for the farmer.

In a letter published elsewhere in this issue an Eastern Ontario farmer raises the question of the profitability of growing grain fed hogs. He makes the statement that he can make more money by running hogs on grass and finishing with a month or two's grain feeding in the fall than by grain feeding entirely, as is necessarily the case in winter, with prices for the latter \$1.00 per cwt. higher. Have any of our readers any information to offer on this point? If so, we would be very glad to have it. The question is an important one and worthy of the fullest discussion. If our correspondent's conclusion is correct, then the time for growing hogs in this country is in the summer, which practice followed generally would mean that all hogs would be marketed in the fall and that our packing houses would have to run night and day for a couple of months and remain practically idle the balance of the year. One can readily foresee that such a condition, if brought about, would mean possible stagnation for our export bacon trade. A steady supply all the year round is required to hold the old country market and this cannot be secured unless a large number of our farmers have hogs ready for market during the winter and spring seasons. It has been suggested that the packer might cure the bacon in the fall and hold the product for distribution to the consumer as he may require it. But this is impracticable. To give the best satisfaction our bacon must be in the hands of the consumer in at least six weeks from the time the hogs are slaughtered. One of the reasons why Canadian bacon does not stand on quite as high a plane in point of quality as the Danish is because the Danes can get their product to the consumer a week or ten days sooner than we can. A steady supply of hogs the year round and a regular going forward of shipments as soon as cured is the only feasible way of holding and increasing the market in Great Britain for Canadian bacon. To ensure permanent success therefore both the farmer and packer must bend their energies towards securing a steady supply.

The prolonged cold weather has retarded growing conditions in the country considerably. Though the winter was mild and indications of an early spring were noticeable some weeks back, the season will be late. Things will have to hurry up if all the trees are out in leaf by May 24th.