

throw away the reputation which has cost them so many years to build up, and I presume they do not clearly see the consequences."

Mr. Monrad then comments upon the situation as follows:

"The last government experiments have shown that corn is a very economic feed until the hog weighs about 120 lbs. as long as barley is then substituted (about two months before killing). It seems, however, that the author overlooks one factor which has also tended to the obliteration of the difference in price of Danish and Irish bacon on one side and Canadian on the other. The Canadian Government has worked hard to make the farmers comply with the English demand. If our large packers will not discriminate enough in prices paid to eradicate 300 lbs. or over standard from our farmers' brains, we must copy the Danes and start co-operative bacon factories."

#### The Bacon Pig.

The bacon pig, though of comparatively recent growth, in many ways belongs to a distinct breed of pigs. He is as separate and distinct from the old-fashioned fat hog as one purebred pig is separate and distinct from another. He bears no relation whatever to the kind of pig our fathers bred, fed, killed, and took to market once every year. He attains his growth in one-half the time, and is ready to pay for his board when he is six or eight months old. In order to fulfil his destiny the bacon pig must necessarily die young. In fact, he is a distinctly modern institution, adapted to meet the needs of these latter days, when only the finest quality of food products are wanted. His weight is circumscribed by regulations as binding as the laws of the Medes and Persians. He must neither be too heavy nor too light. His daily food must be so adjusted and of such a quality as will tend to produce in him an equal quantity of muscle and fat. These two parts of his make-up must so intermingle with each other as to produce a quality of food that will exactly suit the taste of the British consumer.

Such, in a few words, is a general outline of the modern bacon pig. That he has come to stay is established beyond doubt, and that he is about the only kind of hog that it will pay our farmers to raise is also beyond dispute. We have to depend upon Great Britain for a market for our surplus hog products, and therefore we must produce a kind of pig that will meet the needs of that market. The very existence, then, of our export trade depends, in a large measure, upon the kind of bacon pig our pork packers are supplied with. Swine breeders should note particularly the needs of the trade in this particular, and direct their energies towards producing a bacon pig that will command the highest prices in the market. Some breeds of pigs may be better adapted for bacon purposes than others. But by careful selection, feeding, and breeding, nearly all the leading breeds may be adapted to meet the needs of the bacon trade.

#### The Bacon Pig at the Fat Stock Show.

In the rules and regulations governing the awarding of prizes at the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show, it is distinctly stated that all awards shall be given to the animal most valuable from a consumer's point of view. We take this to mean that all animals exhibited must be judged, not because they conform to a certain type, or the standard of a certain breed, but because of their utility and their adaptability to meet the needs of the trade from a consumer's standpoint. In all classes excepting, perhaps, the swine classes, this regulation is followed pretty closely. It is only of late years, however, that there has been any tendency to adhere strictly to this rule as regards swine. If all swine are to be judged from a utility or consumer's standpoint, the bacon pig should receive more attention than it is now getting. At the leading fall fairs prizes are awarded, and rightly so, for the best representative of the breed in the class in which the animal is shown. But we do not think it to be in the best interests of our pork

industry to follow the same methods at the annual Provincial Show. The breeder has the opportunity at the former of exhibiting his skill in producing an animal that may be looked upon as a type of that particular breed, but at the latter show we think the breeder should direct his efforts more towards producing an animal that conforms to the type required to meet the needs of our export trade, whether it belongs to the true breed type or not. If something is not done along this line, how can we expect to be able to supply the growing demand of our export trade for a typical bacon pig?

We notice in looking over the prize list for the show which takes place this week, that there is a section for bacon pigs in each of the purebred classes, but that in the grade class no such provision is made. If there is any class that should be judged because of its utility it is the grade class. There is no reason why in every section of that class every animal should not be judged as to his ability to meet the needs of our export bacon trade. This is something the swine breeders should have remedied before another year. In order to give the bacon pig more prominence, we would suggest that section seven of the purebred classes be put under one separate class, and headed "Bacon Pigs." This would give the bacon classes more prominence. The grade sections could with advantage be put under this heading, and award all the prizes in this class for utility only. By making this distinct division in the swine classes, the bacon sections would stand out more as a separate class, which would add very much to the utility of the show. If the prizes in this division were made equal to those in the other classes, there would be an inducement for breeders to give more attention to producing a bacon type of hog than the present arrangement affords. The present arrangement could be retained as far as the different breeds are concerned, and have prizes awarded in the various sections for the best bacon pig of the particular breed which the section represents. For instance, under Yorkshires six separate sections might be arranged as they are now, with the prizes given in each section for utility alone. Such an arrangement for bacon pigs alone would enable the judges to determine the particular qualities of each breed as regards their fitness for supplying the export bacon trade.

#### Pointers for a Fat Stock Show.

Canadian stock breeders will relish the following reflections from the pen of Mr. Richard Gibson, Delaware, Ont., upon the conduct of the recent Chicago Fat Stock Show. They are taken from the *American Sheep Breeder* to which Mr. Gibson is a contributor, and will be quite *apropos* at this time when our own Fat Stock Show is in progress:

"Never but once have I seen such dark, uncomfortable pens, and the building itself was dull, uninteresting and chilly, oft times cold enough to be a huge refrigerator. Why did the management allow all the flowers and bright lights, the music and banners, uniforms appropriate and ugly—why all this, I say, for the horse, and not even a sign over the entrance door to notify a stranger that without its portals was being held the Smithfield of America? Bad management on the part of someone. Another word from the exhibitors' standpoint, and that is, that the time chosen is too early for the Christmas trade, which is what all feeders depend upon for the extra fat show stuff. The horse show proper has to depend upon extraneous aid, such as the press, the most important (and one which the State Board seemed to ignore), a naval band from Washington, \$4,000 spent for flowers and floral decorations, jumping, cross-saddle lady riding, military exercises, packs of hounds, to say nothing of frills and furbelows, frankincense and myrrh, feathers and flummeries, diamonds and precious stones, besides the lovely creatures wearing them. How can a management expect to attract a crowd in such a dull, disheartening, blood-chilling place as was expected this year? Is there anything that would attract a

Chicago attendance? How would a bull fight take? Then a milking contest, maids to be young and good looking (could he engaged in Chicago, I presume), dressed a la Watteau, 'Where are you going, my pretty maid'? Then there could be a ram fight—Maine vs. Mexico. Lots of Marys with crooks and little lambs dressed a la Madame Pompadour. Oh, it would be glorious. Then a pig-sticking contest might be included. Get some Florida racers or Canadian Tamworths; not only music would be furnished by them, but racing could be watched also. The festive goat must not be forgotten—a prize might be offered for the best butter, though that would perhaps belong to the dairy display. At any rate the various secret societies might be induced to allow their lodge patriarch to see the light of day once more. Then, what with badger drowning, dog and cock fighting, an interesting show might be gotten up that would attract a crowd and if that would not do so, then send to Canada for a dozen pipers to interest the Scotchmen. Drape the building in green and have a Dan O'Connell for president to touch the Irish heart. Tell the Englishman that at the fat stock show he can get good ale and cheese, the American that there is a dollar in sight and that a live lord will be present, and I do believe with these adjuncts a fat stock show might be made to pay, even in Chicago. With these crude ideas, not yet elaborated, I sign myself, *Richard Gibson.*"

#### The Ideal Road Horse.

In an address delivered before the Maine Board of Agriculture recently, Dr. G. M. Twitchell, an authority on the subject, thus described the ideal road horse:

"The 15-2 to 16-hand horse of solid color, with broad forehead, ears of good size and well-proportioned, good length from base of ear to eye, eyes full and expressive, with lids free from meatiness, face straight, nostrils well rounded, full, large and thin lips, not thick, and well closed, neck of good length, shapely, clean cut at jowl and fitting well at shoulders, which can hardly be too sloping, the point of the withers being well back of the saddle, chest of good width, forearm long and heavily muscled, knees firm, broad, straight and strong, cannons short, flat, broad and flinty, pasterns good length, muscular and nervy, free from meatiness, the ankle from toe to ankle joint being about thirty-five degrees, feet round, of size proportionate to the animal, free from contracted heels, of good material and with elastic frog, barrel-shaped like an inverted egg, deep at girth as well as waist, allowing full use of lungs without infringing upon other organs, back short, the point of coupling on a line with that of hip, thus allowing for the extension of the muscles of attachment well forward over the kidneys, giving greater strength to the weakest spot in the animal anatomy as well as in man, quarters of good length, not too sloping, thus affording room for the free stifle action so necessary in the ideal driver, stifles and gaskins long, of good width, abounding in muscular attachments, hocks free from meatiness, sound, strong, neither straight nor having a decided angle, and not cut under too sharply at base.

"Such a horse, going smooth and true, neither paddling or toeing in forward, nor, as we say, straddling behind, will always command a top price in the market, provided he has been educated, and abounds in nervous energy. Form, size, color, symmetry and substance are essentials, but these do not insure the road horse. To these must be added individuality, the result of breeding. It manifests itself in what we term nervous energy, the up and get there power. It is the power of heredity, so desirable, so necessary. To secure this, there must be a high ideal and a fixed determination in breeding."

#### Beet vs. Cane Sugar.

The increase in the world's production of sugar from beets, as compared with that of the increase of cane sugar, is very striking, and is causing some excitement among the sugar-growers of the South. In 1887-88 the production of beet sugar