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## EDITORIAL.

### The Market for Hogs.

The variations and vagaries characterizing the market for bacon hogs in the last two years are not easily accounted for by farmers, and the explanations of dealers and packers fail to satisfactorily explain the ups and downs of prices, especially the "downs," which periodically recur to disappoint the breeder and feeder, the effect being that when prices go below a figure which pays the farmer a fair profit he ceases to breed and raise pigs or reduces the number of his breeding stock, and when prices go up he has few, if any, to sell, and hence misses the advantage from the rise. It is reasonably certain that the low prices of last year had a very discouraging effect upon the breeding industry in this country, and that the reduced number of sows retained for breeding largely accounts for the scarcity of suitable hogs on the market this year, and that this scarcity mainly accounts for the rise in prices and for the necessity of the packers buying corn-fed hogs in Buffalo and other U. S. markets, in order to keep their plants working and to supply their trade.

Canadian farmers have made an honest effort to breed and raise the type and quality of hogs recommended by the packers as most suitable for the export trade, and have succeeded to as great an extent as could be reasonably expected, with the result that Canadian bacon has secured an enviable reputation in the British markets, but they appear to have good reason to complain of the irregular and unstable prices paid by the packers, and of the lack of discrimination in the prices paid for the best type and quality of hogs and for those less nearly conforming to that standard. And the necessity which the packers have brought upon themselves by bearing the market last year, of going to the States to secure supplies, will certainly not help to sustain the good reputation of Canadian bacon, but will in all probability have a damaging effect upon the good name of our products. We can scarcely complain, consistently, of American bacon being sold in Britain under the brand of Canadian, as is reported being done, if our own packers and dealers are handling American corn-fed hogs.

These remarks and suggestions are offered in no carping spirit, but in the belief that they represent the feelings and sentiment of the farmers of this country, and in the hope that packers and dealers may, in future, plan to avoid such slumps in prices as were experienced last year, so that farmers may be encouraged and given confidence to raise a sufficient supply of the right sort of hogs by a reasonable assurance that prices will be maintained more uniformly at figures which will allow them a fair profit.

The fluctuations in values of fresh meats may be consistently accounted for to a large extent by weather conditions, by the competition of various countries catering to the British market, and by supply and demand, but it is not so to nearly as great an extent in the matter of cured meats, and it would appear to be practicable and advantageous to all concerned to maintain a more uniform standard of values for the raw material of this product, which is always in season and of a less perishable nature than many others.

To the farmer the prices prevailing in the last half year have been very satisfactory and encouraging, averaging nearly, if not quite, a dollar and a half higher than in the corresponding months of last year, and while remembering past

experience we would not counsel rushing into breeding on a greatly enlarged scale, we think it well to keep a few breeding sows, being sure they are of the right type to breed the most desirable stamp of stock, and if you have not that sort, sell what you have on the present high market, secure a better class, and be prepared to profit when the buyers come to the point of discrimination and paying in proportion to quality and suitability, which they have been so long charged with failing to do. Good, pure-bred breeding stock can be bought at reasonable prices even now, for values of pure-bred stock have not advanced nearly in proportion to those of commercial grades, and it is poor policy to breed from common stock, and especially from inferior sires. In every case be sure to breed to a pure-bred male, and, if possible, one of approved type, with the indications of a good constitution and a profitable feeder.

### Canada Must Excel in Agriculture.

The apparently chronic condition of rural exodus that has menaced agricultural prosperity for decades has probably led some Canadians to wonder whether we are to forsake the soil to a large extent and become more of an industrial and commercial nation. Despite rapidly improving rural conditions, it still seems the fashion for farmers to move into town and village; alluring do the city's opportunities still appear to ambitious youths, and more closely than ever, it seems, are these sifted out to recruit the ranks of industry and commerce.

One fact is clear, the days of frugal peasantry and serfdom will never dawn in Canada. We can never have an agricultural population whose standard of living is much below that in contiguous cities. Hence, unless rural conditions steadily improve, our free public schools will continue to thin the ranks of farmers by qualifying an increasing proportion of our young people for other occupations, thus lowering the rural community's standard of enterprise, depriving it of its most potent influence for progress, reducing the number of inspiring examples of success in farming, and widening the social gap between country and city. What then? The results could only be a reduced national prosperity, for agriculture must always be our chief basic industry. It is not so bad now, in the growing time when an immense body of immigration is trekking into our rich Northwest and providing an expanding home market for the manufactures of the East. But this condition will not always last. When the cream of our natural resources is skimmed off immigration will diminish, the swelling ranks of industry feel the pinch of restricted output, and the whole country will suffer. Export markets will afford some relief, but these are being keenly sought by countries having perhaps better facilities for cheap manufacture than we possess. If we at present require high tariff protection to preserve our home market, can we logically expect to become much of a manufacture-exporting country? We will always do some manufacturing, and the proportion of it, as compared to agricultural production, will grow as we become older. We require manufacturing to afford our people that diversity of employment essential to the building up of a strong self-contained nation; and then, too, the longer our industries are established and the more the home market expands, the more will they grow in scale and perfect their processes, enabling them the better to compete in foreign markets. The employment of electrical energy, also, will offset the

handicap which at least two of our great Provinces have suffered in the lack of cheap coal. All this is granted, and yet the most ardent industrial prophet must admit that the prosperity of our industries depends largely upon the presence of an agricultural population to consume a good share of its products and provide reasonably cheap food for its artisans. And, since we cannot depend upon an ignorant peasantry, content with primitive conditions and forced by lack of other opportunities to till the soil, we must develop an agriculture so profitable and so attractive by comparison with other occupations that capable men will be drawn to it, and these we must fit for agriculture as thoroughly by special education and otherwise as it is possible to do. This is the more necessary because our agricultural lands, though extensive, are not naturally profuse in production. They yield well because in their cultivation intelligence is applied by an energetic race.

We have not the cheap labor of Europe and Asia; nor do we want it, for it would lower our standard of citizenship; we have not the variegated production of our American rivals, and we can scarcely hope to triumph in manufacture as they have done. Our situation alongside this great, rich, absorptive nation is unique, giving rise to peculiar economic problems, and, when in conjunction with this we have to cope with the luxury-inclining influence of universal public education—education which admittedly tends in any other direction than the farm—it is plain that systems of agriculture obtaining in old countries will never do here. We require a more progressive agriculture than they, a more thorough and progressive agriculture than the United States. We require better farmers, better agricultural institutions of all kinds, and a public-school education that will incline our people to the occupations our country affords.

The lines along which we have been working we must continue to follow. We have achieved great triumphs in agriculture, but much greater things remain to be accomplished. We must thoroughly realize that our whole future depends upon our raising up and perpetuating a race of thrifty, progressive husbandmen—the bulwark of a free and mighty nation of the North.

Canada must excel in agriculture!

### Peace.

Since February 6th, 1904, when Japan and Russia severed diplomatic relations, until August 29th, 1905, when a basis for peace was agreed upon by the Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries, in conference at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, all the nations of the earth have watched with eagerness, amazement and horror the bloody game of war between Russ and Jap, and in proportion to the interest in the combat is the rejoicing over its termination. During peace negotiations the newspaper correspondents, and through them the general public, have been kept guessing, but not one correctly forecasted the outcome, and everyone gasped with surprise when the actual terms of peace were announced. Japan waives the question of reimbursement of war expenses, consents to a mutually acceptable division of Sakhalin, and withdraws her demand for the surrender of the interned war vessels and the limitation of Russian naval power in the East.

When terms so magnanimous conclude a war carried on without corruption, and characterized throughout by considerations of highest humanity, the combination is calculated to open the eyes of