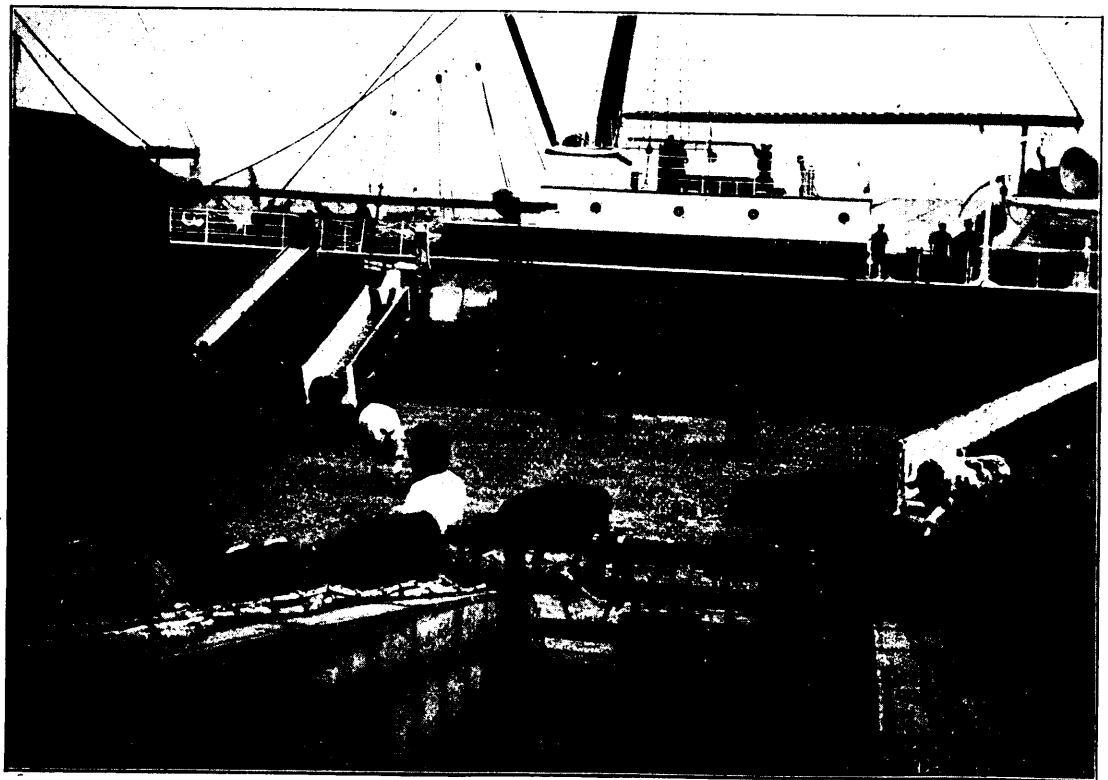


almost invariably receives a higher price for his hogs than the American farmer. It follows, therefore, that the bulk of American bacon does not come into direct competition with Canadian bacon, and the United States can hardly be classed as our rival in the English markets. Denmark, however, is Canada's greatest rival in the English markets, since Canada and Denmark both make a specialty of the same kind of bacon. If these facts are borne in mind, they will clear up much of the confusion regarding the reason why Canadian packers require a kind of hog entirely different from that required by American packers.

The second thought worthy of consideration is that regarding *quality*. If we are to maintain our lead over the United States, and compete successfully with Denmark, we must pay special attention to quality. It is not what we think, but what our customers demand that must govern our efforts to maintain and improve our position in England. Just so soon as we decide that what is good enough for the Americans is good enough for us, and should be good enough for any Englishman, just so soon will we lose our present profitable trade and become competitors of the Americans. Let any farmer study the American market

prepared for the breed. For example, a standard of excellence which calls for a heavy jowl, short, thick, arched-neck, broad shouldered and proportionally broad back, may meet the requirements of the American packer, but is just the opposite of what is wanted by the Canadian packer. The standard of excellence alluded to has been prepared by American breeders for hogs intended for the American trade, and since the American trade is entirely different from the Canadian trade, it follows that the same standard cannot be used for both. Therefore, if all our breeds of swine are bred to suit the Canadian packer, it will lead to a departure from the original standards of excellence and the evolution of a distinctively Canadian type in the case of some of the breeds.

It is not intended to dictate here what should or should not be done. The statements in the preceding paragraph are merely logical conclusions from our present knowledge of facts. It must not be forgotten, however, that the great bulk of market hogs are not purebred, but consist of grades and crosses, and the value of the various breeds for crossing purposes is something which has not yet been systematically tested. An animal may not be suitable for our



Unloading Cattle at the English Docks.

(By courtesy of *The Breeders' Gazette*.)

reports from time to time and compare the prices paid for hogs with those paid in Canada, and he will realize the importance of maintaining the quality of Canadian bacon and retaining our distinctively Canadian trade.

BREEDS OF SWINE.

In three years work with different breeds at the Ontario Agricultural College, the Yorkshires and Tamworths have been most highly commended by the packers; the Berkshires have come next, and the Chester Whites, Duroc Jerseys and Poland Chinas have generally been seriously faulted. The representatives of the three last mentioned breeds which we marketed, together with some of the Berkshires, would have been very good hogs for the American trade, but, on the whole, they did not meet the requirements of the Canadian packer. It is true that individuals among these breeds proved quite satisfactory for our export trade, indicating that it would be possible to evolve a type from these breeds which would be suitable for Canadian export bacon; but in forming such a type the breeder would be forced to depart from the standard of excellence

export trade in itself, but when intelligently crossed, its progeny may give every satisfaction. The question of crossing, however, cannot be gone into at present, since there is a lack of fully substantiated evidence on which to base judgment, and therefore its discussion would be largely a waste of time.

THE FEEDING PROBLEM.

It is claimed by some that any hog can be made suitable for export if properly fed. The fallacy of this argument is so apparent that it seems scarcely worth while to devote any attention to it, and yet the statement has been reiterated so often that perhaps it is worthy of a passing notice.

The striking differences presented by the carcasses of the animals slaughtered in the course of our experiments should be sufficient to convince any thinking man that food is not the only factor to be considered in producing export bacon. Given the wrong type of hog, no man can make it produce a firstclass carcass however skilful he may be. But while this is true, it is also true that the system of feeding has