

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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giving the prizes to animals that looked like living and paying for the food they ate.

In judging the dairy breeds of cattle the task of the judge is not so plain, since the ideal type in each breed is not so clearly defined, and men are not so generally agreed as to what is the standard of excellence when judging by conformation and the many outward indications which are admitted signs in a general way of their capability for high-class dairy production. This no doubt accounts for much of the apparently inconsistent work we sometimes see in the awards in these classes, for the many reversals of decisions at different shows in the same season by different judges, and for the many cases of dissatisfaction and complaint on the part of exhibitors. If the outward signs of milk and butter production were infallible there would be little difficulty in making selections, but every practical dairyman knows that as all signs fail in a time of drouth, so do all signs fail in an inferior cow. The corrugated backbone, the dimpled shoulder, the pelvic arch, the prominent abdominal cord, the large and tortuous milk vein, and the favorite escutcheon marks, may all be there, and her udder may be large and shapely, and yet the cow be quite below mediocrity as a producer, and she may be anything but a typical representative of the breed to which she belongs, and not by any means of the ideal type in general conformation and breed characteristics. The probabilities are that she is a good cow. She may be the largest milker and butter producer in the ring, but the probabilities are not always correct; the scales and the churn only can decide that question, and the milking test is the proper tribunal to settle it. The judge in the ring is expected to select the best animal in dairy conformation and the one that comes nearest to the ideal type of the breed he is judging. If it be a Jersey, he should be guided by the Jersey type and dairy conformation, and if an Ayrshire or a Holstein, by the most approved type of the breed and dairy conformation, always keeping in view the importance of a strong constitution and a well-formed and well-balanced udder and moderately large and well-placed teats, all of which may be found combined in an animal of beautiful and symmetrical proportions. The duty of the judge is to select from the material before him the animal most perfect in dairy conformation and the most perfect representative of the breed. His office is that of an instructor, an educator, a teacher, and he is there to give object lessons in dairy form and family type so that onlookers may keep the ideal

animal in their mind's eye, and in their breeding and selection of stock aim to secure and produce animals after the ideal pattern as nearly as possible. And if the judges are selected from among those who are competent and up-to-date in their ideas the standard so set up will be safe to follow, but if the judges appointed are behind the times or have not clear-cut ideas of what the times demand, and courage to work to that line, they will fail to fill the place to the best advantage in setting the standard for the improvement of the stock of the country. If these thoughts commend themselves to the minds of breeders and judges, and if they serve to inspire in the latter a sense of the serious responsibility of their position and their influence, or if these sentiments prove in any degree helpful to them in the discharge of their duties, the purpose of their publication will be, in like degree, accomplished.

### Canada's Opportunity in Hog Raising.

1. Great Britain and Ireland are losing thousands of hogs annually through swine fever, during the first 27 weeks of this year 27,048, diseased or exposed to contagion, being slaughtered, and the movement of hogs from place to place is restricted. There have been more outbreaks of the disease this year than last. Canada has not this obstacle to contend with. We have healthy hogs.
2. We can grow practically unlimited quantities of the choicest swine foods in the world.
3. Our climate and water supply for this industry in conjunction with dairying is unsurpassed on the globe.
4. We have unequalled pure-bred foundation stock, and the general hogs of the country are of a fairly good type.
5. Our breeders and farmers are progressive, enterprising, intelligent.
6. Our packers have already demonstrated their skill in sending pork products to England that are crowding the best for top place.
7. Our food products are growing more popular in Britain every day, and are being boomed by their intrinsic merit, private enterprise, and government effort.
8. The increase of our exports of bacon and hams to Britain in 1897 exceeded 1896 by nearly \$1,400,000.
9. Transportation and cold storage facilities are being improved.
10. England imports annually about \$55,000,000 worth of pork products. We sent last year less than \$6,000,000, while Uncle Sam furnished \$30,000,000, and little Denmark some \$14,000,000 worth.
11. New packing houses are springing up at various Canadian points, and old ones enlarged and improved.
12. Should the returns not pay the farmer, he can easily slacken production.
13. Swine raising but tends to conserve soil fertility.

MORAL.—Let Canada go up and possess the land.

### The Policy of the Irish Bacon Curer.

Canadian hog raisers and pork packers need not imagine that their Irish competitors will yield supremacy in the English bacon market without a struggle. The bacon curers of Ireland have spent money freely in order to secure the class of hogs they wanted and from which their handsomest profits were derived. Realizing that the foundation of success lay in breeding an improved type conforming to modern requirements, we find that since 1885 what is called the Bacon Curers' Association has expended not less than \$10,000, chiefly in the introduction of high-class boars, which as a rule are given free of cost to the farmers on condition that they are properly fed and cared for, used only for breeding purposes, and that neighbors are charged only the ordinary service fee. The Association employs inspectors who visit those portions of the country from which the curers obtain their hogs, and make reports, after which the animals are allotted. If a farmer is found to have what is considered a bad type of animal, it is taken from him and another supplied. Sometimes they are changed from one district to another. Good three-months-old sows are occasionally sold at about £1 each. The inspector visits the farms from time to time to see that the animals are properly cared for. These breeding animals, which have been chiefly Yorkshires, have been purchased from English, Irish and Scotch breeders. Something over a year ago the Bacon Curers' Association started a breeding establishment or model piggery

of their own near Limerick to provide boars for sections of the south and west districts of Ireland, and it is proposed to have a second one at Cork, each having an inspector who also keeps an eye on the feeding and general management of the hogs raised by farmers. It is hoped under this system they will get at the root of trouble experienced by the Irish trade in recent years and place it in a permanently prosperous condition.

### The Breeding, Management and Feeding of the Bacon Pig.

How shall I breed, manage and feed the bacon pig? Will he pay me as well or better than the heavy, fat hog? These are live questions with a host of Canadian farmers whose appetite for swine raising was keenly whetted lately by six cents per pound, live weight, Toronto prices. A multitude of councillors have suddenly sprung up to tell the farmers "how to do it," but some of them tend to confusion, not safety, Solomon to the contrary notwithstanding. This is the breed, says one; cross-breeds are the thing, contends another; "feed peas" is the panacea of a third. In an "instructive" circular the other day we read that corn feeding made *hard*, dry, coarse bacon, with *soft*, oily, yellowish fat. We once saw the magic "Canadian pea-fed" brand—the delight of political editors—going on boxes of bacon from hogs that never tasted a pea. A letter by a leading Toronto packing house, published in the report of Agricultural Commissioner Robertson, states, in reporting on the great excellence of wheat-fed pork, that the complaint in England about pea-fed pork was that both fat and lean were too hard. The farmer usually gets the blame for everything, including some of the drover's work, but we never hear that any defects in the bacon, "soft" or "hard," originate in the packing house. Seriously, however, we believe the fair-minded farmer will take the view that he should give heed to the character of hog wanted by the packer, who must understand the market end of the business, so far as is consistent with a reasonable margin of profit over cost of production. Let there be fair dealing on both sides and an effort to get on common ground. As far as the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is concerned, we aim to get at the facts based on the experience of our staff in breeding and in feeding swine many years for both butchers and export packers, extended observations and special researches into the results of experimental work, as well as into the methods pursued on farms where it is made a specialty. Intelligent farmers and breeders who have been engaged the greater part of a lifetime in swine raising must surely be credited with having learned something about their end of the business. We have endeavored to set forth elsewhere in this issue the needs of the bacon trade, according to the extended experience of the Ingersoll (Ont.) Packing Co.; have briefly reviewed the Danish practice in bacon production, according to Mr. Ginge, a native of Denmark, who is not only at the present time giving his undivided attention, as manager of the Canada Packing Company, to the production of bacon of high order, but who was for years closely identified with the Danish bacon trade with England; and in another article facts are given as to the plan of the Irish curers to improve their product.

BREEDING.—On one hand we have what is termed the special purpose bacon type, such as the pure-bred Tamworth, and at the other the heavy oblong style of hog common in the Western States. Besides the various pure breeds, we have the great army of varied grade and cross-bred swine. Canadian breeders for the past ten years have been aiming to conform the leading breeds more or less toward the bacon type, and this has had a corresponding effect on our swine generally, though many marketed are yet far from the packer's ideal.

Now the breed type of sire and dam fixes largely the character of the offspring. It is idle to fancy that any combination of feeds will convert the fat, dumpy Suffolk into the long, deep-sided, lean-meated bacon hog. As well expect a Jersey cow, that converts her food into rich milk, to be metamorphosed into a four-sided Aberdeen-Angus, beef to the heels. It is the *well-bred* hog too that converts his food into flesh at a profit. He has been bred for years with the object of fixing that power in his nature. For generations several of the chief breeds of swine have flourished, and to-day all merits are not, nor are they likely to be, wrapped up in one skin, be it red, white or black, and in our opinion no greater misfortune could befall live stock than to sweep away all breeds but one, even though the curers agreed as to which that should