

LOWER PRICES FOR PORK AND DAIRY PRODUCE

In a letter to the Weekly Irish Farmer, the report, P. B. Macnamara writes from Manchester concerning the outlook for bacon trade, and comment on the dairy produce situation as follows:

It is, perhaps, to be regretted that the Canadian pork-packers had not more of their products to place upon the English market during the months of August and September, as the selling price ruled high. The trade, however, on this side understand that the diminished shipments are due to the high price of hogs, which has rendered the trade so unprofitable. Values have subsided, and plentiful supplies of Danish, Irish and English bacon are sufficient to meet all buyers' requirements. The reduced shipments of bacon from the States are making very little difference to the price, and it is fortunate that they are not more, otherwise there would have been an inevitable slump.

It is confidently expected that the supply of hogs, both in Ireland and England, will be very large, and prices are very reasonable. This must have an effect on the future, and though naturally the months of October and November are not plentiful months for American and Canadian bacon, there is a strong indication of lower prices ahead.

CHEESE AND BUTTER SITUATION.

Little demand exists for cheese. Supplies are being sold but slowly, and prices are sagging. So far importers on this side have made little out of the business, the margin between buying and selling being so small. Everything depends on how well the few leading operators can hold up the market.

Though the reserved stocks are very light, there is no appearance of strength in butter, and New Zealand butter, which opened very strong, is showing a marked decline. Importers are determined to take no risks this year, and sellers in New Zealand have had to revise their selling price very considerably. The industrial strike, which is now affecting Lancashire and Yorkshire, is having a disastrous effect upon the consuming trade. As it may terminate very soon, it is impossible to say what the issue may be. If it should be a prolonged struggle, it will have an undoubted effect upon the value of provisions. At present it is exerting a sentimental influence, which may become actual before long.

FAIR DATES FIXED.

- Nov. 28th to Dec. 10th.—International Live-stock Exposition, Chicago.
Nov. 30th to Dec. 3rd.—Maritime Winter Fair, Amherst, N. S.
Dec. 2nd to 10th.—National Dairy Show, Chicago.
Dec. 7th to 11th.—Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph
Jan. 18th to 22nd.—Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show, at Ottawa.

AMATEUR EXHIBITORS AT THE WINTER FAIR.

Intimation from Secretary Westervelt gives the following regulation stating who will be debarred from showing in the amateur classes at the Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph, on December 7th to 11th:

"Animals to be eligible to compete in the amateur classes in the beef-cattle department, must be owned and have been fed by someone who has never won a first prize, or who was not a member of a firm at the time of the firm winning a first prize on beef cattle at exhibitions held at Toronto, London, Ottawa, or the Provincial Winter Fair at Guelph; or if exhibited by a firm, no member of the firm shall have won a first prize or have been a member of a firm at the time of the firm winning a first prize on beef cattle at exhibitions held at Toronto, London, Ottawa, or the Provincial Winter Fair at Guelph. Any person who has lived with or been employed for a term of one year by the persons disqualified above, will not be entitled to compete unless he has been living independently for at least two years. A statutory declaration will be required from each exhibitor competing for amateur prizes that he is entitled to compete under the above regulations.

"Amateurs exhibiting in sheep or swine classes will be subject to a similar regulation, except that 'beef cattle' will read 'sheep' or 'swine,' as the case may be."

This clause is not intended to include special prizes which have been won at any of the exhibitions above mentioned, and no one will be debarred from competing in the amateur classes simply because of a first prize having been won in a class designated as special.

LINDSAY AGRICULTURAL OFFICE TO HAVE ASSISTANT.

F. H. Reed, B.S.A., Instructor in Agriculture in the Collegiate Institute at Lindsay, Ont., and local representative of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, is to be assisted by D. A. McKenzie, B.S.A., of Paisley, Ont., in conducting the three-months' course in agriculture in the Collegiate, and a special five-days' judging course, from January 26th to 30th. Mr. Reed has succeeded in rendering valuable service to the farmers of Victoria County in such lines of activity as selection of seed and the eradication of weeds, suggesting improved methods in the handling of stock and assisting in drainage work, a representative of the local office being available to survey drainage systems for farmers, and give advice as to size of tile required and other details, the only charge being the travelling expenses of the man doing the work. In these and many other ways Mr. Reed is making his office a center of information and practical helpfulness, while the short course in judging held last winter was wonderfully successful, as doubtless the coming one will be.

AMERICAN INDUSTRY REVIVING.

The National Association of Manufacturers publishes in the current issue of the American Industries, its official magazine, a continuation of the statements on trade conditions, contributed by its 300 members, representing every branch of industry. The first series of statements showing improvement in commercial conditions, appeared in the October 15th issue of the magazine. The series now published indicates a continuation of this improvement, and for the most part an optimistic view of the business outlook.

The percentage of replies received to telegrams sent out indicate that an average of 135 men each will be added to the majority of manufacturing plants in the association by December 1st. The percentages show that at least one-half of the 3,000 members of the National Association of Manufacturers expect to add to their present force more than 200,000 workmen.

WORK FOR 650,000 MEN.

Taking this as a basis, says the article, it is safe to assume that the 13,000 manufactories which, according to the census of 1900 employed an average each of 100 men or over, will add at least fifty per cent. to their present force, making a total in round figures of 650,000 men. In other words, with the continuance of business confidence, the important manufacturing interests of the country will be enabled to increase their present force by more than a half a million workmen to meet the market demands for their productions.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

With reference to her recent trip West, Miss Laura Rose writes in a recent letter to "The Farmer's Advocate," that it is the intention of the British Columbia Government to introduce Women's Institutes, and she was asked especially to explain the objects and workings of the movement; so the good work which has made such headway in Ontario is going to spread.

If suitable arrangements can be made, the annual Canadian National Horse Show will be held in Toronto, week ending May 8th, 1909. This was decided at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Canadian National Horse Association, held last week in the Queen City. The following officers were elected:—George W. Beardmore, President; Dr. Andrew Smith, First Vice-President; J. J. Dixon, Second Vice-President; W. J. Stark, Secretary-Treasurer. Directors—Geo. W. Beardmore, Dr. Andrew Smith, Hume Blake, R. J. Christie, H. C. Cox, T. A. Graham, Cawthra Mulock, J. D. Montgomery, Geo. Pepper, H. C. Tomlin, Stewart Houston, J. J. Dixon, Dr. W. A. Young, Edmund Bristol and W. J. Stark.

Jas. J. Hill anticipates that unless the United States increases its wheat acreage considerably, and increases its yield besides, the time is not far off when in short years they will be obliged to import wheat from Canada.

Mineral Matter in Feeding Stuffs.

Scientific feeding of live stock is recognized as being an important factor in making profits from mixed farming. Dealing with the importance of lime and other mineral matter in feeding stuffs, Farmers' Bulletin 329, of the United States Department of Agriculture, says in part:

It is almost universally conceded that a definite proportion of protein to energy-yielding constituents—that is, a balanced ration—is essential for the best results. For carrying on life processes other constituents—namely, mineral matters—are equally essential, but the question of ash requirement is less generally insisted upon, perhaps owing to the lack of trustworthy information regarding the kinds and amounts which are essential and the many difficulties attendant upon experimental work along such lines.

Everyone concedes that mineral matter is required for the formation of bones, teeth, and other hard parts of the animal body, and that the various digestive juices, the blood, and other portions of the animal must contain certain mineral constituents in order that their proper functions may be carried on. Practically all feeding stuffs contain a variety of ash constituents, vegetable products being the most important source of mineral matter, as they are the principal food supply of domestic animals. Under usual circumstances it is believed that the mixed rations which are most commonly fed will supply the needed mineral matter.

IMPORTANT INSTANCE GIVEN.

To cite an instance of the important bearing of ash constituents upon animal production, it seems more than probable that the unsatisfactory results which follow the exclusive feeding of corn to pigs are not due entirely to a deficiency of

protein, as is sometimes claimed, but to a lack of ash constituents. When corn is supplemented by some concentrated feed, such as blood meal, tankage, or alfalfa hay, the ash content of the ration is increased, as well as the protein, and there is reason to believe that the improvement noted is in considerable measure to be ascribed to the increased supply of mineral matter.

That the character of the feed and its value for farm animals is dependent in considerable degree upon the mineral character of the soil, and particularly upon the lime content, is clearly shown by the recently-published studies of local-grown feeding stuffs, particularly those belonging to the grass family, carried on at the Hawaii Station. In the volcanic soil of the Hawaiian Islands there is little lime, and an examination of the ash constituents showed that Hawaiian forage crops were uniformly deficient in lime, and that the failure to obtain best results, which has been noted with an apparently well-balanced ration, may be attributed to this cause. In order to secure the best results in bone development, health, etc., Dr. E. C. Shorey, who carried on the studies referred to, believes that these Hawaiian feeding stuffs deficient in lime should be supplemented by others richer in this constituent, such as leguminous plants and sugar-house by-products, or by the use of some lime in drinking water, mixed with the feeds used, or applied to the soils producing the forage crops.

INVESTIGATIONS IN EUROPE.

Many European investigators have studied the relation of phosphorous and calcium compounds for various farm animals, particularly noteworthy work being that of Gouin and Andouard with calves. The consensus of opinion seems to be that an addition of mineral con-

stituents to the ration is desirable if for any reason enough is not supplied by the ordinary feeds. The deficiency may be made good by the selection of feeding stuffs containing the desired mineral elements in greater abundance, or by supplying mixtures of mineral salts, though the advantages of the latter method are perhaps less clearly demonstrated. It will be recalled, however, that such a use of mineral salts is in accord with general agricultural practice, salt, sulphur, wood ashes and similar material being very commonly given to live stock on many farms.

According to Professor Ingle, of the Transvaal Department of Agriculture, the use of "bone flour" or "bone meal" as a "lick" for cattle in districts in which the soil is deficient in lime, and in which certain bone diseases are prevalent, is much advocated in many quarters, and would appear to be useful. Bone ash would probably be preferable, and its use would avoid the danger of spreading disease which exists when raw bones are employed. Although bones or bone ash contain lime and phosphoric acid in exactly the same proportions that they are required in the building up of the bones of the animals fed upon them, it would seem better to provide a food in which the proportion of lime to phosphoric acid is higher, since the object in view is to amend the too low ratio which exists in the actual food of the animal.

The supply of common salt is absolutely essential, and in districts where this substance does not occur in the soil or water, it is advisable to supply it to animals in the form of "lick." The addition of lime or of bone meal to the "lick" may also be useful, though it is probable that these substances as "lick" are not so effective as when they form actual constituents of the food plants.

The same applies to sulphur, which is also often added to "licks." It should be pointed out, however, that, in addition to supplying the physiological requirements of the animals, salt, sulphur and other additions sometimes made to the "lick" act medicinally, sometimes as vermifuges, sometimes as purgatives.

CAUGHT.

An illustrious French prelate was at a great banquet in company with many members of the French nobility and many other ecclesiastics. The conversation turned upon the life-long experience of priests, their insight into the depths of human nature, and the strange secrets of which, in virtue of their office, they must become the depositaries. To point his remarks, his eminence said:

"For instance, gentlemen, the first confession I ever received was that of a murderer."

At that moment, and while expressions of wonder, interest and horror were still upon the lips of his auditors, the door opened and a nobleman of the highest rank, a man well known among them, entered the room. He saluted the company, and then paid his respects to the prince of the church, adding gracefully, as he turned to the company:

"You are perhaps not aware, gentlemen, that I had the honor to be his eminence's first penitent."

The consternation of the company and his eminence's state of mind may be imagined.

Wife, who always looks on the cheerful side of things, to husband who has put the lighted end of his cigar in his mouth—How lucky you were, dear, to discover it immediately.