

to investigate the situation the farmers of Canada will place more confidence in any report they may present than they will in a report made by government officials no matter how competent they may be. Co-operative pork packing is a success in Denmark and we now learn, by a report published in a recent issue of Farm and Dairy, that it is proving successful in Ireland. We feel that this feature of the situation should be looked into. A co-operative factory in Ireland has recently declared large dividends as a result of its first year's operations."

Mr. Fisher asked for the name of this factory and the representative of Farm and Dairy, who was present, promised to furnish him with it. "Is your desire," queried Mr. Fisher, "to investigate the export trade?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Flatt.

#### SITUATION INVESTIGATED.

"The prices paid for our export bacon," said Mr. Fisher, "are governed by the competition in the British market. As a matter of fact our bacon is sold for less in Liverpool and London than it is in Toronto and Montreal. After your department was here last year my department quietly conducted an investigation, for several months, to find the actual position of our bacon trade. That was one of the things we found out."

Mr. Sealey—"Did you look into the prices paid in Chicago and Buffalo, as compared with Toronto and Montreal?"

Mr. Fisher—"We found that the prices at those points were not enough lower to enable our packers to import either live hog bacon or green pork and still do a profitable business after the duty had been paid." Mr. Sealey claimed that the import figures did not bear out such a conclusion.

Mr. Fisher—"We found that Canadian packers, while at times they realized a slight profit, were losing money on the export bacon trade. They were, however, making money on the home trade. If they could make a new investment they would leave out the export trade. I believe that the packers have been paying as high a price for hogs in western Ontario as the condition of the export trade would allow. The export price will be governed by the prices paid on the English market. Our consumers are the ones who are paying high prices for what they get. In this connection, we found that the consumers in Montreal were paying less than those in Toronto."

#### THE DEALERS BLAMED.

Mr. Flatt—"Why is it that no matter how low a price the farmers are paid for their hogs, the price the consumers are charged by the packers is not lowered?"

Dr. Rutherford—"Our investigations indicated that it was the dealers and not the packers who maintained the prices charged the consumers, and that it was they who were deriving the most profit."

#### WON'T PRODUCE THE HOGS.

Mr. Fisher—"It seems to me that the difficulty is that our farmers are not willing to produce hogs at a price that will make an export trade profitable. We found that the prices our packers were paying for hogs were all that the prices paid for bacon in England seemed to justify. Of course, they were getting a good price out of the home trade."

Mr. Sealey—"If the packers are getting a good thing out of the home trade should not our farmers get a share of it? As it is now the packers are able to bring in just enough pork from the States to keep down the price they pay our farmers."

#### WAS THE PRICE PROFITABLE?

Mr. Fisher—"I desire to secure all the information on this subject possible. In my opinion, however, the price of hogs the last two years has been such that our farmers, by careful feeding, could make a fair profit feeding them."

Mr. Flatt and Mr. Brethour both contended that this was not the case until recently as the cost of feed was too great. Mr. Flatt claimed that this was proven by the large number of farmers who had given up raising hogs.

Mr. Fisher—"That does not prove it. They may simply have concluded that for the labor involved there was more money in something else. Not every farmer is in a position to make a profit raising hogs. They should do some dairying. They should, also, let their young hogs run on pasture."

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#### Shallow Plowing

Wm. Rennie, sr., York Co., Ont.

In "Farm and Dairy" of March 11th, Mr. Christie gives the results of his experience on the cultivation of the soil. Commencing with what he called Mr. Rennie's method, he accordingly



The Farm Residence of Mr. Wm. Miller, Wentworth Co., Ont., in Springtime.

Mr. Miller has demonstrated to all who know him, that a comfortable home, such as this, and also money, can be made from diligently pursuing a system of mixed farming, in which dairying has an important part. He, as can be said of many of his neighbors, has shown to their satisfaction, and to others, that of a truth it is a good thing to be a farmer.

fixed a piece of clay loam for roots, ribbed it up in the fall, and in the spring the centre of the ribs was so hard he could not work them up with a spring tooth cultivator. Evidently this was due to one of two causes: either he plowed the land too deep in the fall or he made the ribs too wide.

Presuming the land was a clover sod it should be plowed early in the fall about four inches deep, rolled as soon as plowed and harrowed to conserve moisture. This will start the weeds and weed seeds growing. In ten days cultivate and harrow, after which spread farmyard manure on the surface, 12 or 15 loads an acre. Then rib for winter, making ribs 20 inches wide. With this method the ribs are composed of rotted sod and farmyard manure, which is easily cultivated in the spring. To obtain a fine mould, harrow before cultivating.

A clay sub-soil should be loosened with a stiff tooth cultivator in order that the rain water may percolate in to the sub-soil.

In preparing corn land for grain and clover, rib in the fall and harrow and cultivate in the spring. If clay subsoil, loosen about ten inches deep. Leave the corn roots on the surface. Neither burn them nor bury them with the plow. There is no difficulty in spreading the roots evenly over the surface with a flexible or a lever harrow. With the latter, the teeth can be set at any angle, so that they will not clog when drilling in the grain. Set with the spouts sieg-sag, so that the corn roots will pass without clogging.

Sow the clover in front of grain spouts. After seeding, give a stroke with the harrow. Then roll in order to press the corn roots into the soil, where they will decompose and make a mulching for the grain and clover, thereby keeping the vegetable matter on the surface as in accordance with the teaching of science—the laws of nature.

#### Pointers Learned From Experience

G. H. Coughell, Elgin Co., Ont.

After many years of farm life there are a few things that I have only recently learned. First, in order to make a good cow of any breed, the calf must be developed. That is, its stomach must be gradually enlarged by feeding bulky, appetizing food in large quantities and not too often. After the first two weeks, it is sufficient to feed twice a day. We arrange our breeding so that our two year old heifers come in while on grass. We generally feed them some grain, es-

pecially for the two months before calving. This is the time to make the good heifer, a good cow. The heifer must be developed along producing lines as well as to develop her udder. It is a big mistake to milk a heifer daily before she comes in. The veins and udder are what we aim to enlarge. Before calving is the time to do it, as not one out of a hundred poor cows has a large udder. We find that a heifer seldom ever goes wrong and that not one in a thousand ever has milk fever with the first calf.

#### OTHER "WRINKLES"

Second, we find that by handling the cows by the tail, any cow can be taught to stand over by the "get over." Dairymen, try this practice. Just give the tail a little twist either way you wish with the "get over" accompaniment, and you will never get kicked; in a short time the word is all sufficient.

Third, we have found that instead of carrying the stubs of the cornstalks to the farthest corner of the barnyard and piling them carefully up to keep dry and take two years to get in a shape to handle with a fork, by putting them in the most frequented place and mixing them with the other manure, they become soft and handle with no objection from the men. They also take up a lot of the liquid manure and become as good a corn grower again as anything on the farm.

If there are no fruits on the farm, plant a few trees and bushes this spring. You will never regret it.