

for wools not grown in Canada. The position of the world wool market is very firm indeed. To quote from the report of the wool sales held in London on the 11th April: "Competition was thoroughly strong and well distributed. The demand for cross breds has been lively." There is no indication from any quarter that the market for wool will be overstocked or that prices will recede. The contrary, rather, is the case. Russia and France are purchasing heavily in Great Britain, while United States and Canada are not easily able to obtain their requirements. Farmers unquestionably, are in a very strong position as regards the sale of their wool this year.

The maintenance of present prices can have only one result. Already renewed interest is being evidenced by farmers who have not kept sheep for years. Ram sales were particularly good last fall. More sheep are being bred in many of the provinces. We believe that this year will show a further extension of the business. As a matter of fact, no farm animal can be made more profitable, at the present time, to its owner. The keeping of sheep for the sake of the wool alone may become an economic necessity. With grade lambs selling on the open market for more than pure breds brought two or three years ago, a revival of the sheep industry in Canada may confidently be anticipated.

HOGS

As is well known, hogs have also reached an unprecedentedly high level—\$11.65 per cwt. being paid for fed and watered, on the Toronto market. The fact that, even with live hogs at this figure, shipments of bacon are regularly going forward to England, will serve to illustrate very clearly the demand for that product on the British market. Without doubt, Canada stands in a better position today to develop a permanent bacon trade with Great Britain than has ever been the case before. To do this, however, there must be a volume of supply. There is very good reason to believe that, although prices cannot be expected to remain at the present high level, the demand for bacon, in the face of the supply that can be obtained, will be such as to hold the market in a very firm condition, both during and for a considerable period following the war.

Great Britain's imports of bacon in 1915 amounted to £25,441,460. From Canada she obtained only £3,324,511. The fact that Canadian bacon has been selling at an advance of from 10 to 12s. per cwt. above American and at not more than 12s. under the nominal quotation of Danish, illustrates very clearly to what extent Canada could increase her export trade, had she a sufficient quantity of hogs to make this possible. The English merchant and the British consumer will buy Canadian bacon today, quality being equal, in preference to that from any other country in the world, with the possible exception of Ireland. Not only so, but an enormous market exists also for hams, frozen pork and pork cuts of various descriptions. This market is as remunerative as the bacon trade, although it is not likely to prove as constant. The West is producing a great quantity of rough grain this year. As compared with wheat it will probably be relatively low in price. It should, therefore, be a sound business proposition to breed as many sows as would provide each farm, with such a number of feeding hogs as can be conveniently handled and suitably finished. They should, however, be so selected and mated as to maintain the approved bacon type. Unless this be done, we cannot compete with Ireland and Denmark and will lose status on the British market.