

GOSSIP.

FLATT'S SALE OF IMPORTED YORKSHIRES.

The history of Canada's successful export bacon trade has been rapidly made and covers but a few years. The evolution of a practically new and distinct type of swine in this country in less than a decade is a remarkable accomplishment in the science of breeding, and one reflecting credit upon the intelligence and genius of Canadian breeders, as well as upon their ambition and enterprise in rising to the requirements of the situation by so promptly providing the class of product called for by a discriminating but profitable market. In the attainment of this object, it cannot be denied that the Large English Yorkshires, with their great length and depth of sides, strong, slightly arched backs, well-sprung ribs, smooth shoulders and fleshy loins, have played a leading part, setting the standard of type to which breeders of other breeds have sought to attain. That the type is a profitable one has been amply attested by the improved market prices obtaining in recent years and by the increased prolificacy of sows of this lengthy, roomy, motherly sort. It makes a wide difference in the farmer's revenue whether a sow is capable of carrying and successfully mothering a dozen pigs of only half the number, and it is this capacity and qualification, together with their growthy nature and tendency to produce lean meat instead of fat, that has won for the Yorkshires their present popularity. A hog that can readily be grown to 500 lbs. or over at one year old without being made "hog fat," but covered mainly with juicy lean meat, is the kind the twentieth-century farmer wants and is going to have. The "lard hog" has seen his day, and is fast being displaced by the baconer that banks on his muscle, and the former will ere long cease to be a readily salable proposition, as he is now an unprofitable one compared with his big brother of the bacon sort.

England provides the best market in the world for what are known as good Wiltshire sides. Denmark, Ireland and Canada at present produce the best bacon, and it is largely made from Yorkshire hogs and their crosses. Many of the large pork-packing firms in England have such a decided preference for Yorkshires that they strongly advocate and advise their use by the farmers of that country, and to show their faith in the fitness of their favorites for the purpose of producing the most suitable product have purchased male animals of this breed by the hundred and sent them to farmers in each district for use, free of charge, while the demand for Yorkshire boars from many European countries for the improvement of their product has grown to very large proportions. The Yorkshires have taken kindly to Canadian conditions, improving under the intelligent and judicious methods of management prevailing here, and requiring only the occasional introduction of fresh blood by importation from the fountain head to maintain their stamina and the vigor of constitution which is essential to the best results in the breeding of any class of stock. That they have admirably filled the bill for the bacon hog is amply demonstrated by the record that at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, Canada's greatest fair, the first prize for the best export bacon hogs, open to all breeds and judged by representatives of the packing houses, has been won the last four years in succession by Yorkshires, and that at the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, the Smithfield of Canada, for the last five years, with packers as judges, the Yorkshires have won in every instance the first award for export bacon hogs, while at the International Live Stock Show at Chicago, in 1901, in a competition of 100 entries for the best bacon carcass, D. C. Flatt & Son won first place with a Yorkshire. It is this grand record in which the Messrs. Flatt have played a prominent part, as well as their splendid success as prize-winners in the Yorkshire breeding classes in the same show.

(Continued)



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