

CLASS 25. BACON HOGS.

Sec.	1st.	2nd.	3d.	4th.	5th.
1. 4 Improved Berkshires....	\$25	\$15	\$10	H.C.	C.
2. 4 Improved Yorkshires....	25	15	10	H.C.	C.
3. 4 Tamworths.....	25	15	10	H.C.	C.
4. 4 Chester Whites.....	25	15	10	H.C.	C.
5. 4 Poland Chinas.....	25	15	10	H.C.	C.
6. 4 Duroc Jerseys.....	25	15	10	H.C.	C.
7. 4 Suffolks or Essex.....	25	15	10	H.C.	C.
8. 4 Grades or Crosses.....	25	15	10	H.C.	C.

H.R.H. PRINCE OF WALES' PRIZE.

9. 2 Best Dressed Hogs to be brought to the show alive and killed the second day of the exhibition..... 25 15 10 H.C. C.
10. 4 Best Bacon Hogs, any breed..... 25 15 10 H.C. C.

Provision for killing has been completed and arrangements have been made whereby the animals competing in section 9 can be sold in Brantford for the highest market price for dressed pork.

RULES GOVERNING CLASS 25.

1. No animal deemed unsuitable for bacon purposes by the judges shall be awarded a premium, but no premium shall be withheld merely because there is no competition.

2. All animals shown as pure-breds must be recorded and the certificates of registration handed to the person in charge of the ring as soon as the animal enters. This certificate may be inspected by the public if any desire to do so. In case there is no complaint the certificate shall be handed to the exhibitor when the animal leaves the ring.

3. Pure bred animals shall not be shown in the class for grades and crosses.

4. Hogs which are meeting pork packers' requirements weigh between 160 and 200 lbs. They are long in the body, deep in the side, narrow in the shoulder, with small head and hams in proportion to the body, and not too fat; the ideal weight is between 170 and 180 lbs.

Hogs in the bacon class will be judged by competent and reliable judges chosen from the packing industry.

5. Other rules governing the Swine Department will apply to class 25.

Selling Dairy Products on Commission.

Mr. Thomas McAulay, of McAulay Bros., Glasgow, Scotland, is on a visit to Canada with a view to establishing a business connection with some of the leading Canadian cheese factories and creameries. His object is to do business direct with the manufacturers and to sell their goods on commission. Mr. McAulay believes that the factorymen can do better in disposing of their goods in this way than by selling outright to dealers on this side.

In some respects we are inclined to this view, but it is doubtful if many of the factorymen, especially those connected with the cheese factories, can be induced to dispose of their product on a commission basis. The co-operative character of our dairy industry forbids this. The patron who supplies milk is not always willing to wait a month or two for his pay after the product leaves the factory, and, unless a liberal advance is made almost sufficient to cover the entire value of the product, it is difficult to get his consent. If the factories were owned by private parties or companies who had the power to do as they pleased with the product something might be done in the way of establishing a commission business in connection with the disposal of our dairy products. But so long as they are controlled by the patrons and so long as there are dealers on this side who are willing to purchase the product outright and pay the cash for it, it is doubtful if any other than the present way of selling the product will come largely into vogue. Several years ago a strong Canadian company was formed for doing business on this principle. A large number of the cheese factories in the west contracted with this company to sell their cheese on commission in Great Britain to the highest bidder. At the end of the year the results were not considered sufficiently satisfactory to enable the company to continue the business, and as many of the factories had to wait a long time for returns they also were not inclined to continue to sell on the same basis. Since then very little cheese has gone forward on commission, with the exception of cheese rejected by a regular buyer, and which the factories refused to accept a lower price for than what it had been sold at.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, we are inclined to think that if our dairy products were sent forward regularly on a commission basis it would be much better for the producer. There would, of course, be certain drawbacks in getting a business under way, but, when once the trade were established, good results would follow. Of course, there are many instances in the present method of disposing of this product in which the producer reaps a benefit because of the speculative element in the trade, but on the whole the after effects of such speculations are not always wholesome. We have a striking instance of it in regard to the outlook for the present season's trade. Last fall, it is now claimed, the prices paid for cheese were too high, and dealers lost money. The producer profited by the high prices of last year, but he is likely not to do so well this season because of the money lost by dealers on last year's product. Therefore, on the whole, the producer is in no better position than if he had received a lower price last year and the outlook were better this year. Considered in every way, the speculative element in trade is not always the best thing for the producer, whether it be in connection with cheese, wheat, or any other product. The reaction which inevitably follows is always felt most keenly by the producer. If all produce were sold on commission according to its merits, the speculative element would be eliminated, and there would not be the variation in prices which we have at present. We would like to see this thing tested by a few of our good factories for a year or two. We have very little doubt that, if the experiment were continued long enough, better results would be shown than under the present method of doing business.

Hired Help on the Farm.

The number of letters which we have received, and which we have published since we first referred to this subject shows that it is a vital question and of intense interest to the farming community. There is no more important problem in connection with agriculture in this country than that of hired help on the farm. To farm successfully every foot of land must be well worked and every head of stock, whether it be the horse, the cow, the hog, the sheep, or even the hen, must be carefully looked after, and especially during the winter months. If the farmer has not the help within his own family to do all the work necessary on his farm he will be compelled to get it elsewhere. In some districts it is not difficult to obtain this help, but in others good hired help is very scarce. We believe that hired help is very scarce the present season all over Ontario owing to the great rush of people to Manitoba and the West. If this rush of people westward continues, as it is likely to, if present favorable conditions there are maintained, the question of obtaining sufficient help to work Ontario farms as they should be worked is a very difficult one indeed. If the present exodus of people to the West continues it will not be a question of whether a farmer will engage a married or a single man, but whether he will be able to get help at all or not.

What the Ontario farmer and his brother in the Eastern Provinces should consider is how the present tendency regarding hired help on the farm is to be remedied. Notwithstanding what has been said to the contrary in the numerous letters already published and by the two contributors below we are still strongly of the opinion that one way of retaining the good farm help in this country is to engage by the year and to make provision for the employment of married men on the farms. The cases cited where married men have proved failures or rogues do not affect the principle that we are contending for, that in order to preserve intact the home life on the farm, and to retain the good steady men for work on the farm the employment of married men the year round will be far more effectual than engaging a single man for a few months each year. The ambitious, steady young man when out of work during the winter months

will not loaf around, waiting for his old position to become vacant again, but will seek steady employment elsewhere which, if he obtains, he is not likely to relinquish for his old summer job on the farm.

The following letters on this subject, though covering much the same ground as some of the others, will be read with interest by those in touch with this question:

Editor of FARMING:

This hired man talk is getting very interesting. You asked: What becomes of the young single men who are now employed on our farms, and whether they stick to farming? Well, I think that those who take any interest in farming do stay on the farm, but those who don't take any interest in it and who just loaf about the country will not likely stick to it very long. Then if these men get married they become a curse to the country, as our neighborhood found out last fall. One of our neighbors had a married hired man, and what was the result? Well, in the end our hen houses had to suffer some for it.

This is not the only case of this kind that I know of. An uncle of mine had a house built for his hired man, and he had to go back to the single man for the others, for the most of them seemed to believe that it was cheaper stealing their meat and vegetables than to buy them. So if that is the case all over, I think that the single hired man will be the cheapest in the long run. If we will go in for married hired men it will have a tendency to make the loafers get married, and then the country will soon be overrun with these "happy-go-lucky" fellows. In our neighborhood we have already too many of them. But I admit that a good married hired man is a help to the farmer; but I think also that a good married hired man was, or should have been, a good single hired man before he was married.

R. B. MARTIN.

Editor of FARMING:

Your paper reads well, and is deserving of support. I read with a great deal of interest the discussion of "Farm Help," and felt like taking a hand in it. I have had half a century's experience, and ought to know something about it. If a farmer will only keep one hired man, there are several reasons why it is better that he should board in the home and be a single man. If you want a horse harnessed after hours, and your hired man lives only a short distance from the house, you will have to do it yourself, and it will be the same if you come in the evening, cold and tired, you will have to look after your own team. If your wife wants something done unexpectedly after hours, you or she will have to do it. If the doctor is wanted in a hurry, or a friend sends a telegram to meet him at the station, it is a great satisfaction to be able to say: "John, will you slip out and tell the doctor we would like him to call and see the baby?" or "John, I have just received a telegram from a friend to meet him at the station, will you harness Dan and do it for me, I have some writing to do?" We have tried the plan. I built a snug little cottage nearly forty years ago, and tried the married man plan. In my case it has not been a success. I have had a fine young fellow living with me since 1895. He married in March, 1897, and moved into the cottage in May. He is not with me now, as his wife is a failure. He could not wait on his wife and earn his wages on the farm, and so had to leave.

The ten hour system, which is all right off the farm, is not so nice on the farm, although, take the year round, I would be well satisfied with a ten hour day. The system that too many of us have got into of only keeping help six months of the year is a bad one. It is the prime cause of the scarcity of hired farm labor. The men discharged in the fall have to look somewhere for work, and if they can't get it at home they must go where it is to be had, and when they once get away they are almost compelled to stay away. Some are very apt to say that we cannot make a man earn his wages in the winter time, and there is, perhaps, truth in it; at the same time I can't help thinking, with the work that may be done even in the winter, a farmer ought to have *think* enough in him to make at least one hired man pay his way on most farms.

The great development of the dairy interest in the last decade will help all farmers in dairy districts to find winter work for farm laborers.

HOWARD FREEMAN.

Prospect Farm, Point de Bute, N.B.

Canada's Export Egg Trade.

Canada sent to Great Britain last year \$97,207 worth of eggs. Though this amount is small, yet it shows a considerable increase over previous years, and the trade promises greater expansion in the near future. It is only of late years that Canadian eggs have been known in the large trade centres of Great Britain. Hitherto Canadian eggs have been sent to Liverpool and Glasgow, but they are now finding their way to London, Bristol and Manchester. There is now a direct line of steamers between Manchester and Montreal, which affords a good opportunity for developing a trade with that city. There have been only sample lots