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The 225 Pound Hog is Popular

Why Packers Discriminate Against Heavies

SINCE farmers have been informed of the world scarcity of fats, and have been asked to help relieve the shortage through the production of more pork, there has been considerable questioning in regard to the packers' standard for weights of hogs. The weight limit for select hogs throughout Canada is pretty generally 250 lbs. and in the minds of many swine producers the supply of fats would be increased were this standard raised.

At a recent meeting held by the Dominion Live Stock Commissioner in connection with the new Live Stock Act, at which meeting were gathered certain producers, commission men and packers, this subject came up for discussion. While the packers' standard does not come within the jurisdiction of the act, it was felt that such an opportunity for the discussion of this problem might not often present itself. One of the delegates gave his opinion as to why the standard should be raised from 250 to a 300-lb. limit before hogs were docked in price. He stated that after a hog reaches 250 lbs. it takes comparatively little feed to bring it up to 275 or 300 lbs. He thought that if any type of hogs was to be docked in price, he pointed out the loss from marketing hogs under 250 lbs.

E. C. Fox, general manager of the Wm. Davies Company, upheld the position of Canadian packers in discriminating against heavy hogs. "Heavy hogs," said Mr. Fox, "were all right when Canada was largely engaged in lumbering and railway construction, when we had a demand for fat pork. The hog market of to-day, however, does not cater to such a trade, but rather to the British market for Wilshire sides, and for this purpose fat hogs cannot be used. The British Commission which purchases bacon through its New York house, pays select prices for Wilshire sides, weighing 40 to 75 lbs. A 250-lb. hog makes an 80-lb. side, and packers are heavily penalized by the buying commission for fat sides running over 75 lbs."

"I see no early hope of a lowering of standards for select hogs," continued Mr. Fox. "We must take the long view in this matter. Just now we might be able to market a few heavy hogs because other countries are buying besides Britain. Canada has, however, built up a bacon type, and our export prices have gradually been built up correspondingly higher than that paid to United States shippers, because of our bacon reputation. Shall we allow a temporary market condition to break up the reputation we have already achieved for Wilshire sides? In my opinion 250 lbs. is the limit for select hogs."

Dr. J. G. Rutherford, of Calgary, stated that Alberta is probably the hardest hit by the 250-lb. maximum. Many of the swine breeders of Alberta are Americans, and have brought with them Duro-Jerseys and other breeds of hogs of the fat type. On all the C. P. R. farms, however, Berkshires are bred. Dr. Rutherford believed that it would be a good move if Western packers would offer a bonus for hogs of the bacon type over the heavy American breeds.

Mr. O. W. Waller, general manager of the Swift Canadian Packing Company, stated that the number of hogs marketed in Canada, over 250 lbs., is very small. He pointed out that customs change in the market for meat animals. "The 250-lb. hog," said Mr. Waller, "is out of style to-day. Even the American market is demanding a light hog now. Chicago is now paying select prices for hogs that come within the limits of 180 and 225 lbs. A big evolution is taking place in this regard throughout the United States. It is from such light hogs that the breakfast bacon which we get on our markets is made, not from the

250-lb. hog, I believe," concluded Mr. Waller. "That Canadian farmers should market no hogs weighing less than 170 lbs. and none weighing more than 225 lbs., except stags, old brood sows, etc."

Farm Management

Arthur Peas

THIS variety stands to-day among field peas as the earliest in commerce that will give profitable yield. There are earlier field varieties and very early varieties among the garden sorts, but they will not return, when grown for general purposes, a commensurate profit on the labor expended. It has held true, as it does in practically all classes of grain, that the advance has been made at a slight sacrifice in yield, but the Arthur matures some three to ten days in advance of the Golden Vine and Prussian Blue varieties, depending entirely on the district, this slight loss is a negligible factor in the parts of Canada where, if the Arthur variety were not grown, it would be practically impossible to grow peas with either satisfactory or profit.

This variety serves its best purpose in the northern districts, within the fifty-first and fifty-fourth parallels in Western Canada and all the northern districts of the eastern provinces extending up to the fifty-first parallel. Small districts lying within the defined territories, subject to both late spring and early fall frosts, may find the Arthur variety too late for their peculiar conditions. It must not be assumed that this variety is only suitable where its early maturity offsets its slightly lower yield. In the northern provinces, in many cases, it yields equally well with the Golden Vine and Prussian Blue varieties and, on account of its superior color and quality, frequently commands a higher price on the markets. The Golden Vine and Prussian Blue varieties are, however, old standard sorts which give high yields, and wherever the grower has had success with either of these, troubled by the problem of maturity, we would not recommend him to change for the Arthur. In the extreme southern parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, we would recommend these varieties in preference to the earlier sort—Experimental Farms Note.

Have the Seed Tested

It has been estimated that if first class seed were sown on all farms the crop of the country would be increased by fifty per cent. This cannot be verified definitely, but the annual loss caused by the use of seed other than the best is beyond all doubt surprisingly great.

The present situation, with the world scarcity of cereals and the shortage of farm labor, urgently demands that the best possible selection be made from our 1917 grain crop for seed. This will bring about a great increase in production with a minimum increase in labor requirements. The proper procedure is for each individual farmer to make sure now, that he has pure seed of strong vitality for his spring sowing.

The energy and vitality of seed can be ascertained only by germination test. Mere inspection is untrustworthy. Grain of very good weight and excellent appearance is frequently found to have a considerable part killed outright, and the rest so weakened that the young plants are started with too little energy to withstand bad weather, or give a high yield. A poor crop is often said to have been the result of adverse conditions when if strong seed had been



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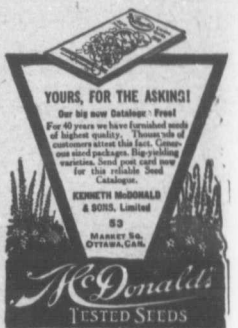
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BOYS & soldiers been secured. Tests may be done free number for of Laboratory, or seeds are coun or cans of soil place. For all taken to have representation of sent to the the should be enclosed envelopes or more than one sent, each in a distinct, showing four ounces of the germination should be addressed to the Ottawa. They mails if not ex weight.

Cooperative Era

THIS experience of the co-ordinated years. The objects have carried on the experience of weeds, the furnish data for the best method of various troubles in the Province. Before experiments be there was very knowledge conce of weeds.

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