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Result of a Bacon Curing Test.

Some months ago a shipment of typical Canadian bacon hogs ("Wiltshire" brand) were purchased in Western Ontario for Armour & Co., of Chicago, Ill., in order to cure and sell abroad as a comparative test alongside the cured products from hogs bred and fed according to Western States methods. The Armour people now authorize the statement that the bacon turned out entirely satisfactory, commanding a premium in the English market, as might naturally be expected, but the premium was not sufficient to cover the extra expense of purchasing the live hogs in Canada and then paying on them the Dingley duty. Judging by references to this subject in Western stock papers, the Western hog raisers will be slow to adopt modern bacon pig principles. Ephraim is joined to his idols. They excitedly resent the idea of swine improvements by the introduction of what one journal styles the blood of "the wild hog or his semi-civilized cousin."

Rip Van Winkle Advice to Dairymen.

According to the daily papers, the Montreal Cheese and Butter Association has been petitioning the Dominion and Provincial Ministers of Agriculture to warn buttermakers (and we notice some circulars are being distributed) against the use of "preservatives," most of which, as our readers are aware, contain boracic acid, and which would bring the product within range of the British Adulteration Act. This advice is all right, though somewhat belated. Five or six years ago, when some of the "special purpose dairy papers" were busy advertising one of these substances, called "preservative," pushed by a United States firm, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE refused a tempting offer and instead of inserting their advertisement published an exposure of the deleterious nature of the substance and warned dairymen against its use as not only dangerous but needless. On various occasions since we have repeated the warning for the special reason that it became evident that the British authorities were determined—for the double object of protecting home producers and consumers, so they claimed—to put a ban upon imported products generally, on much the same principle as their embargo against Canadian cattle, and especially so in the case of dairy and other foods. Our advice to the Canadian dairyman was to make and sell products which, like Cæsar's wife, must be above even suspicion. As has been pointed out a thousand times, what was wanted was absolute cleanliness and up-to-date dairy methods (including the use of a suitable quantity of pure dairy salt) from the cow and her food to the butter package in transportation. That formula still holds good. Subsequently reports appeared of the successes of Australian butter in which "preservitas," a similar substance, was used. At our request the representative of the Canadian Government in Australia, Mr. J. S. Larke, investigated the matter there more than a year ago and found our suspicions well grounded, adding his most emphatic warning to Canadians against resorting to any such expedient, for the reasons already stated. These warnings were widely repeated in the newspapers, so that for years our dairymen have been thoroughly on the guard. The wisdom of this became very apparent when the United States Secretary of Agriculture, on the strength of a consular report more distinguished by audacity than veracity, published in his official annual report last fall an unfounded slander reflecting upon the character of Canadian butter shipped to England. With unblushing Yankee assurance he claimed that "the products of the United States and Denmark have been found to be the only absolutely pure butter imported into England; all others, including the product of the British Colonies, contain more or less injurious ingredients used as preservatives." From various quarters in the Dominion naturally indignant pro-

tests reached us, the Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, Prof. James W. Robertson, among others in our last Christmas number, branding the slander as utterly untrue and without foundation. The letter which we published in our last issue from the well-known importing firm of Liverpool, Eng., Messrs. Hodgson Bros., shows that Canadian butter has already from the low place once occupied forged to the top, like Canadian cheese, and being pure, clean, and of top quality, does not need to be doctored by so-called preservatives. Had the worthy members of the Montreal Association of dealers been attentively reading the FARMER'S ADVOCATE their anti-preservative squib might have been fired off a year or so earlier when the real campaign was on, but better late than never.

Transportation of Stock Eastward.

Breeders of pure-bred stock have by combined effort and persistent agitation succeeded in securing from the trunk lines of railway a classification and tariff of freight rates on shipments which are a decided improvement on those which formerly prevailed, and which it is safe to say are already bearing fruit in the shape of a largely increased volume of business, both for the railways and the breeders. Shipments of pedigreed stock from Quebec and Ontario to the Northwest we venture to say have been in the last two months largely in excess of those of any corresponding term in the history of the railways carrying freight west of the Ontario Province line. Unsatisfactory transportation facilities and freight rates for east-bound pedigreed stock still prevail, and we submit that there is yet work for the breeders' associations in the direction of seeking improvements whereby the farmers of the Maritime Provinces may have as good facilities and as favorable freight and express rates as are enjoyed by those in the West. In our issue of April 1st we published a letter from the Minister of Railways in reply to a communication we had addressed to him asking whether it was his intention to make the same concessions to stock breeders for the carriage of pure-bred animals on the Intercolonial as have been granted by the Western railways. In his reply he stated that the I. C. R. tariff in that regard is now very much lower than that of other railways, and that it was a question as to whether or not further reductions should be made, adding that it was his disposition to give it very careful consideration. We have not had an opportunity of comparing these tariff rates, but we presume the breeders' associations will look into the matter and make such representations to the authorities as the subject seems to demand. The question of express rates and facilities for the carriage of crated sheep, pigs, calves and poultry is also one which the breeders' associations might well take up with a view to securing more favorable terms. In this connection we publish in this issue a letter from Mr. J. A. MacDonald, of Prince Edward Island, showing the very primitive, tedious and unsatisfactory system of express service which prevails in that island—a system which would have been more in keeping with the commercial conditions of half a century ago than with the requirements of the present day. These are live questions, which concern the stockmen of both the East and the West, and should not be allowed to rest until the required improvements are granted and secured. In the meantime our columns are open for the discussion of this and kindred questions, and we trust our stockmen will not be backward in stating their views, backed by such a presentation of facts as they can marshal in support of their contentions.

We publish in another column the text of an interesting proposal presented by Prof. J. W. Robertson, by direction of Hon. Sydney Fisher, to the House of Commons Committee on Agriculture, for the establishment and maintenance of Illustration Stations for farmers in each county, and which merits careful consideration.

The Farmer and Horse Breeding.

It may seem to many that during the last two or more years the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has said enough along the lines of advice to farmers to breed more but only good horses. It does seem, however, at this time, that we are not yet quite awakened to the real situation. A glance at almost any district shows that good horses are not plentiful, and the alarming feature is that good sound draft brood mares are indeed scarce. Were one to go through any district of the country comparatively few good, sound, valuable horses between four and seven years old would be found; the fact is, many farmers are doing their work with old, unsound horses, and in a few cases with some three- and four-year-olds. True, some of the older mares are raising foals, but comparatively few farmers are in a position to raise enough for their own use, to say nothing of preparing to meet the improving market demand. The reasons for this are easy to understand; horses could be bought cheaper than they could be raised, and among those that would bring a fair price were the breeding mares. The result is just a repetition of history—the depression caused largely by an ill-directed overproduction of inferior horses brought its own cure. Inferior, no-purpose stuff is no longer raised, the \$5 service fee mongrel-bred stallion has been castrated, and we, in a sense, have to commence again with too few of the really good foundation stock. It might be a good thing for the future of our horse-breeding should the Government step in and by legislation enact some safeguard by inspection that would avoid the great loss entailed by such indiscriminate breeding as was followed some eight to fifteen years ago. In place of this, however, we have the experience of the past, which should guide us in using only the best pure-bred sires obtainable on all the good mares of the same or similar breeding at our command.

For two reasons, all the good mares left in the country should be bred this season: One, for self-preservation, as farmers need these young horses as soon as grown to do their farm work, and exporters will need them to keep up the foreign demand, which should not be lost sight of, but should be cultivated and provided for. There is no danger of a glut of good horses in four, five, or ten years. Many of the mares are old, and as some have not bred for four or five years, a large proportion will never breed again. The aim should be to breed large, good horses, and when the foal has arrived feed and care for him well, and thus grow him to his full capacity, instead of a dwarfed chunk of 1,300 to 1,400 pounds, when he might have been made to reach 1,600 in salable form.

It is hoped that many farmers will take advantage of the favorable railroad rates during the present week and visit the Toronto Horse Show, where the types to seek to produce can be seen of all breeds and classes. Saddle horses and those for heavy harness carriage purposes will be especially in evidence, as well as draft and road types, besides military remounts, brought out in perfection of form.

Our Agricultural Shows.

BY JAMES ELDER, "HENSALL FARM," MANITOBA.
In undertaking to suggest improvements in our local shows the first step should be to improve the educative facilities. Local shows should bear the same relation to provincial or central shows which common schools bear to high schools or universities. To many, country schools are but stepping-stones to university education, but to many others they furnish all the education ever received, and with no higher education thousands become useful members of society. So with local shows. Many who commence by competing at our local shows.