

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

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THE DOMINION.

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Improvements in the Canadian Packing Company's Bacon Plant.

The Canadian Packing Company's slaughtering and bacon-curing plant, situated near London, Ont., and managed by Mr. J. H. Ginge, has recently reopened, after several weeks' shut-down while an extension of capacity was being effected and improved equipment introduced. This plant has been running several years under Danish methods, being conducted by Danish management and largely Danish expert labor. Up till the recent change the capacity has been about 1,200 hogs per week, but now we are informed as high as 4,000 per week can be handled without undue disadvantage. By the kindness of Mr. Ginge we were, with a number of others, invited to inspect the remodeled plant in operation on Oct. 11th, on which date some 1,500 hogs passed from the living state to a condition ready for the cooling rooms. The pigs were of the bacon type, averaging about 190 pounds in nice flesh. The process of killing, cleaning and dressing is of the rapid modern sort, similar to that practiced by the largest institutions, such as Armour's, of Chicago.

Among the improvements recently made, besides an increased capacity and an almost entire new interior to the buildings, is a new ammonia refrigerating plant, having a cooling capacity equal to 40 tons of ice per day. By this system the cool rooms are kept at a uniform temperature of 36° Fahr. at all seasons of the year. The hogs killed and dressed in the morning are allowed to hang in sides in an open alley till towards evening, when they have lost most of the animal heat. They are then placed in the cooling room at 36° for 24 hours, when they are ready for the curing room, kept at the same uniform low temperature. Here they are cured for some fifteen days, and then shipped in sides, packed ten in a box, to the British market.

Cleanliness and systematic conduct has had much to do with the success of Danish dairy and pork products on the British markets. This fact has been continuously recognized by the Canadian Packing Company since its inception, and to further facilitate its more perfect carrying out, their entire building has been floored with cement concrete, which extends some distance up the walls, to render cleaning an expeditious and thorough process. After each day's killing, large quantities of warm water are used to thoroughly remove objectionable matter, leaving the entire building sweet and fresh. A notable help in this direction is the daily removal from the institution of offal, which is usually manufactured into land fertilizer as a branch of such plants. This matter is all disposed off on the Asylum farm, which is in close proximity. Mr. Ginge claims a considerable advantage in thus disposing of the offal, inasmuch as the freshly opened carcasses are liable to incorporate surrounding odors. The surrounding agricultural district has a peculiar advantage in patronizing this market for their bacon hogs, as they are paid for on their merits, which are well understood and are sought to be produced.

The Late Francis Green, Sr.

It is with regret that we have to chronicle the death of one who was very well known to many of our readers, the late Francis Green, Sr., who passed away on September 26th at the ripe old age of 82 years.

The deceased was born in Gloucestershire, England, but with his parents early moved to Carmarthenshire, South Wales. For several years he practiced law in the county town of Carmarthen, but on his sons emigrating to Canada, in 1877, he followed them with the rest of his family and settled on a farm near Oakville. At first fruit-growing was followed, but both the father's and the sons' tastes inclining to stock-breeding, importations of Shorthorns and Shire horses were made, the farm was sold and the family purchased the well-known Glen Farm, Innerkip, where they had a better scope for their breeding operations. The firm was known as Green Bros., and for several years carried on a most successful business, principally in Shorthorns and Yorkshire pigs. Early in 1892 the deceased, with all of his family except one son, returned to England, residing first of all at Hampstead, near London, but afterwards at North Finchley.

Mr. Green took a great interest in Shorthorns, and was a well-known figure at the annual meetings of the Shorthorn Breeders' Associations. He gave much of his time to assisting Mr. Henry Wade in the investigation of pedigrees during the time when changes were being made in the standard on the formation of the Dominion Shorthorn Association, and in recognition of his services he was, shortly before he left for England, presented by the breeders with a valuable gold watch, which he highly valued.

The deceased was a member of the English Church, and as a lay reader frequently conducted the services at the church he attended. Owing to his genial character he had a large number of friends, by whom he will be greatly missed. He leaves three sons and two daughters.

STOCK.

Indiscriminate Breeding of Swine.

The greatest drawback to Canadian success in swine-raising is indiscriminate breeding. There seems to be no idea of type fixed in the minds of our breeders. No doubt a few of our best breeders have a fixed type in mind, but the vast majority have not, and the results of wholesale indiscriminate breeding is everywhere evident. Certain individuals, learning of the prices obtained for pure-bred swine by breeders whom they know, decide to begin on their own account; they purchase a pair or trio of registered pigs, and begin breeding for sale. They have no idea of the type and standard of perfection for the breed chosen. As long as the animals are pure-bred they think that is all that is necessary. Such breeders are a great injury to the breed. The fact of having no standard of excellence and no individual association for each breed here in Canada tends not to encourage, but to permit indiscriminate breeding. Objections are made to the American plan of breeders' associations, and many of our Canadian stockmen take pride in the fact that our breeders' associations are not run by joint stock companies, as is the case in the States; but the American plan of district breed associations is, after all, the best. These American associations are composed of breeders of that particular breed. They formulate a standard of excellence for their breed. They have annual meetings to discuss points relating to their particular breed. Each member is interested in advancing the interests of their breed, whatever it may be—whether Tamworths, Poland-Chinas, Berkshires, Chesters, Duroc-Jerseys, etc., etc. Literature devoted to their special breed is distributed among the members, and each individual member becomes, as it were, an agent to advance the interests of their breed. How is it in Canada? There is but one association for all of our breeds of swine. No particular interest is taken in one breed more than in another. The different breeders have no standard of excellence for their respective breeds. All breeds are registered and recorded by the one corporation, and this corporation or association must be impartial and must not show any special partiality for any particular breed. Under this vicious system there is no means of improving and advancing the interests of any particular breed, and every latitude is given to indiscriminate breeding and to deterioration.

The evil consequences following our Canadian system could be greatly mitigated, in a term of years, by the appointment of expert judges for each individual breed. As a rule, one man is appointed to judge all breeds of swine. This man may be quite capable of discriminating between the different specimens of, say, Poland-Chinas. Probably he has bred Poland-Chinas successfully, and perhaps one other breed, say Duroc-Jerseys. He understands perfectly the type and ideal of perfection in these two breeds; but does it follow that he can honestly judge Tamworths or Yorkshires? He probably never bred Tamworths, has no conception of the ideal of perfection in this breed, and still he judges Tamworths. One man to be capable of judging intelligently and fairly the

half dozen or more breeds at a fair ground must necessarily have supernatural powers that the average judge does not possess. But he hasn't, as the awards given at our Canadian fairs prove; and our fairs, instead of being educative training schools for our breeders, where they could see for themselves the almost perfect types of the different breeds picked out, are nothing of the kind. I contend that no judge is capable of placing the awards in more than one or two breeds. He judges all of the other breeds by his conception of what a perfect pig should be in the one or two breeds he is probably capable of judging. A man who understood the points of merit in a Berkshire and Poland-China, when judging Tamworths could not understand why a pig with a long snout and a narrow back could have any merit. From such indiscriminate judging it is a wonder that indiscriminate breeding has become rampant?

As we have no breed associations here in Canada for each particular breed, and as all breeds of swine are jumbled into one homogeneous body, our only means to preserve the typical characteristics of our individual breeds, until such time as each breed will have a national association of its own to conserve and advance its interests, is to insist that each breed of swine at our fairs shall be judged by a competent breeder and judge of that particular breed, and not permit one man to judge all breeds. We do not want our Berkshires judged on Tamworths ideals, neither do we want our Tamworths judged on Berkshire ideals. By having an expert judge for each breed, the awards would be given to animals that conformed nearest to the standard of excellence for each breed. Our exhibitions will then become a strong educative factor, where fat will not take the place of quality, and where type shall be the standard of the best in each breed. Indiscriminate breeders will here have an opportunity of seeing ideals of the breeds, and will learn the truth of their calling, that if they wish to succeed as breeders of thoroughbred swine they must have a well-defined type in mind and the perfection of this type to strive for. True, the fair boards will not appoint a half dozen of judges for as many breeds of swine, but the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, if it is to be of any practical value to Canadian swine breeders, must appoint those expert judges for each breed and be prepared to defray at least half their expenses, and their whole expense for that matter if the fair boards refuse to co-operate; and if this is not acceptable to the fair boards, let our breeders refuse to show animals at such fairs.

J. A. MACDONALD,
Hermanville Farm, P. E. I., Canada.

Horse Ranching in Alberta.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The recent depression of the market values for horses seriously affected the horse-breeding interests of our Territory. Nearly all the ranchers quit breeding excepting myself and one or two others. We took advantage of the low prices and loaded up with the very best sires the country possessed, and I believe it is the best thing that ever happened to the country that the depression did come. This and the Klondyke trade have been the means of getting rid of all the cayuses and the scrub horses, and made room for the better quality of animals. Of late there are quite a number of ranchers drifting back into horse-breeding. There are still quite a number of brood mares in the country, and the people are taking a very active interest in breeding, the heavy horse being the favorite, although we are raising all kinds. For my part, I think the heavy horses are the most profitable, they require less work in handling, and do not require to be so well broken as lighter ones. I break everything at 3 years old, both mares and geldings. On my heavy mares I use the Clyde and Shire for heavy draft. The Cleveland Bay on the mares that have lots of breeding; from them I get good drivers, carriage horses and saddle horses. On good strong, rooey mares I use the trotting horse and Thoroughbred. I am always careful to get size and quality combined. A good little horse is very well as far as he goes, but if you have the size it means money, and that is what we all are after.

As to keeping stallions stabled or loose during the season, I keep mine stabled, and mate each mare as I think will best suit her. I have about 400 mares and 9 stallions, therefore it would be impossible for me to turn them loose, excepting one at a time. This I do for about two weeks after the season is over, when the mares are in the pasture.

I think best time for foals to come is in April and May, to be weaned in November. We let the foals run with our light mares until the spring, but the heavy ones we always wean and halter-break, feed them well with either green oats or oats and hay. It pays to turn them on grass in the spring fat and healthy. This means when the horse is 4 years old about 100 lbs. or 150 lbs. heavier than they would be if not fed, and it will still pay to feed them for a couple of months the following spring. I most decidedly approve of breaking every horse; they bring better prices when sold, they are easier to handle, and give us an unlimited amount of work horses, saddle horses and drivers. Some young mares get too fat and will not breed. By working them it takes off fat, and in nearly every case they commence to breed. We do all our farm work and haying with colts, which makes them more salable. The weather so far has been very favorable with us this year.

Yours truly,
R. G. ROBINSON,
Elbow Park Ranch, Alberta.