

Danes Would Welcome a Commission

Geo. C. Smye, Waterloo Co., Ont.

I read with considerable interest the article in your issue of Feb. 11th, "Should Investigate Danish Bacon Trade." That the Swine Breeders' Association should have taken action in this matter is quite right. It is to these associations that we look for progressive action along legislation affecting us. The committee might have made their recommendation a little broader; that is, that the said deputation make a study of Canadian conditions also as well, and compare them with the conditions in Denmark, and thereby draw some practical conclusion from their investigations.

I was much surprised when reading further on in the article that the members of the Association took such a narrow view, as to propose that the Danes would resent having such a deputation visit them. It would be a flattering testimony to their progressiveness that such a deputation should visit them. We, as Canadians, gave the Scottish commission a warm welcome, and all the information possible. The Danes are broad minded enough to do the same.

Why Fewer Hogs are Raised

"Why is it that so many of our Canadian farmers have given up raising hogs?" was asked during one of the lectures at the recent Eastern Live Stock and Poultry Show.

"The explanation seems simple to me," replied Mr. J. H. Grisdale, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. "During the past few years the price of feed has advanced 15 to 20 per cent., while the prices paid for hogs are very little higher than they used to be. Men who formerly made a profit in hogs have been unable to do so, under the changed conditions, and have become discouraged. We notice the difference at the Experimental Farm where we have sold many pigs at \$10 that cost us that to produce them.

HOGS STILL PROFITABLE

"There should, however, be a profit in hogs at present prices. The difference is that we have got to feed and breed more carefully than formerly as unless we exercise care our margin of profit will disappear. A great deal in hog raising depends upon the feed fed. We have tried all kinds of feed at the Experimental Farm. During the finishing period we have got the best results from the simplest ration with this exception that we seldom find one kind of grain give as good results as when two are fed mixed. Still better results are obtained when three or four different kinds of grain are mixed. If a farmer has only one kind of grain it would pay him to sell some of it and to use the proceeds to purchase some other grain to mix with it.

"One of the best mixtures we have ever used is shorts, oats, barley and a little roots and skim-milk. When roots are not available oil-cake meal may be used instead. A mixture of 100 lbs. each of shorts, barley and oats and 50 lbs. of oil-cake should give good results. We have produced pork on that ration for 4½ cents a lb. We tried frozen wheat last winter but it increased the cost of production."

FEEDING ROOTS

"Roots give good results when fed either cooked or raw but the cost of cooking adds to the expense. We feed our meal wet as not so much is wasted in that way. On most farms there are always a few bushels of small potatoes in the fall that are of little use. These can be fed to hogs to good advantage."

THE BROOD SOW

Mr. Grisdale laid great stress on the importance of starting right in hog raising by getting good sows. He claimed that the difference between a good and a bad sow often means a difference of 10 to 20 per cent. in the final results and determines whether there shall be a profit or not. A

sow should be prolific, in healthy condition, from good stock and able to make good use of the feed consumed.

In December and January the brood sows at the Experimental Farm are fed clover hay, roots and a pound of bran a day. The last of January and during February and early March they are given 2 lbs. of meal, bran and shorts. Sows before they farrow are given a heavier ration. The hay is fed in racks from which the pigs eat like sheep. The sows are fed laxative feed, rich in protein.

Recent addresses and discussions would indicate that we have got to improve our methods of breeding and feeding hogs if we are to hold our own with the Danish farmers and that by careful feeding hogs may be raised at profit under existing conditions. Were a commission of Canadian farmers to visit Denmark they should be able to obtain a vast amount of information about Danish methods that would be of great value in improving the situation of our bacon industry.

Some Generalities on Sugar Making

John Jackson, Argenteuil Co., Que.

No one in these modern times would think of boiling the sap from 100 trees in old fashioned pots or kettles. The sooner the sap is converted into syrup, the better will be the article. To this



Unloading by the Gravity Method

By taking advantage of an elevated piece of ground, the sap is unloaded into the storage tanks or the evaporator by means of gravity. The photo shows the sugar camp of Mr. G. A. Cottingham, Chateauguay Co., Que.

end the evaporator is an essential part of the equipment of an up-to-date sugar bush.

The proper time to tap is when everything is ready. Once I was particularly smart and tapped a lot of trees the last of February. It then suddenly froze up. Some of the buckets were full of sap at the time and they stayed frozen for quite a while. The result was that many of them burst. I didn't try that game again. It is difficult to say just when to tap. The right time is generally after the middle of March. I would always rather be a little behind than too previous in the matter of tapping.

The No. 2 Grimm spout gives the best of satisfaction. When buying buckets get quality not shoddy. I have some that have been in use for over 25 years and they are still much better than some we get three years ago.

Scrupulous cleanliness should be observed in connection with all things pertaining to the sugar camp. The sap requires to be strained before boiling and the syrup strained as it comes from the evaporator. For this purpose we use two flannel bags arranged on a milk can.

Prepare for Corn

S. E. Lane, Hastings Co., Ont.

Now is the time for those who wish to grow a good crop of corn for their silo to haul out the manure and spread it on the fall plowing. Then, as soon as it is dry in the spring, commence disking and harrowing; continuing this cultiva-

tion at intervals, until about the 24th of May. This will dispose of all weeds coming from the seed in the ground.

If one is going to plant in hills, it requires about 15 pounds of seed to the acre, when in drills, 20 pounds. When one is sure of good seed a little less will do. It is a good plan to produce the seed ahead and sprout some of the kernels. In this way we make certain of the seed we plant. We use the White Cap Yellow Dent in our section, as it ears well when planted in good season. Last year was a good year for corn. I filled a silo 18 by 24 from nine acres with the land managed as recommended in the foregoing.

Diseases of Horses and Cattle*

Dr. J. Standish, V.S., Bruce Co., Ont.

Success with animals depends upon the food we give them; that is they should receive a balanced ration. Hay alone will not give the creature an opportunity to thrive. It requires clover and some concentrated food, also plenty of pure water. Fresh air is very important. Exercise is not valued at half its worth. Many digestive troubles are due to errors in feeding, coupled with a lack of exercise, and a lack of a period of rest for the digestive system between meals.

Horses should not be allowed to injure themselves by continual eating. Some people think that it is mean not to keep food before the animal all the time. This is a great mistake. It is natural for a cow to lie down and chew her cud, but if she has tempting food kept in front of her, she will naturally eat it. This gives less time for rest of the stomach and the chewing of the cud, and, indigestion, which is the cause of four-fifths of all diseases, will be the result.

PREVENT DISEASE

The practice of abusing animals by forcing them to take unnecessary medicines is to be condemned. Our aim should be to prevent diseases, not to doctor them. A long prescription sounds very fine, and benefits the druggist, but the ingredients of such a "shot-gun" mixture counteract each other. Red Water or inflamed kidneys is a disease which never attacks horses unless they are overfed and their exercise neglected. Colic is a disease caused by unwholesome food, such as wet or frozen grass; or by giving an extra big feed before going on a journey. By such treatment the flow of juices in the stomach is checked, gas will arise, and flatulent colic will be the result. If the horse is required to do very strenuous work it is better to give him more food for three days before, as it will not be absorbed before that time. In the case of cows it takes five days for absorption.

KIDNEY DISEASES RARE

Enteritis, or inflammation of the bowels is another disease caused by injudicious feeding and watering. Many mistake it for a disease of the kidneys because the animal will rub its nose up and down its sides. This action is an indication that the horse is following the pain as it proceeds in the bowels. It is rare for cows and horses to have kidney diseases, for they do not, like man take stimulants, pepper, mustard, and such condiments.

If an animal must endure forced idleness it should have its rations reduced. We are not raising dairy cows and horses to eat, we should aim at growth but not fat. There is no power in the latter.

Grease, cracked heels and Monday morning disease are other ailments caused by over feeding and idleness. They generally appear after a rest on Sunday. It is better not to hurt a horse with too many oats when idle. Fourteen pounds of hay and five pounds of oats daily will sustain life in a horse, but it is not sufficient to work upon. For the average horse 14 pounds of oats, 14 pounds of hay and two to four pounds of

*An address delivered recently at the Berwick, N. S., Seed Fair.