

Free Importation of Breeding Stock.

A recent despatch from Ottawa reveals a case of apparently unwarranted interference on the part of a U. S. Customs official in the matter of the importation of pure-bred live stock for breeding purposes into that country. The dispute is between Mr. H. F. Page, of Mission City, B. C., and the Collector of Customs at Sumas, Washington. The former, in October, 1901, was compelled to pay \$1,000 duty on ten Percheron horses—four stallions and six mares—entry for which had been made as pure-bred stock for breeding purposes, and claiming free entry under the existing tariff, the horses being accompanied by the proper registration papers of the American Percheron Horse Breeders' Association. The contention of the collector is that Mr. Page was taking the horses into that country for sale, and that such action was not in accordance with the spirit of the enactment. A deposit equal to the amount of duty on the valuation of the animals was claimed before allowing them to pass, and Mr. Page appealed the case. Testimony has recently been heard by one of the judges of the Board of Appraisers, whose headquarters are in New York and who will render their decision some time in August. Much will depend upon the rendering of the court as to the proper reading of the regulation referred to. It is well known that large numbers of registered horses and cattle have, in recent years, under this law been taken from Canada to the States, both by American citizens and by Canadians, and sold for breeding purposes without any questions being asked by the Customs authorities, so long as the proper registration papers accompanied them. It appears, on the face of it, to be an unnecessary and uncalled for interference with a legitimate trade, and it is to be hoped the court, in its wisdom, will so decide, as the free distribution of improved stock is certainly desirable in the interest of the people of both countries, and no unnecessary barriers should be placed in its way. If there is any industry in which free trade is mutually beneficial, it is in the dissemination of pure-bred stock for the improvement of the general stock of the country.

Americans Don't Expect to Excel Canada in High-class Bacon.

Prof. Curtiss, in an address before an association of Iowa swine breeders recently, thus described the essentials of the class of pork now rapidly coming into demand:

"The 1,800-pound bullock and the 200-pound wether have disappeared from our markets, and the over-fattened hog, with his extreme weight and waste, is no longer wanted. There are also other considerations besides the proportion of fat and lean. The tendency to push our hogs to early maturity by extreme forcing and selection for the form giving excessive obesity has also a tendency to softer tissues and a more flabby-sided carcass than can be combined with superior quality of the finished product. Fine grain, firmness of texture and a comparatively even distribution of fat and lean are the prime essentials in high-class pork products. These are the result, first, of heredity, and, second, of judicious feeding of wholesome feed products, succulent feeds, grass and abundant exercise.

"It is not to be expected that our country will in the near future, if ever, take rank with Denmark and Canada in the competition for the higher grades of bacon on the foreign markets, but the demand for better pork products for our home and foreign markets has already manifested itself in such a way as to command the attention of the farmer and producer. The change will undoubtedly come as a result of the modification of the type of our present popular breeds rather than through supplanting them with foreign breeds of the bacon type, although there is already a rapidly growing demand for hogs of greater activity, vitality and vigor and more prolific breeding qualities, and a firm of packers in this State has recently imported several hundred head of an English bacon type and distributed them among their customers for breeding stock."

The Ontario Hog Census.

It is interesting to note, by the tabulated returns of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, the number of hogs reported from the various counties. On July 1st of a recent year, all told there were 1,771,641 hogs reported in 48 counties. The lowest was Nipissing, with 1,797, and the highest was Kent. The twelve counties having the greatest hog population were as follows:

Kent	115,719
Essex	95,073
Simcoe	94,446
Middlesex	78,131
Wellington	74,301
Huron	72,925
Grey	71,168
Elgin	70,314
Oxford	66,118
York	61,874
Perth	59,634
Bruce	58,810

Can We Profitably Raise More Hogs?

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—We believe the English market is capable of taking care of very much more Canadian bacon than is being sent there to-day. You are aware that in 1890, Canada exported a little over one-half million dollars' worth of bacon, and ten years after that about twelve million dollars' worth of bacon. Everyone will admit that this was a wonderful development in such a short time. We would not be surprised to see the next ten years show equally startling results, provided the farmer raises the right kind of hog. Canadian bacon is considered by many dealers on the English market to be quite as good as Danish, and they have heretofore had to pay several shillings more per hundred for the Danish than for the Canadian. They are beginning to realize that since the Canadian is so near the Danish in quality, that they had better save these shillings and buy Canadian. Of course, the Englishman is slow, but we firmly believe that Canadian bacon is destined to shove Danish bacon off the English market to a large extent. The production of bacon in Ireland seems to be becoming less annually, and possibly in a short time not scarcely be taken into account.

In the past a large quantity of bacon has been exported to Great Britain from the States. But look how the exports of cheese from American ports has fallen off—about 50 per cent. this year—and we believe the same thing will happen very shortly with bacon. In fact, the Western States have marketed over a million hogs fewer since the first of March up to the present time than they did for the same period last year. Of course, a shortage in corn partly accounts for this state of affairs, but the Americans will soon have all they

see the price of hogs to the farmer go below a paying basis; in fact, it is utterly impossible, for, as we have shown, both the home and the foreign markets for bacon are increasing every year, and we think the farmers have made a great mistake during the past two years by not going into hogs very much more than they have done, and we would strongly advise every farmer in Ontario to largely increase his output of hogs.

In the next place, we believe the supply of hogs during the past two years has been entirely insufficient, and that a very large increase would not have lowered the price below a very profitable basis. Tons of bacon might have been sent to South Africa and other points, but the business went past us Canadians simply because we had not the goods to supply the trade. The Americans, too, have been shipping in to Canada enormous quantities of bacon during the past two years, notwithstanding the high duty imposed on these goods brought into the country. We think it is really too bad that Canadians cannot take care of their own market. We pride ourselves in our broad acres, fertile soil and industrious people, and yet we allow the Americans to come in here and feed us. During the past two years there has never been near enough hogs to keep the packing-houses going. Although the supply of hogs is larger in the fall than at any other time of the year, still it has always been inadequate to the requirements of the trade.

The farmers of Ontario have improved their breeding and feeding very materially, and are to be commended for the advancement they have made along these lines. Still, there is room for improvement, and every farmer should try to furnish the hog required by the packer. During the past two years a good many of the farmers have made the mistake of holding their hogs too long, particularly when the price is off a little; then when the price was high, they have been inclined to market their hogs before they were properly fed. This is a serious mistake. Hogs should be marketed when they are ripe, no matter what the price is, and if the farmers would always do this they would find that the average price for the year would be a satisfactory one. We favor the Yorkshire and Tamworth breeds. Farmers raising short, thick, fat hogs should get rid of them at once. The market for a long time has required hogs weighing from 160 to 200 pounds. This is the standard, and we think it is likely to remain such for some time.

In conclusion, we firmly believe that the Canadian bacon industry is only in its infancy, and is quite capable of wonderful development, and there is nothing a farmer could go into that would pay him better than the raising of hogs. It is the best way to dispose of coarse grains on the farm, and the farmer who goes at it systematically and makes a business of raising hogs has money coming in to him every month in the year. We would strongly advise every farmer to get the right breed of hogs and raise all he can take care of.

Yours respectfully,
W. J. FALCONER,
Pres. and Gen. Mgr.
(The Palmerston Pork-packing Co.)

[Editor's Note.—The official figures from the Ontario Bureau of Industries report indicate that during the past three years the stock of hogs in Ontario has declined as follows: 1899, 1,971,070; 1900, 1,771,641; and 1901, 1,491,885. This, too, in the face of an increasing demand for bacon, as Mr. Falconer points out, and also with an increasing number of packing-houses in Ontario, of which there are now probably 18 or 20 of large capacity. For the year ending June 30th, 1901, Canada imported for home consumption from the United States, \$1,150,806 worth of pork and bacon, besides \$148,271 worth of lard.

Combine business with pleasure and go to the sale of Shorthorns which leading Canadian breeders will initiate in the new Pavilion for the purpose at Hamilton, Ont., on Aug. 13th.



WANDERER'S LAST (IMP.) =36129=.

A superb two-year-old Shorthorn bull, contributed by Capt. T. E. Robson, Ilderton, Ont., to the great combination sale at Hamilton, August 13th. (See Gossip, page 572.)

can do to take care of their home bacon market, and their ability to supply hogs is limited. Now, what we Canadians want to do is to step in and take care of this market that other people will have to give up.

If Canadian packers could buy hogs at such a price as to enable them to place the bacon on the English market at from 50 to 54 shillings, a very much larger quantity would be consumed than there is at the present time, because when bacon goes over these figures the working classes cannot afford to buy bacon and are compelled to use fish or other cheaper food. The farmers can raise hogs very profitably so that bacon could be sold at these prices. We consider the present unusually high prices of hogs very injurious to the trade in England, no good to the packer, and will some day in all probability be hurtful to the farmer. We consider a good fair average price paid all the year 'round better for everybody connected with the business.

Another feature that must not be lost sight of is the fact that Great Britain is rapidly increasing in population and has more people to feed every year; besides, the ability of the great mass of the English people to buy is quite remarkable when compared with what it was twenty-five years ago.

Now, with regard to the home market, we are great believers in the development of Canada, and hope to see the population of this country doubled in a few years. There are now large quantities of bacon required in the lumbering and mining districts. We believe these industries are only in their infancy yet, and that vast crowds of people will be brought into the country to increase their development. We are firmly of the opinion that it will be many years before you will