

Canada. Most of the red tickets fell to this herd—on aged boar, boar under two years, boar under one year, boar under six months; also, on aged sow and sow under year, sweepstakes sow and boar, herd, and second on sow and litter. M. Oughton, a new exhibitor in this class, had forward some good pigs and got red tickets on sow under six months and on sow and litter. W. L. Traun, also a new exhibitor, showed a few good entries and secured several blue tickets.

Any Other Pure Breeds.—Under this heading K. McLeod, Dugald, showed Suffolks, and being the only competitor, and his entries being of real good merit, he was awarded the prizes for which he entered, being 1st and 2nd nearly all the way down the list.

Pork-packers' Special, given by J. Y. Griffin & Co., for pair pigs not to exceed 250 lbs. First to L. A. Bradley, Portage la Prairie, on Tamworths; 2nd to Andrew Graham, Pomeroy, on Yorkshires; with a pair of Berkshires of R. McKenzie's a good third.

SHEEP.

This was one of the most disappointing departments of the show, and one of the poorest exhibits of sheep that has been made at the Industrial. It is lamentable that so few farmers take an interest in sheep in this country. Many of the entries sent in were in miserable condition, even for home pastures, let alone the showing, and sent forward with no pretense at fitting, evidently with the hope of scooping up a little prize money where no competition would be met. Of course, there were a few noticeable exceptions to these remarks, and these helped to save this department, which is housed in one of the best sheep barns in Canada, from utter disgrace. Joseph Featherstone, M. P., Streetsville, Ont., judged all classes of sheep.

Cotswolds were shown by A. B. Smith, Moosomin; M. Oughton, Wood Bay; and F. W. Brown, Portage la Prairie. Some good individuals were shown in this class, but without any special fitting. Most of the prizes went to the Moosomin flock.

Leicesters were shown by Jas. Murray, Lyleton; A. D. Gamley, Branlon; Duncan Sinclair, Oakville; and D. F. Preston, Glenewan. Murray got most of the firsts, but his flock were not looking as well as they have done on former occasions. A. D. Gamley, a new exhibitor, showed shearling and aged rams in nice fit and got 1st in both classes and diploma on best ram any age.

Lincolns.—This breed was represented by one exhibitor only, W. T. Lytle, Beaconsfield, who showed full classes, all in ordinary field condition.

Shropshires.—In this class were the best sheep and the best brought out flock, that of J. A. S. Macmillan, Brandon, who deservedly won all the firsts throughout the class on sheep of extra fine quality and finish, exceptionally well brought out. J. Oughton, Crystal City, showed a number of good, strong, useful entries throughout this class, but without extra fitting.

Oxford Downs.—Three exhibitors competed in this class. P. B. McLaren, Clearwater, who has previously shown in good condition, presented his sheep thin and unfitted. A. Wood, of Souris, a new exhibitor here, but many years with Henry Arkel, of Guelph, showed throughout the class some good sheep in nice condition and won most of the red tickets. R. W. Jickling, Carman, also a new exhibitor in this ring, showed some creditable entries of home-bred sheep and got a good share of the tickets.

Southdowns.—W. M. & J. C. Smith, Fairfield Plains, Ont., got most of the 1st and 2nd prizes throughout this class, the only other exhibitors being D. Fraser & Sons, Emerson.

Dorset Horns were shown by Edward Vance, Emerson, securing the prizes in class for any other pure breed. The sheep were shown in very ordinary field condition.

Quality Tests in Experimental Hog Feeding.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In reply to your inquiry, "Is Danish bacon losing its strong hold on the British market by deterioration in quality?" please note:—In a letter from our London agent, before us this morning, we have the following: "The quantity of soft and inferior product coming from Ireland is 50 to 60 per cent., and from Denmark about 30 to 40 per cent. You, of course, must be amazed to see the vast quantity of seconds and soft bacon you are at present shipping us from Canada. We have our work cut out to find buyers for it at any price."

When the writer was in England recently, the complaints were very earnest and very general as to the deterioration in quality of an important percentage of the arrivals of Danish bacon. In many instances buyers who had hitherto refused to have anything to do with Canadian were induced to try it because of the dissatisfaction they felt with Continental (Danish). Unfortunately, Canada has missed reaping the full advantage of the most favorable conditions which she has ever had for putting a large quantity of high-class bacon into competition with this poorer quality of Irish and Danish. She has missed this opportunity because of the very large percentage of soft hogs marketed, which have made hundreds of boxes weekly of soft bacon. Canadian farmers have fallen into precisely the same error as Irish and Danish, and have failed in consequence to reap the full advantage which would have been theirs if all the stock going forward had been first-class.

We do not know to whom you refer in your article on "Opportunities for Investigation in Swine Feeding," when you state "A good many deliveries have lately been tendered on this subject by parties possessing little accurate information or experience"; but this much we know, that through faulty feeding Canada has made serious losses, and has never in her history produced such a large percentage of soft product as during the past three months. All the "Points in experimental pig feeding for profit" (July 15th issue FARMER'S ADVOCATE) are of little value, inasmuch as the whole

soul of the situation is in your paragraph (referring to one Ottawa experiment). "Unfortunately no record is given as to quality." Experimental records that do not give as an ultimate result of the experiments the actual quality of the meat cannot be treated seriously.

The exceedingly interesting article, based on a visit to Mr. Freeman's piggeries in Oxford, has, unfortunately, the same inconclusive result. If Mr. Freeman marketed his hogs with some representative export packer, he should have supplemented his statement by adding that his hogs produced first-class bacon of proper sized sides. You would then have had a complete case.

We are inclined to think that the method recommended by Mr. Freeman—"When they are weaned (eight weeks old) they are turned immediately into fattening pens to go forward without an hour's delay"—is a mistake. Altogether too large a proportion of the hogs which are being marketed in Canada are finished when they weigh between 155 and 165 pounds. These hogs, too, which are finished so rapidly generally have a lack of flesh and a predominance of fat. As far as our own operations are concerned—because the hogs from Oxford and adjoining counties have been forced in this manner, and have produced such an undue proportion of stout, short sides—we have withdrawn from the purchase of hogs in those counties altogether.

We make no pretense to skill in feeding. We do not profess that this is in our line, but we know that the best interests of Canada call for a maximum amount of best bacon hogs out of every thousand hogs marketed. To this end we think journals like your own should become fully acquainted with the character of product produced by certain systems of feeding, and then you will perform a large service to the community by pointing out results. Of all the matter on this subject given in the very important number of your journal of July 15th, only one practical bacon result is attested, and that is in a trial made by Prof. Robertson with soaked frosted wheat.

Yours truly, J. W. FLAVELLE,
Managing Director, The Wm. Davies Co., Limited,
Toronto, Ont., July 19th.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—The members of our staff have raised and fed a few thousand hogs for local dealers and export packers, and think that Mr. Flavelle has probably touched the weak point in Mr. Freeman's system, that of hurrying the pigs into and through the fattening period too rapidly, good health and a well-fleshed carcass considered. We favor a little longer run in an orchard or plot where there is short grass to pick, with moderate grain feeding, till the last month or so, when they may be more confined and the ration increased. In winter fattening, access to a small yard is desirable, and a few pulped roots with the ration consisting of mixed grains.

Our correspondent complains that Mr. Freeman did not state that his hogs produced first-class bacon of proper sized sides. Mr. Freeman sells to dealers, and the live hogs have been going for years, we understand, to leading packers. As he has been getting top prices, he did not follow them further, naturally concluding that the buyers knew what was wanted and that the pigs were satisfactory. If they were not right, he stood ready, like any intelligent farmer, to vary plans.

Mr. Flavelle says his (the Davies) Company has quit buying hogs from Oxford and adjoining counties. The counties adjoining Oxford are Norfolk, Brant, Waterloo, Perth, Middlesex, and a corner of Elgin. It would be interesting to know where there is a territory that produces more good bacon hogs than that great dairy district, and were the facts known it would probably be seen that a large proportion of the hogs that have gone to build up Canada's bacon reputation came out of that very country. It may be that the cream of its hogs have been absorbed by the Ingersoll Packing Co., which has built up a splendid English trade, and the Canadian Packing Co., of London, Ont., which is run on very strict Danish principles; latterly a Collingwood concern has been taking some hogs out of part of the territory specified. We noticed that while the "Oxford and adjacent counties" hogs were getting the above rap on the nose the Toronto market buyers were cutting prices 50 cents per cwt against the hogs from Essex and Kent.

Our July 15th issue article on "Experimental Pig Feeding" gave the results of all the records at hand of experiments bearing on pig feeding in relation to (1) animal health, (2) gains from various foods and mixtures, and (3) quality of flesh produced, the latter being about quarter of the article, chiefly the results of work done by the Danish Government, with special reference to quality and the British markets and "attested" by experts. The conclusions were strongly against a corn diet. The points in regard to animal health and gains for food consumed may not concern the packer specially, nor the little coterie of political editors who lately appeared on the scene as authorities on swine raising, and who would deprive the long-depressed cattle industry of a greatly needed boon—freer access to U. S. corn, but they are important to the farmer, being vital items in the cost of production. But quality of product is an all-important point, and Mr. Flavelle's letter emphasizes the need, which we have pointed out in previous issues, for accurate investigation with various foods and methods of feeding different types of animals. Given certain pigs, fed in a certain way at our public experiment stations,

and the animals numbered, then killed and cured by competent packers who know the market requirements thoroughly, we will have effect traced directly to cause, obtaining accurate and valuable data not available in the ordinary course of the trade in which thousands of hogs raised on hundreds of farms in different ways go forward weekly from local buyers to packing-house centers. We trust our experimenters will not neglect the opportunity to serve a growing industry.

Our Scottish Letter.

THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The most important event in the agricultural world here since I last wrote was the seventy-first show of the Highland and Agricultural Society, which took place at Kelso during last week. As at the Royal, in the Shorthorn section animals of Scotch breeding were fairly triumphant, but an excellent Booth bull, named Border Reiver, owned by Lord Polwarth, was first in the aged class. He was second at the Royal, being beaten by the Scotch bull, Marengo. The championship of the Shorthorn section went to a young breeder, Mr. C. Home Graham Stirling, of Strowan, Crieff, with a bull named Star of Dawn, bred by Mr. Alexander M. Gordon, of Newton, Meck. The sire of this bull, Star of Morning, is, in our opinion, the best individual bull at the head of a Shorthorn herd in Aberdeenshire. He was sire of Mr. Duthie's champion bull, Pride of Morning, which carried all before him at the Highland Society's Show in Aberdeen in 1894. Star of Dawn, the Highland champion of 1898, is a remarkably straight bull, and it would be hard indeed to find one of straighter lines either above or below. Another excellent bull bred by Mr. Gordon has been winning at the principal shows in Ireland, and several heifers he has bred have also taken high honors at the Royal and Highland. The bull classes at the Highland this year were particularly meritorious, but the same level was not reached amongst the females. The best female at the show was also owned by Mr. Graham Stirling. She is known as Strowan Marchioness, and not only did she lead the cow class herself, but one of her daughters was well placed among the heifers. In the Aberdeen-Angus section the awards at the Royal were somewhat vigorously dealt with at the Highland, and rightly or wrongly, especially amongst the bulls, were overturned. The judge did not seem to favor the type chiefly identified with Ballindalloch so much as some other judges who have officiated at different times. The Royal champion, Lord Roseberry's bull, Edenhall, was dethroned, and another Ballindalloch bull, named Proud Duke, secured the male championship. He was only placed third at the Royal, but at Kelso was promoted over the head of every bull that was there, with the exception of the first prize two-year-old Delamere, which was not exhibited at the Highland. Proud Duke is owned by an English clergyman in Buckinghamshire. He came a long distance, but was certainly well rewarded for his labor. Mr. Clement Stephenson is this year showing a very massive bull named Best Man of Benton, own brother to his famous Smithfield champion, Benton Bride. He is a bull of great substance, carrying tremendous flesh, and much bigger than the other bulls of his age. He was placed second at the Royal and first at the Highland. Mr. Adamson, of Careston Castle, Brechin, a young breeder, was successful in winning first prize at the Highland with his yearling bull, named Diaz, own brother, if we mistake not, to Delamere, the first two-year-old at the Royal. Both were bred by Mr. P. Chalmers, of Aldbar, Brechin, a gentleman who owns quite a superior herd.

Females of the A. A. breed at the Highland were stronger than the males. The breed championship went to Lord Strathmore's lovely heifer, May of Glamis. She defeated all the bulls as well as the other female winners, and is one of the best two-year-olds exhibited for many a day. His Lordship also won in the class of yearling heifers, and it must be acknowledged that his late herd bull, Siberian, has made an impression on the breed second to that made by few in its history. The older females were not characterized by anything like the same quality as the younger ones, but the stock as a whole reached a high average of merit.

Galloways are usually seen to good advantage at the Highland Society, but this year somehow the numbers were weak, although the quality was first-class. Mr. John Cunningham, Durhambill, Dalbeattie, maintained his family's reputation and secured by far the largest share of first prizes. His stock excel in quality, and he is at once a good judge and a right handler of cattle. The breed championship went to his two-year-old heifer Louisa II. of Durhambill, and he was, altogether, first in four classes out of six.

Highland Cattle are only exhibited in numbers in Scotland at the show of the National Society. This year, as usual, they formed perhaps the most interesting feature, and were clearly entitled to all the attention bestowed upon them. The championship of the breed went to the Duke of Atholl, K. T., for a two-year-old bull which last year was second in his class. Another bull bred by His Grace was first in the aged class, and the first prize yearling bull came from Mr. William Nimmo, County Durham. He was bred by the Earl of Southesk, and was highest-priced yearling at the Oban bull sale in spring. Mr. V. Smith, of Ardtornish, a wealthy gentleman who owns land extensively in Western Argyllshire, was very successful in many of the classes, and not a few of the best animals