

Jews Eat Only Kosher Meat.

BY D. E. SMITH.

From the earliest periods of the world's human existence, students of history have been enabled to glean some accounts of the customs and manners of the various ancient races. None, however, are more interesting and instructive, and more conducive to the dissemination of morality and religion, than those that come to us from the Jews. A high standard of morality for the period in which they lived, and strong religious convictions, together with a strict enforcement of their laws, tended to accentuate their individuality and make them a peculiar people. They laid great stress on the observance of certain religious rites and had many wise laws to guide them in the ordinary customs and habits of life. One of these of special interest to stockmen is the manner of slaughtering animals according to the ancient Israelitish law.

In the consumption of food the Jews were restricted to what they call the use of Kosher meat. When an animal is slaughtered according to the Israelitish law, and has no flaws or injuries in the lung tissue or in the lining of the stomach, then the fore quarters of that carcass are available for food and that part is called Kosher meat.

In visiting the Union Stock Yards, and the several packing plants in Chicago, one of the sights that attract the attention of strangers is the slaughtering of animals according to this ancient Israelitish law. At Swift & Co.'s beef house, any one may see the butcher, who is not only a strong man, but also versed in ancient lore, use the blade that causes the death of the animal. The knife must be of the required length, sharpness and smoothness. The butcher, who receives permission from the rabbi, runs his fingers critically over the gleaming blade, and if satisfactory, uses it; but if not, another is obtained that will meet all the requirements of the law. The butcher must be a believer and keep the Jewish Sabbath, and the knife must not tremble in his hand when he is performing his work. If this or any other rule is not complied with, then the seal of Kosher meat cannot lawfully be affixed to that carcass. There is written on the fore quarters, in Hebrew characters, the date of killing and that the carcass was inspected and approved of. An animal that has been killed more than 72 hours cannot be used for Kosher meat unless it is washed again and meets with the approval of the rabbi. They do not allow an animal to be knocked down, as is common among Gentiles, but death must be caused by cutting the throat and allowing the animal free opportunity to bleed. When the animal is opened up, the butcher carefully examines him on the inside to see that his lungs and stomach are perfectly sound and conform to the rules of the Jewish law. The butcher receives a license to perform certain duties according to their laws, and since there are so many cattle to kill, three are employed to perform the work. One cuts the throats, one examines the inner structure of the animals, and one puts the Hebrew characters on the fore quarters. Some carcasses are rejected by the Jews, but these are used by the Gentiles, as they are perfectly healthy and sound, but in some minor detail do not conform to the requirements of the Israelitish law. The fifth rib is the dividing line between the sanctioned and unsanctioned portions. The porterhouse steaks, the tenderloin and all the parts of the hind quarters that are so highly prized by all other class of people are not used at all by the orthodox Jew. The Jew is also forbidden to use the blood of an animal, as they believe that the blood is the life and spirit, and by using it they partake of these qualities and properties and transmit them to their children.

Sheep and calves are slaughtered in the same manner and the same parts used. They also Kosher chickens, ducks and geese, but do not eat turkeys at all. The veins in the different kinds of animals are removed from the meat before they can use it for food, as all semblance of blood must be taken away. These laws are only obeyed and carried out by the orthodox Jew, but there are many Jews here in Chicago who pay no attention to them at all.

In large cities and great business centers the Jew becomes an important factor in the meat trade, and therefore his beliefs are conformed to, and the result is a lucrative business in Kosher meat.

Experiments carried out in connection with the Agricultural College of Ontario have gone to show that where pigs have plenty of exercise and a mixed diet, or where the animals receive a reasonable allowance of grain foods in their rations until they are over 100 lbs. in live weight, they can be fed to a large extent on Indian corn without material injury to the quality of the bacon produced by them. Where they are closely confined from the time of birth, or where other grain foods are not used during the first three or four months of their age, however, the use of Indian corn in considerable quantity in finishing them off for the market is not to be commended.

Kicking Against the Wind.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I am asked to make some comments, from a breeder's point of view, on your article, "The Tuberculin Crusade," in issue of July 1st. That is my excuse—and not a desire to rush into print—for the comments I am about to make. You ask, "What is to be done with this useless testing system?" and seem to overlook the fact that you had already suggested a remedy when you pointed out that these testing officials' occupation would be gone if they did not find reacting cattle. Reverse the conditions, and pay these officials in proportion to the number of healthy cattle they find, and you will change the results, and instead of pensioning them off as you suggest, make them the most active agents in proving our cattle are healthy. It was said in olden times that the wise men came from the East, and it is not unlikely they may have some left there. I believe the practice there is to pay physicians for the time their patients are in good health, and to shut off their pay during illness, which exactly fits in with your opinion of the present system of tuberculin testing, and with my suggestion of a remedy for its evils. Another point you notice is the tendency to make this test compulsory on all cattle-owners. Not very long since I was discussing this testing business with a very prominent vet., and he said: "You might just as well kick against the north wind as against it, for the time is very near when the testing of all cattle will be made compulsory." The farmers of Canada have stood a good deal from this class of people, but it is hard to believe they will stand such an imposition as that. I don't think this man could have chosen a better expression than "kicking against the wind," for you might just as well argue with the wind as with one of those tuberculin cranks. They have everything at their fingertips that can possibly be distorted into proof of their contention, from the highest scientist to the poor man whose innocent baby has been murdered by tuberculous milk, while the man who dares to quote facts and experience to disprove it is either a fool or a liar. For instance, in this discussion I ventured to quote the Hon. Mr. Dryden's public utterance on the subject, and he (the vet.) replied: "I probably know Mr. Dryden a good deal better than you do, and let me tell you, he is a very much overrated man; there is nothing in him and never was." I then quoted Mr. Edwards at the Ottawa conference, and to this he replied: "I know Edwards very well, a very good fellow in his way, but he knows nothing at all on this subject; he is a lumberman, and his paper should never have been published, for it is not true." One of these men is a fool, and the other is a liar, because they will not endorse this fad. If they would they would be pushed into the front rank of witnesses, and quoted on all occasions as men of unusual intelligence and experience. I then called his attention to the fact that while the vets. were nearly (I except those who have a practice and are attending to it) unanimously in favor of having all cattle tested by qualified vets., they contradicted each other point blank on important points regarding it, and his answer was: "I am very sorry to say that very few of the vets. of this country have any real knowledge of the principles of veterinary science or pathology." Truly it was kicking against the wind to argue with him. The fact seems to be, there is so much science required these days to run a small business there is not enough of the pure thing to go around, and it has to be supplemented by a lot of shoddy science.

There is, however, one good feature about this tuberculin business: There used to be a class of diseases with very ugly names, but they (the names) have disappeared and become tuberculosis, thereby shifting the results of youthful errors on to some old cow. But while these sickly sentimentalists and shoddy scientists are weeping over the poor innocent babes murdered by the blood-thirsty cattle-breeders, harder-headed men, who still believe in their Bibles, are saying: "It is the sins of the parents being visited on their children." One of the best, perhaps the very best, cattlemen in the Province tells me he has been in the habit of taking the temperatures of his cattle, and that it is no unusual thing to find a greater rise in their temperatures without any injection than would be necessary to condemn them as diseased. One of these testing vets. told me that on one occasion a whole stable full of cattle that he was preparing for the test showed a greater rise in their temperatures without any injection than would have been necessary to condemn them, and that he stopped the test to look for the cause, and found it in a change in the temperature outside, which other vets. say has no effect on the temperature of the animals. But let us allow these men all they claim for this test, and conduct one according to their own formula, and see where we are at. We find the normal temperature and make the injection. If the temperature rises more than a couple of degrees it is proof of disease; if it falls, as it is said to do sometimes, it is equally good proof of disease; while if it remains normal, it is an even chance whether the animal is healthy or so badly diseased it will not respond. There are now two courses open: either to kill the animal to find out whether it is healthy, or to look for the unmistakable signs that they say are always to be found in a badly diseased animal or (which amounts to the same thing) one they want to condemn. So, after having exhausted their science and the owner's purse, they pitch their test to the dogs and fall back on the un-

mistakable signs, where they should have commenced, and to which no one would object.

And this is science; and these are the men a leading U. S. journal calls "unbaked scientists"; and they want us to accept this jumble of contradictions and distorted evidence, that would not be received in any court, as conclusive proof, and say we are fools for not doing so. A prominent vet. is reported to have said in public in the City of Winnipeg, during the breeders' meeting held there last winter, "that this test was being conducted in the interests of the breeders, and if they were not a lot of d—d fools they would not object to it," and I have never heard a breeder object to that statement, for they all recognized that this man is just as good an authority on that subject as he is on tuberculosis. But it is their generosity in taking so much trouble on our behalf that fetches us; we think we are no slouches ourselves in the matter of generosity. We will not be outdone by any vet. or combination of vets. These men will never be safe from tuberculosis until they get to heaven, and I beg to assure them, on behalf of the cattle breeders, that whatever we can do to facilitate their getting there quickly will be done most cheerfully.

Westbourne, Man.

WALTER LYNCH.

The Tuberculin Crusade.

Permit me to proffer you my sincere congratulations upon the decided stand you have taken in your issue of July 1st in regard to that imposition and humbug fastened upon the cattle producers and breeders of our fair Dominion, namely, the use of tuberculin as the test for tuberculosis. I most heartily agree with your editorial, and observation and experience tells me you are correct. When this tuberculin test first came forward, the farmers and breeders, not being in a position to know positively concerning its merits as a test or whether it was injurious or not, gracefully submitted to the opinion of our official and learned veterinary surgeons. But in some years of a fair trial it has been found and proven not only unreliable, but in many instances injurious to the animal. This is the general verdict all over the country, and I think the opinion of intelligent and observing men is entitled to respect. It is now high time the farmers and breeders raised a decided objection to such a great injury being thrust upon them, and, moreover, they are being taxed to pay for it. It is a regulation calculated to cripple one of our greatest national industries, and the blow is dealt by the very department of the Government to which we should look for the furthering and fostering of the farmers' interests. We want the best cattle in the world in this country; we wish to import them, to produce them, and to export them, but here we are almost prohibited from engaging in one of the nation's greatest industries by regulations that are unwise and wrong. The poorer farmer is prohibited from having and producing the best and most paying cattle, because, having only one or two pure-breds, he cannot afford to take the risk of having them "pumped full of poison," as one says, when he gets no guarantee whatever from the Government against any injury that might result. Thus, he cannot afford to take any chances and submit to the farce. On this account the best cattle are mostly in the hands of a few wealthy men, but should also be in the hands of the average farmer, and it is the Government's duty to aid him in getting improved stock, instead of discouraging him.

Again, he is debarrd by the useless length of the quarantine—namely, 90 days—required. Why is 90 days' useless expense imposed upon the importer who wishes to improve his cattle and those of the country? Is the period of incubation of any contagious disease 90 days? I am sure it is less than one-third of that time. Does anyone think that if any imported animal has an infectious disease it will not show itself in less than 30 days? If an animal developed a contagious disease after 30 days in quarantine, I would be strongly suspicious of the character of the quarantine. The poor man, probably, can afford only to import one or two good animals, and when he hires a man and buys feed for 90 days' quarantine, the two cost him so much he is practically prohibited, and instead breeds and fills the country full of scrubs.

The officials who perform this test must have intelligence enough to have observed that it is not reliable. Why, then, do they persist in using it as the test? Have they no other knowledge of diagnosis? Does the medical man diagnose tuberculosis in the human being by a tuberculin test and that only? No. He uses his eyes, ears and brains to make a diagnosis. If he relied upon single tests, and as unreliable as the tuberculin test, he would soon lose his reputation and get the medical profession into disrepute. He would be infinitely more times wrong than right in his reacting patients, and many of them would live to three score and ten to prove it. If these officials insisting on and promoting this test must be paid, we prefer to pay them to do nothing, rather than pay them to injure our cattle and our industries. I sincerely hope the cattle-breeders and farmers, in their own interest and that of the country, will take hold of these things and ask that these wrongs be promptly made right. In unity there is strength.

In conclusion, I may say I am surprised that in the face of all that has been said and done by the farmers and breeders of Canada to have these wrongs remedied, the Government still stands by and permits a few officials to hamper one of the country's greatest industries.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

JOHN I. FLATT.