

## STOCK

(Contributions invited. Discussions welcomed.)

### Why Canadians Raise Bacon Hogs.

Our correspondent, Thos. S. Davidson, whose contribution appears in another place, asks us a question that others may have in their minds; namely, "Where did the demand for bacon hogs come from?" Those of us who were living in the stock-raising districts of Canada along in the early nineties have a very vivid recollection of the advent of this demand. In those days there did not appear to be a proper distribution of food products. The country seemed to have too much of one thing and not enough of another, and as a consequence some commodities had practically no sale. One of these was fat hogs. The Americans were raising fat hogs and corn enough to supply practically the world's demand for lard and heavy pork. They had very little hog cholera and corn was plentiful. Fat hogs just seemed to grow up in a night in the corn states and overflow to all quarters. Canadian hog raisers were hard hit. The American packers were building up a large trade and Canadian packers could not stand the competition of cheap production and high protection, so looked for markets where the American competition was not so keen. They found them in England and found them large. But the demand in England was for lean pork, so the Canadian farmers set about producing a lean hog and the Canadian packers undertook to sell all that the farmers could produce and the prices looked fair. Those were the days before the invasion of Canada by immigrants, when the home market was of no consequence. Since then there has been a change. The home market has increased and so has the demand for lard. Practically every type of hog is wanted and the packers who are the immediate source of the demand do not put any particular premium upon bacon types.

Whether there is more nutritive strength in an equal weight of ham than in bacon we cannot say, but one thing is certain—the bacon hog is not without a ham, and a variety of ham and bacon is more healthful food than either one used exclusively. The question might also be asked our correspondent, why he or anyone else should advocate the raising of the lard type of hog. Experiments in Canada with Canadian grains show that Tamworths, Yorkshires, Berkshires and their grades make more economical gains than do Duroc Jerseys, Chester Whites and Poland Chinas. Why, therefore, not raise the type that makes the best gains? Of course we do not believe in going to either extreme of bacon or lard types and when a rational average between the two is struck there is not so very much difference between the two types. The main thing is to get prolificacy, good constitution, easy feeding propensities and quick growth. Our Western farmers have not for the present a very discriminating market to cater to and should devote most effort to getting quantity.

The question Mr. Davidson raises about offering prizes at fairs we leave to fair boards to dispose of.

### Showyard Strategy and Live Stock Generalship.

To an enthusiastic breeder of cattle there are few things more trying than the showing of his stock to one who has little knowledge or can scantily appreciate a good animal. Who is there among breeders who has not experienced this feeling? Your herdsman draws out what you consider a good specimen, one that you have looked at many times a day and yet can go back and smoke a good-night pipe over him with a keen feeling of pleasure. Instead of any real practical interest being taken in the animal you get a criticism on the shape of the halter, or a statement that Brown or Jones has just purchased a reaping machine with twelve spokes in the driving wheel. On the other hand, who can put a value on the amount of pleasure derived from having a judge's opinion when you submit your pet subject to his inspection. It may be and it often happens that he is not a man of words, but are these needed to fill your heart with pleasure? Not at all; you watch his eye as it dwells on the good points and his hand which seems loath to be withdrawn from the thick skin and mossy hair with its soft mellow touch. If he is a keen critic you expect, and perhaps fairly hope, that one or two of the weak spots you have time and again carefully examined, and perhaps have seen gradually disappearing, may be

overlooked. They are, however, noticed and discussed to the edification of the man at the end of the rope, whose whole soul is in his work, and who there and then resolves that in the show ring "the best side" of his animal will be shown to the judges.

I must tell a tale apropos of this. At one of our largest and most important Shorthorn shows in England I stood watching the judging of a heifer class. One of the crowd around the ring said in my hearing: "If I were the owner of No. 70 I would sack the fellow who is showing her. Look at the way he lets her snuff about with her nose on the ground, trying to get a bite of the short grass; he must have neglected to feed her. What a fool he is." I knew the owner and the man on the rope, two of the best men in the country, each in his own sphere, and I was quite satisfied that the man "at the wheel" was making no mistake, although by the innocent way he looked one could fancy his thoughts were in the clouds. His heifer won and afterwards congratulating him I said: "What was there in the Yorkshire grass that made the pretty lady so fond of it?" With a merry twinkle in his eye, and knowing that I understood that the nose on the ground meant a strong broad level line along the back, whereas in other positions there was a slight tendency to loin weakness, he replied: "Oh, just a little dust of spiced cake which fell through a hole in my jacket pocket; the wife must give it a stitch or two when I get home." I need not say that the owner of the heifer did not sack his man. No blame can be attached to a herdman who is able to hide a weakness, and it is only a clever one who can hide a fault without making it evident he is doing so.

Look at the herdman who knows his animal gets his hocks together and perhaps spreads out his hind feet as he walks. See him when asked to lead the animal straight out from the judges—how his light, long-lashed whip is used in a matter of fact sort of way, yet in a way to induce a sort of side walk. You will observe then how soon he considers he has gone far enough, and how, walking back showing a wide deep chest, he crawls to his place at a snail's pace! Or watch how the performance is reversed if the strength is behind and the weakness in front. I remember being much amused at a performance witnessed at a Highland Society's show in Scotland. Jamie, a well-known North Country cattleman, had a pretty roan heifer in the ring, strong in most points except her top line. John Outhwaite, the well-known Yorkshire breeder, was one of the judges and was doing the major share of the work. I was standing against the rail a few feet from Jamie, who stood in front of his heifer with a hand on each side of her head, pressing it downwards and backwards, and thereby getting the back fairly straight. The purpose of the pressure was a little too evident and old Mr. Outhwaite stood for some time looking at the man while poor Jamie never lifted his eyes from the animal's back, which he had manipulated to the position he had considered right. The position of Jamie's burly figure was peculiar, to put it mildly, while the expression of his face, indicating intense anxiety, was most amusing, and was evidently so to the judge. When Mr. Outhwaite moved away, having scarcely looked at the heifer, I said: "Did it come off, Jamie?" "I did him properly," he replied; "he never saw the wee bit hole in her back." I may say, however, that Jamie was less confident about this when the ribbons were handed out. Mr. Outhwaite, who understood all the tricks in showing, and I, had a laugh over the matter afterwards when he repeated a story he was fond of telling of a bartender who, after being a year in the employment of a Yorkshireman, complained he had not been able to make a shilling more than his wages. Wonder being expressed at this, seeing he was a Yorkshireman, he replied: "Ah, my employer is Yorkshire, too!"

Speaking of Yorkshire brings to mind an experience I had as a judge at a show in the West Riding of that country. I acted as judge of cattle, sheep and swine, and was quite puzzled regarding the placing of two of the pigs. I looked long and carefully at them, sometimes thinking of placing the one first and then the other. From the crowd around the ring it was quite evident there was intense interest being taken in the decision and as I afterwards understood bets of new hats and so forth were being freely made on the result. The pigs belonged to working men and each had keen supporters. While carefully inspecting one of the animals the man in charge of it whispered: "This pig has always beaten the other wherever they have competed." Feeling this statement should not have been made and being convinced that the one was as good as the other so far as I could determine, I said: "That being the case it is time to give the other fellow a turn," and at once made the award accordingly. I afterwards learned that at former shows it had been a case of see-saw; they had often been in competition and had each scored about an equal number of wins.

At the Highland Society's show it is usual in the cow classes for the exhibitors to send the calves into the ring with the mothers. As a rule the animals are trained so that the calves lead quietly alongside of their dams. At one of the society's meetings I showed a cow that had an awkward habit of standing stretched out, which led to an indication of weakness on her loins. She had been under training for weeks with a view of making her keep her hind legs under her, without much result. On the judging day I was occupied as a steward in another section of the show and when congratulating my man on his having

secured the first prize I said: "The cow must have shown herself well in the ring." He said: "I made Johnnie lead the calf, look like a fool, and keep as far away from me as he could; the judges said she was an uneasy beast and I put the blame on the silly laddie that would not keep near me with the calf."

ROBERT BRUCE.

### Why Should Cattle Be Dipped?

Every stockman is familiar with the skin disease called "cattle mange" or "cattle itch" (Psoroptic mange). It is caused by a small parasite which lives on the surface of the skin and which is in most respects identical with the parasite causing "sheep scab" in sheep. Its presence irritates the skin and the animal begins to rub or scratch the affected parts; this increases the irritation, sores and crusts are formed and unthriftiness sets in. The loss of flesh and subsequent loss of vitality is partly due to the incessant annoyance, but principally to the failure of the animal to provide itself with feed. For hours and hours, they remain at or near their favorite rubbing posts and gradually become so weak, that they are unable to walk any distance for feed and water. They finally get down and unless assistance comes in time, they never get up again.

Another parasite of the skin which, in many places, is of much greater importance than the former, is the cattle louse. Strange as it may seem, but few stockmen are aware to what extent their cattle are affected with lice and what an enormous loss they unknowingly suffer on account of this parasite.

*Were it not for the mite causing mange, the winter mortality among the range cattle would be reduced to one-tenth of what it is at present and the enormous loss in weight and condition which every affected herd now suffers during the winter months, would be correspondingly decreased.* This statement is based upon actual facts as observed by the writer and by prominent stockmen, who for years have dipped their cattle.

#### WHAT IS GAINED BY DIPPING?

As long as the grass is green and full of nutrition, it is difficult for either of the above mentioned parasites to gain any headway. It is, however, a mistake to suppose that they are not present on the cattle in summer-time, although the number of cattle affected, and the number of parasites present, are very much smaller than in winter time. As a rule, however, a sufficient number survive the summer to carry the infection on to the following winter. It is a well-known fact that the green grass will improve nearly every case of mange or lousiness, but not all of them. It requires, however, at least one month, and frequently two months, after the appearance of the green grass in spring, before a mangy or lousy herd begins to look thrifty. This period of one or two months is practically lost in recuperation and not until about one-third of the summer is passed do the cattle begin to grow and put on flesh in excess of their weight and condition of the previous fall. It will, therefore, be seen that *when free from mange cattle will be able at least to hold their own through the winter and will be in condition to put on flesh from the moment the fresh grass appears in spring.*

Any herd which at the present time is affected with either mange or lice, should be dipped as early as their condition will allow. Steer cattle, and bulls, may be dipped at any time, as long as the weather is not too severe, while the breeding stock must wait until the calves are dropped. The entire herd should then be dipped again in the fall, just before cold weather sets in. If this is repeated for two or three years, it is safe to predict that the infection will be entirely eradicated from all ranges where it is not constantly renewed by the introduction of infected stock.

### Why Not Lard Hogs?

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Once again, I will take up the hog question, for it seems to me now is the time (seeing that hogs are such a good price) for such a question. I see all the Canadian stock journals are everlastingly hammering on the side of the bacon hog. Well, perseverance will move a mountain so it is said, but it's a big mountain that has to be removed when you preach bacon hogs to the settlers from the U. S. Now, Mr. Editor, I would like to propound to you a question. Please answer it. Who is it that makes the demand for a certain product, the Epicurean or the working class? Now Canadian papers as I have said before, cry bacon bacon. Agricultural Colleges! The college yell is B—A—C—O—N. Now it's a certain class of people who want bacon, and it must be good. The class of people that yell bacon are not as a rule the men that do manual labor, but they who use their heads to save hands. You take the artisan, the laborer. He wants something more than a slice of bacon for breakfast; a good thick slice of ham, cut from a 300 pound hog, looks more like a medal to him. Then again, if we run everything higher, to what price will lard soar, for if the present flood of people keep on coming in from our pig-raising neighbor south of us, it's bound to create a demand for lard, for you can no more make lard than a Yankee of the habit of pie-eating can win a Yankee the mighty dollar, for he has won it by the art of having both together, and he has won it by the art of having have to come. Now, Mr. Editor, I will propound another question. Who is it that makes the demand for the lard hog? Who is it that makes the demand for the lard hog? Who is it that makes the demand for the lard hog?