

about half an acre of it having been put into cock, as the rain overtook the men as they were finishing the job.

The price of wheat in England still varies a good deal according to locality. While our Herefordshire nephew tells us that, in his part of the country, it must be prime stuff to fetch 3s a bushel (72 cts.), at Reading, Berkshire, it is quoted a shilling (24 cts.) higher; and this in spite of railroads and canals. In past years, i. e., in the 17th century, it was not an uncommon thing for wheat to be a drug in Surrey, while in the Weald of Sussex, close by, the winter-roads were in such a state that the surplus of that clay-district could not get to market any how: see Macaulay's History of England, vol. I, chap. III, and this only 200 years ago.

Bacon-hogs.—So much in earnest are the bacon-curers of Ireland, that they have gone so far as to invest money in England in the purchase of well-bred Yorkshire boars, and to distribute them, gratis, among the farmers of the southern counties. In this country, there is a good deal of ill-feeling among the breeders and feeders of pigs because the bacon-factories do not make a sufficient difference in the prices paid for hogs fit for their trade and the ordinary corn-fed hogs suited only to the business of the pork-packer. "One way to educate the farmer, says the Toronto agricultural paper, *Farming*, is to touch his pocket, and if our bacon-men would pay enough more for first-rate bacon-hogs than for thick fat ones, to make it worth his while to grow and raise the bacon-hog, he would soon put himself in a position to do so. If the price of the bacon-hog were one dollar a cwt. more than for thick fat ones, instead of from 25 cts. to 40 cts. as it is at present, we venture to assert that our farmers would soon provide themselves with the right type of hog for bacon-producing purposes." We do not think the writer dreams of anybody of bacon-curers, in this country, imitating the Irish Association in giving away boars to the farmers, and if he did we should oppose his conclusions vigorously. But we do think that it would be a good thing if a greater difference in price between the bacon-hog and the salt-pork-hog were made, as, before very long, the farmer would find out that it would pay him well to provide the sort of animal the market demands.

We understand that Prof. Robertson has under-

taken, with the consent of the Dominion government, to conduct a series of experiments on hog-feeding in Western Ontario, to try and discover the cause of what is known as soft hog and soft bacon. If he can find out in his experiments how to combine plenty of lean pig-meat with tenderness of texture, he will be conferring a benefit on all lovers of smoked hams; for, at present, we cannot, here in Montreal, get such a thing as fat bacon for love or money, and the lean hams sold by the leading pork-butchers are so tough, or rather hard, that the greatest attention to the simmering, and not boiling, of the ham will not make them acceptable food.

*In reference to the Presidential address of Sir William Crookes, Dornbusch says:—*It is hardly necessary to point out to anyone who follows trade and crop statistics that the figures of the learned President being lamentably astray, it follows that his assumptions of scarcity cannot be sustained. Sir William Crookes says according to the best authorities the total supplies from the harvest of 1897 were, 921,000,000 bushels, whereas our own estimate, prepared from official returns, mounted to 2, 211,100,000 bushels. Again the President's statement that the cereal year 1897-98 began with a deficiency of 103,000,000 bushels, will not hold water, for the World's Visible Supply, as duly reported in the *List*, was over 60,000,000 bushels, to say nothing of the invisible supply in first hands, which was probably another 60,000,000 bushels. There are other points upon which practical men cannot see eye to eye with the man of science, who has not grasped the probabilities, or else makes too little of the future Wheat fields of the world. Why, in Queensland alone it is computed there are still 50,000,000 acres of virgin soil suitable for growing wheat, while the Danubian Provinces and Asia Minor are only on the threshold of possibilities.

The Orchard and Garden.

(CONDUCTED BY MR. GEO. MOORE).

THE CITY GARDENS OF QUEBEC.

The Ancient Capital, contrary to the wishes of some, has undergone a remarkable change during the last few years. Many old land-marks have been removed; the old city-gates taken away, or