

basis comparative with the thick fat breeds, is an achievement which Mr. Brethour and other Canadian breeders have made Canada's own.

All this and a great deal more that might be said, is very gratifying to reflect upon, and should give an added stimulus to the tendency to encourage particularly all departments designated as "Canadian bred."

The past few years have been characterized by extensive importations, and while this is very laudable in itself, it cannot but be admitted that it is more desirable that Canada should win a reputation for the breeding of high-class stock than for importing it. Years ago, it was the custom at leading Canadian shows, to double the amount of the award in the case of the exhibits being imported. The reasons were obvious, as the basis of improved stock was first the importation of breeding animals

from countries where care had already produced results, and a premium on the enterprise was money well spent. But it must not be forgotten that success has ever been the reward of using what one has to the best possible advantage, and successful breeding means a great deal more than simply the purchase of high price dams and sires for the purpose. The careful selection of individuals of known suitability, in breeding, ancestry, individual merit, the maintenance of type, and the careful watch for opportunities for improvement, the relentless elimination of inferiority, call for the exercise of the best care, skill, judgment and persistence possible. So much has this been the case that in the history of all successful breeding, those qualities which make for success, have been accredited as nothing less than true genius.

J.W.S.

## The Wm. Davies Co. on the Bacon Trade Willing to Meet a Farmers' Committee to Discuss Matters

Editor, THE FARMING WORLD.

We enclose herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the Toronto World, dealing with certain phases of the hog question. We will be glad if you will kindly make space for this letter in the columns of your paper.

Yours truly,

THE WM. DAVIES CO., Limited.

Per WM. DAVIES,

President.

Toronto, Jan. 6th.

Dear Sir,—Replying to the article in the Toronto World of the 4th., and to recent editorial comments in the Weekly Sun.

(1) *Slaughtering Hogs in Bond.* The interest of this Company in the bonding privilege can probably best be answered by saying that we have not killed an American hog in bond in Toronto in fourteen years. The house we have in Harrison, Ont., we killed about 4,000 American hogs early last summer, and some 1,000 a few weeks ago, which represents all the American hogs we have killed since 1891. From July, 1905, we were in frequent communication with the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Fisher, urging upon him the necessity of requiring each side of bacon made from American hogs under the bonding privilege to be skin branded "American sides," as we feared injury to Canadian bacon by having the product of American hogs sold as Canadian in England. The Minister decided to stop the privilege rather than to adopt the remedy we suggested. We have no quarrel with him for his decision. We think the course suggested by us was the wiser one, although the above figures will demonstrate how unimportant the whole question is to this Company.

(2) *Is there a Pork Packers' Combine?* We have stated in your columns before, we have stated in the columns of the Weekly Sun, that as far as this Company is concerned there is no association with any combination of packers for any purpose whatsoever. The statement is now made by you and by the Weekly Sun that perhaps it is not called a combine, but there is an understanding which is just as effective nevertheless. In reply to this, we desire to say that this Company has never had, has not now, understanding direct or indirect, through agents, through "Joe Harris," through telegraph or telephone companies, through any sort, kind or form of communication, whereby the price which will be paid for hogs is discussed, or views of values compared, or any condition set up showing collusion of interests upon any matter involved. If this denial still leaves some loop-hole

which you think is not covered, if you will supply the language to cover the loop-hole you will please understand that our denial embodies your language. If other packers in Ontario know the price which this Company fixes for hogs each week, it is obtained by some means unknown to us, and if you can discover the means you will perform for us a very useful and satisfying service.

(3) *The Control of Bacon and Beef.* This Company does not desire and has not sought, to control the bacon or beef business, either by direct or indirect measures. It has sought to bring all the intelligence it could command to bear upon the business with which it was identified. It has sought for and desires no artificial aid from any source whatsoever. It has believed that industry and intelligence applied to the day-to-day operations of the Company would be more useful and self-renewing, and the results secured from such efforts more satisfying, than the same money results secured through combination. We have been guilty of the crime of playing a one hand, and of taking a pride in the business in which we are associated being developed along the lines above indicated. Hence as far as we are concerned the conjectures and suggestions based upon an understanding between packers, as affirmed in your article of the 4th, and your writings of the same character over the last two years, as well as those of the Weekly Sun and other journals, are, and have been, unwarranted, ungenerous and misleading.

We make no attempt to conceal our anxiety at the effect of this persistent campaign, establishing as it does want of confidence in the packers. It is vital to the continuance of the bacon industry that a spirit of confidence exist between the breeder and feeder who raises hogs, and the curer who ships the finished product to the English market. Where criticisms of the press upon the packers and the bacon industry are founded on actual knowledge, and necessary public service is performed in making criticisms. Where they are founded on conjecture and there is refusal to accept as truthful the statements of those who are cognizant of the facts, a cruel wrong is done not only to an important industry in which the farmers of the province are interested, but to the business men who have invested large sums of money in buildings and plant, the value of which is vitally dependent upon the activity with which they can be operated.

As an evidence of what this campaign has been able to accomplish, this Company, as the most representative

one in the business, shows a shrinkage of 100,000 in number of hogs killed during 1905 as compared to 1904, which is equivalent to one-quarter of our business. Our work-people have for months at a time been on one-half day to three days a week short of their share, and the whole business has been subjected to great anxiety and much concern. This shrinkage in hogs has been produced by unnatural means, as it follows a long period of high market price for hogs, when under normal conditions the quantities would increase.

We want neither sympathy nor consolation for this state of affairs. We only ask that in simple justice newspapers, so powerful to work mischief as well as to do good, will be fair-minded and cease a destructive campaign, or support their statements by evidence other than mere conjecture or broad assertion.

We sincerely believe that the cultivation of hogs has been profitable to farmers. We believe the bacon industry has been possible because of the intelligent co-operation between the breeders and feeders who have produced good hogs and the packers who have cured good bacon. We believe this co-operation is being wrongfully destroyed by a persistent newspaper campaign of insinuation and assertion against packers which is not supported by evidence, and which we say, as far as this Company is concerned, is not only misleading, but directly contrary to the whole spirit in which the business is conducted.

If you wish the Editor of the Farmers' Advocate, the Editor of the Weekly Sun, and the Editor of the FARMING WORLD, will arrange for the Hon. Nelson Moneth, Minister of Agriculture in the present Government, the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture in the late Ross Administration, and Mr. Duncan Anderson and Mr. T. McMillan, Farmers' Institute Lecturers, to join with you as a Committee to wait upon us, we will place at your disposal all available information, and will place your charge that the buying price of hogs is determined or affected by an understanding between packers to which we are a party. If after this committee has met with us and gone over the evidence which we have submitted, you have been mistaken in your conjectures and assertions, we will ask you in the interests of a very important industry to make the amende honorable. At the time the committee calls upon us, if there are any general matters identified with the business which are of interest to them, as for instance, questions referred to in the letter of the Hon. John Dryden in the Globe of even date, and which are outside of your particular charges, we will gladly discuss these items in as full a manner as the committee may desire.

We have sent a copy of this letter to the Editors of the Farmers' Advocate, the Weekly Sun, and the FARMING WORLD.

Yours truly,

THE WM. DAVIES CO., LTD.,  
Per WM. DAVIES,  
President.

More on the Hog Question  
Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

The recent discussion in the press on our bacon hog industry promised for a time to be productive of something of importance to the farming public, but despite the good intentions of those who opened the discussions, they seem now to have drifted wide of the mark, and unfortunately within the last few weeks it is difficult for a farmer to ascertain what really is the point at issue. It is quite evident that most of those taking part are men of ability, and this makes

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