

The World's Bacon.

Canada at one time was quite alive to the importance of the bacon industry, even to the extent of supplying the home trade and one-fifth of that consumed in Britain. Now very little is sent abroad, as home consumption is almost equal to the amount produced. Production is not keeping pace with consumption, and George J. Nicholls, of West Smithfield, England, pre-pressed at the National Dairy Show, held recently in London, England, that Canada would in a few years be importing bacon and hog products.

As far as Canada is concerned, it was a secondary theme with Mr. Nicholls, but he pictured the attitude of farmers of the British Isles as of the old "take-it-or-leave-it-type" as opposed to the alert and wakeful Dane who is annually taking from the English market 6,000,000 pounds sterling for bacon alone, which should flow into the coffers of the rural districts of his own land.

In his remarks he pointed out the industrious character and progressive superiority of the Dane. In 1888 Denmark's first bacon factory consumed 23,497 hogs, representing transactions amounting to \$57,000. In fifteen years there were 27 factories, handling 977,232 hogs, valued at \$2,500,000, but so persistent are the Danish farmers that now bacon to the value of \$6,000,000 annually flows from Denmark into the English market.

In striking contrast to the increase in the bacon industry in Denmark is the annual decrease of swine in the British Isles. In spite of the increased demand the Old Country shows no increase in hogs over the production of thirty years ago, and during the last year England and Wales alone dropped nearly 400,000 in her number of swine. Ireland at the beginning of this year had 300,000 less pigs than she had one year previous. Eight years ago Canada supplied the British market with twenty per cent. of her bacon. Now there is, at times, a shortage even for the home Canadian demand. Denmark, Holland and Sweden have not been backward in taking advantage of this situation. They have solicited suggestions for improvement of their type and quality of bacon and the little nation of Denmark with a population of two and one-half million people supports and patronizes forty-four agricultural schools, where the most advanced ideas are taught, while Canada with over seven millions of people, up to date, has only eight of such institutions. This does not reflect discredit upon the educational systems of Canada, but emphasizes Denmark's eagerness to advance her agricultural proficiency. These seats of learning influence the whole national system and to-day Denmark is imitated by all agricultural countries. What they do they do well, but not only that, they study international market conditions, and where a shortage is likely to prevail the Dane is there with the article. Denmark, it is claimed, makes from \$60,000 to \$80,000 per week out of her bacon trade with Britain. More regrettable too is the fact that she buys her best hogs and brood sows in the British Isles and then ships in her bacon over the heads of those foolish enough to sell off their breeding stock.

Lethargy and inactivity on the part of the English farmer seems accountable for these circumstances; but somewhat different conditions prevail here in Canada. Dairy farmers should be our largest raisers of swine, but labor is scarce, and if the milk be sold to the condenser or powder factory or creamery, they do not get the by-products returned in sufficient quantities to mature a large herd. Even under these conditions a clover pasture will summer a nice bunch of shoats, and some of the grain, commonly sold, would fit them for the market. For years, September has been the month of high prices, with an annual decline in October, due apparently to the farmer's desire to sell in the latter month in order to meet outstanding obligations.

Mr. Nicholls states: "I am convinced that the United States and Canada, before many years, will be large importers of bacon and other hog products." If this condition materializes, the law of supply and demand will ensure a steady and profitable price to the breeder and producer of the bacon hog. United States, generally speaking, does not demand the bacon hog, but the Eastern States and cities do take the thinner kinds, and a shortage of any kind of pork means advances for the bacon hog. With an increase in population and a rural development not corresponding with the urban growth the price of bacon must remain firm. The present outlook does not promise any great shipments into America from hog-producing countries, for they have their own markets at their own doors. It remains for Canadians to acquire some Danish alertness, ingenuity and persistence in the application of principles and incorporate them into their agricultural routine. If such a condition ever exists as a surplus of bacon in Canada and United States we still have the English market,

though not so securely as in former years. But under any conditions Canada to-day warrants a large increase in the bacon industry at home.

THE FARM.

A Normal Day's Work.

What is a normal day's work on the farm? No one can answer this question to the satisfaction of his neighbors and farmers in general, but H. H. Mowry, of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, after a lengthy investigation and enquiry into the practices on several hundreds of farms, has compiled in Bulletin No. 8 of his Department a complete record of averages that are interesting indeed and instructive as well.

So many legends are still connected with daily or timed operations in the field that a

cent. used a 12-inch, and equal numbers used 16 and 18-inch plows. Two-thirds of this number plowed a furrow six inches deep, so we may safely use that depth as a basis for calculation. With this data the following table is submitted:

NET HOURS IN THE FIELD 9.65.

Two-Horse Team.	
Width—	Acres Per Day.
10 inches	1.60
12 inches	1.70
14 inches	1.80
Three-Horse Team.	
Width—	Acres Per Day.
12 inches	2.10
14 inches	2.30
Four-Horse Gang Plow.	
Width—	Acres Per Day.
24 inches	4.00
28 inches	4.25

The last section of this table is computed for four horses on the two-furrow gang plow, but three horses capable of walking at the same rate would execute the same amount of work.

HARROWING.

The different kinds of harrows, the many widths and the character of the land where the work is performed would involve unlimited space if recorded in systematized tables, but the following rule for the spike-tooth harrow will apply in most cases. About 20 per cent. less land can be covered per day on freshly-plowed than on well-packed fields. In general, each foot in width of the harrow should cover from 1½ to 1¾ acres daily and each horse should be able to draw 4½ feet in width and cover from 6 to 6½ acres of freshly-plowed land. The spring-tooth harrow must, of course, be figured on a different basis. Statistics show that the same advantage accrues to firm land as in the case of the spike-tooth harrow and on freshly-plowed land each foot in width should cover from 1.2 to 1.5 acres daily. From 2½ to 2¾ feet in width will not overload the average horse and they should cover from 3 to 3½ acres per day. The many reports show the disc harrow to be very heavy in draft, for over 52 per cent. of the farmers used a four-horse team. In general, 2 feet of harrow was allowed for each horse and must cover from 2½ to 3 acres daily on freshly-plowed land and from 3 to 3½ acres on firm land, when handled at the normal rate of speed. The draft varies greatly with the angle of the disc, but it is assumed that the team is not overloaded in any case.

SEEDING.

Four-horse teams are quite commonly seen in Canada during the seeding season and computations from many reports substantiate the wisdom of this practice. Not only does the extra horse increase proportionately the area covered, but the work of each horse is enlarged by this method of hitching up to a 12-foot drill, which seems to be the limit of practicable width from a mechanical standpoint. In general, 2½ to 2¾ feet in width may be allotted to each horse and may be expected to cover from 4 to 4½ acres per day. When adequate power is supplied the duty of each foot of drill is from 1½ to 1¾ acres daily. Provided the length of the plot of land lies between 40 and 160 rods no advantage accrues from large fields over small.

In the operation of planting corn the two-row planter is most popular and 42 inches is the fashionable width for the rows. The adjusted acreage with these standards is 12½ acres per day. Three systems of planting potatoes give three different estimates per acre. One man, dropping by hand, 1.8 acres; two-horse planter, automatic feeder, 5 acres, and two-horse planter, not automatic, managed by two men, 4.4 acres per day.

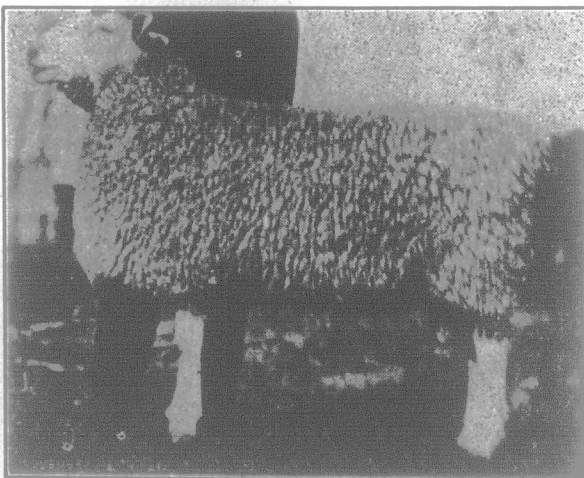
HARVESTING.

The draft of the binder is due chiefly to the mechanism propelling the knife and binding the grain and with the exception of the side draft an addition to the length of the cutting rod and table does not add materially to the load in a new machine. The daily duty per foot of cut is about 2 acres and for horse about 4 acres. With the grain header only, 1 foot of width should cut 2.35 acres and the duty per horse about 5½ acres. Relative to shocking, one man should shock about 7 1-3 acres where the yield is over 60 bushels per acre; 8.4 acres where the yield is between 40 and 60 bushels per acre, and 8.73 acres with a yield of 20 to 40 bushels per acre.

When corn is being cut with a binder, the acreage decreases as the crop increases, indicating an overload for the two-horse team. However, one horse may be expected to cut from 2 to 2½ acres daily.

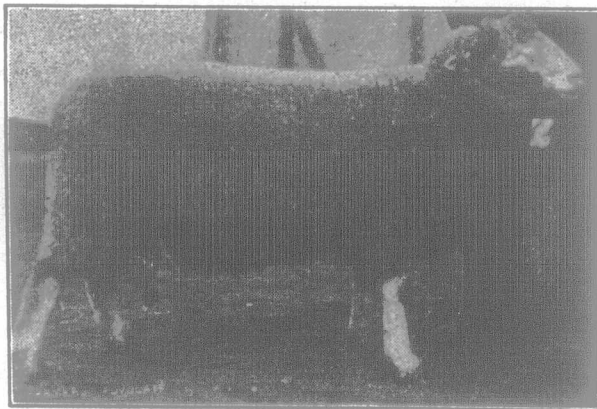
Farmers report that 42 to 55 bushels daily when husking corn from the shock is an average day's work. This range is due to the yield of corn and ease of husking. About 60 per cent. more can be husked from standing stalks than from the shocks.

In haymaking, the two-horse unit is almost



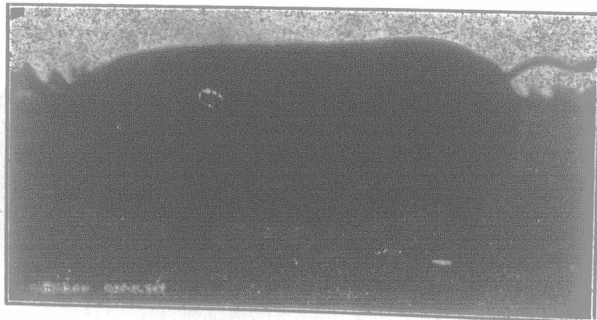
Leicester Ram.

Champion at Toronto, 1913. Owned by Jas. Snell & Son, Clinton, Ont.



Dorset Ram.

Champion at Toronto, 1913. Owned by J. A. Orchard, Shedden, Ont.



Berkshire Sow.

Champion at Toronto, 1913. Owned by H. A. Dolson, Norval, Ont.

simple enquiry will often bring forth tales of wonderful feats of endurance, skill and stamina altogether exaggerating the average of modern man and beast and not in the least enlightening to anyone in search of reliable information. The age of the sickle, scythe and snath is past and gone is the generation that can and will swing them from sun-up till sun-down, day in and day out. "Weaker and wiser," a phrase applied to this generation, is applicable, to a certain extent, in farm husbandry, and the normal day's work now depends more upon the efficiency of the implements, the weight and endurance of the team and the skill of the operator.

The distance to and from the field and conveniences in hitching and unhitching will cause the actual hours in the field to vary, so 9.65 hours is taken as an average or standard, meaning a shade over nine and one-half hours spent in actual labor in the field. In the operation of plowing out of 1,852 reporting to Mr. Mowry, 31 per cent. used a 14-inch implement, 21 per