

## Money in the Hog.

It would pay our farmers to give particular attention to the raising of hogs. There's money in it. It is a branch of agriculture which has been unwisely neglected in Canada, and concerning which too little has been said. If the indirect effect of the McKinley bill is to be a general awakening, and an earnest looking about for new and profitable developments of trade, this is one of the items which should not be overlooked. Let us look at the trade figures for a few moments and learn from them the enormous demand which exists in other countries for the products of the hog. Take, in the first place, the imports by Great Britain in 1889, and see, at the same time, how much of that demand was met by the United States and how little by Canada. The figures are as follows:—

	Total lbs	From Canada.	From U. S.
Pork .....	43,310,400	80,840	2,563,352
Bacon and hams.	105,221,096	33,296,144	384,130,096
Lard .....	138,577,248	4,108,721	158,821,840

Total..... 679,107,744 33,210,704 531,458,298

But that is not all. Not only does Canada supply a small proportion of the British demand for the products of the hog, but she has imported a considerable quantity from the United States. Last year these imports were: Pork, 15,205,972 lbs.; bacon and ham; 3,653,758 lbs., and lard, 8,287,761 lbs. Thus it will be seen that we imported almost as many pounds of pork, bacon, ham and lard as we exported to Great Britain. The Hon. Mr. Carling has already called attention to this fact, and is now doing all he can to induce our farmers to take up hog raising on an extensive scale. As we said a moment ago, there is a very wide market. For the purpose of illustrating this point, we take, for convenience, the figures of the United States exports. Last year shipments abroad were:

	Number of lbs.	Value.
Lard .....	318,242,990	\$27,339,178
Bacon .....	367,378,399	29,872,231
Hams .....	42,847,247	4,779,661
Fresh pork .....	24,794	1,666
Salted pork .....	64,110,845	4,733,415

Total..... 782,631,375 \$66,716,101

These figures show the magnitude of the trade; but it is of equal importance to notice the distribution of this class of exports. Leaving out the smaller sales, the countries which made the purchases of bacon alone were as follows:

	Lbs.
Belgium.....	17,461,04
Brazil .....	1,066,714
Denmark .....	308,250
England .....	288,679,781
Scotland .....	11,116,675
Germany.....	561,697
Canada .....	28,977,296
B. W. India .....	186,640
Netherlands .....	846,781
Dutch Guiana .....	104,065
Cuba .....	3,319,966
Porto Rico .....	540,146
Sweden and Norway .....	3,632,824

We have selected bacon for the purpose of this illustration, because it is the chief item of export in this regard. Here, then, is a wide distribution; and if the

smaller sales had been included it would have been seen that the West Indies and the South American States are large consumers of the products of the hog. To all these markets Canada has easy access. That is important. No barriers lie in the way, so far as the avenues of trade are concerned. Nor does the United States enjoy any peculiar advantage which would operate against Canada in a fair competition. On the contrary, Prof. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, has shown that Canadian bacon sells for one cent more per pound in the British market during the summer season, because it is firmer and sweeter than the United States article. The advantage of quality is on our side, which is a point of considerable importance.

There remains one point to be considered in this relation. Can our farmers raise hogs for export at a fair profit? They can, if they will but observe the proper methods of feeding. In the *Empire* of the 23rd ult., Mr. Shaw gives the result of his experiments at Guelph, and shows very clearly that there is more money in hogs than cattle. In 77 days he managed to make a profit of 23½ per cent. on hogs, while he had made but 9 per cent. with cattle in a longer period. The chief item of fodder was a meal made of one part of oats, one of barley, one of wheat middlings and two of peas. These are all grains which our farmers can raise to advantage, and had the 1,882,853 bushels of peas which were exported from Canada last year been kept in the country and fed to hogs it would have been better for our producers. There is also the item of care. At the Ottawa Central Experimental Farm Prof. Robertson is having a model piggery built, for the purpose of showing that hogs will give ample return in their flesh for kindly care bestowed upon them. It is to be hoped that this matter will be taken up in earnest, both in farming communities and in the press. We are all interested in the development of any paying branch of industry, and if lard, bacon, hams and pork may be produced at a direct gain to the farmer, there is also the indirect gain to labor in the making of packages, the handling of the product and all that is related thereto. The Government has done a wise thing in affording a fair measure of protection on hog products, and we happen to know that one of the direct results of this legislation has been the establishment of a large lard factory in Montreal—a branch of one of the extensive Chicago concerns. It remains only for our farmers to take hold of the matter in an intelligent and enterprising spirit.—[*The Empire*.]

### Unleached Ashes.

When used in drills, from 600 to 1,000 pounds of unleached ashes can be used to good advantage per acre, but in making a thorough application, from two to five tons should be used. When used in quantities over two tons per acre, they should be

spread on top of the ground in the fall or early spring, when the ground is not frozen, so that the moisture and rains of these seasons of the year will aid in dissolving the potash, phosphoric acid, lime silica, and enable them to amalgamate with the soil before the planting of seed. Otherwise the strong alkalies coming in contact with the seeds might spoil the crop for that year. After sowing broadcast it would be well to harrow in the ashes a little. Should it so happen that good results did not follow the first year's application, by reason of a failure of sufficient rains to dissolve all the chemicals in the ashes before hot, dry weather comes on, let them alone; that is, make no application of other fertilizers to the ground, for nothing will be lost by their lying in the soil, and their influence will surely be felt in the next year's crops. When once thoroughly leached into the soil they are invaluable in a drought. It would be well for farmers who have not heretofore used ashes to experiment for themselves by using side by side with stable manure and other fertilizers, a like quantity in cost of unleached wood ashes, and then in another field apply in cost half each of stable manure, well mixed with the soil, and as a top-dressing unleached ashes well harrowed in.

### Grapes After a Wet Spring.

The year 1887 was quite similar in some localities to the present season, in the abundant rains through the first half. In the Report of the University of Illinois for that year, Prof. J. J. Burrill states that the results were the most marked on grapes. They ceased to grow early, during the dry midsummer, and then started again after the September rains, this month continuing warm with not enough frost to kill the leaves and stop the growth. But the latter half of October had some quite cold weather, in one instant as low as 10 degrees, and all the young wood of unprotected vines was killed, doing more damage than is usually done in winter. Before this time the grapes had ripened well. Should the vines in future be threatened under similar conditions, especially those which are particularly tender, it might be well on the approach of such a cold snap to lay down the vines.—Country Gentleman.

### LIVE STOCK NOTES.

THERE is pork in grass as well as beef and mutton.

THERE are but few horses that are not tractable and docile if they are treated properly.

DO NOT expect any farm animal to "pick up" its living and put much meat upon its bones.

HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN transfers for the week ending July 26 included eleven bulls and fifty-four cows.

IF the pastures in which the colts are kept get short this dry weather use bran and oats to make up the shortage.