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EDITORIAL.

The improvement wrought in pure-bred stock in the Argentine Republic by the use of first-class imported stock is clearly seen when eleven home-bred bulls sold a short time ago for an average of over \$3,000 apiece, while imported bulls newly arrived did not go above \$1,250, and several were unsold.

The enterprise shown by the Danes in developing their dairy export trade to Great Britain is most commendable when we consider that the area of Denmark is only 15,000 square miles, or about one-third the area of the State of Pennsylvania. It has only one large city, Copenhagen, which has 600,000 of a population. The total number of cattle kept is somewhat more than 2,000,000. The total population of the country numbers about the same as the cattle.

Buyers for the British army are paying good prices now for suitable horses. South Africa, among other places, has been visited by them, and nearly 1,000 horses have been secured, as high as \$200 being paid for some. When some army officers were here a few years ago to purchase, they were unable to get many of the right sort, and sellers complained that the prices offered were too low. Now that better prices are being given, our breeders should keep this market in view and try to get what they can out of it.

Bacon Hogs.

In this issue appears a letter from our English correspondent which touches on several points of interest in regard to bacon pigs as viewed by one in that country. With some of his conclusions some of us may not agree, but, in view of the intense interest now being taken in this country as regards the raising of suitable pigs for the export trade, anything that tends to discussion on the subject should be welcomed.

The first point that strikes us in his letter is the bonus given by Messrs. Harris & Co., the well-known bacon-curers, Calne, Wiltshire, to pigs that come up to the standard that they require, one feature of which is that the fat on the backs of such pigs should not exceed 1½ inches in depth. This bonus question has often been discussed in our columns and elsewhere, feeders claiming that our pork-packers do not discriminate enough in the prices they pay for what are called "ideal bacon pigs." It is generally conceded that pigs of that type should be worth more than other stock, which, though young and well-fitted, yet either lack in the required length and depth or are too thick and wide on the back. The packers, we believe, are quite willing, and, in fact, do pay more for suitable pigs, but this bonus does not reach the farmer's pocket.

The trouble lies in the system of buying in vogue in this country. The drovers, who scour the country for pigs, nearly always buy them, good and indifferent, for so much a pound all round, and make no discrimination in favor of any particular type. The farmer thus reaps no advantage from raising "baconers," which, some claim, cost them a little more to raise than ordinary pigs. The drover, of course, knows what he can get for the general run of pigs, and figures thereon accordingly when he buys, while all in the bunch that are suitable for the packers will net him a higher price, which is so much extra gain to him. So long as this system of buying is carried on it is no wonder that farmers do not raise more pigs of the bacon type. The remedy would seem to lie either in co-operative factories, co-operation in shipping to the present established houses, as is done to Messrs. Harris' in England, as mentioned by our corre-

spondent, or in the packers having their own buyers stationed in different parts of the country.

What oftentimes puzzles those not in the curing business is the different names given to certain market cuts of the carcass, such as Wiltshire sides, Cumberland sides, etc. As will be seen, these local names refer to the different methods in use in certain districts in cutting up the carcass; but somewhat different styles of pigs are required for the various methods of cutting up, while the methods of curing are not in any way different. To get the famous Wiltshire sides the pigs should weigh from 180 to 200 lbs.; each side will then weigh about 72 lbs., and a ham about 10 lbs.

It will be noticed that our correspondent highly esteems thoroughbred Berkshires for bacon purposes, the large proportion of lean meat in their carcasses, and the good admixture of lean and fat, rendering them superior, in his estimation, to all other pure-breeds for the bacon-curer's requirements. Next to them he places Large, Middle and Small Yorkshires, Essex, and Tamworths. His conclusions here are not quite identical with what our bacon-curers have always preached, but it must be remembered that some of the English breeds of pigs vary considerably in type from pigs of the same breeds as kept in this country.

The treatment of farrowing sows and young pigs as mentioned in the letter corresponds very closely to the best methods carried out in Canada. Great stress is properly laid on the necessity of exercise, for the want of which, combined with overfeeding, many a pig has suffered from cramps and rheumatic gout. In connection with the feeding of pigs, it is instructive to learn from the experiments carried out that pigs fed in winter required 8 per cent. more feed than those fattened in the summer time.

The Late Mr. J. J. Colman.

British live-stock interests lost a devoted and valued adherent in the death, on Sept. 18th, of Mr. J. J. Colman, Norwich, Eng., a gentleman whose name has for many years been more particularly associated with the breeding of Southdown sheep. Some thirty years ago a flock of this breed was founded on Mr. Colman's East Lodge Farm, near Norwich, by a carefully-selected lot of typical specimens. In a very few years this flock was represented at the large shows, where they figured conspicuously among the winners. Year after year since that time up to the present has seen Mr. Colman as a successful Southdown-breeding exhibitor at the Royal Agricultural, Smithfield and other leading shows, invariably winning the highest honors. Not only in sheep breeding, but also in cattle breeding, Mr. Colman has accomplished much valuable work. In 1860 he resolved on founding a herd of Red Polled cattle. At this time this breed, which was confined to the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, was in an uncertain state as to whether it would advance or be entirely lost. This made the founding of a herd very difficult, but nevertheless it was accomplished from cattle fairly good from a dairyman's point of view, as well as being good beef producers. In 1871 he entered the lists as an exhibitor, and was fairly successful, but after the Herd Book of the breed had been started, in 1874, Mr. Colman spared neither labor nor money to help on their improvement, and succeeded in a remarkable degree. Champion honors again and again and class prizes innumerable have gone to Mr. Colman's representatives, both as breeding and as fatted stock. Mr. Colman was also a Jersey breeder of much success. He will be long remembered for his interest in the less favored farmers by contributing heavy purses for prizes to be competed for by tenant farmers. He took lively interest in the Royal Agricultural Society, the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, and other similar organizations.

Changes in the U. S. Regulations Regarding Imported Stock.

The U. S. Treasury Department has issued new regulations governing the importation of pure-bred stock into that country. By the new rules, which are given in full in another column, no animal imported for breeding purposes is to be admitted free of duty unless the importer furnishes a certificate of the record and pedigree in the specified form given, which requires not only particulars about the sire and dam, but also of the grandsire and grandam. An affidavit is also required from the owner, agent, or importer as to the identity of the animal.

The reason given for this tightening of the reins in regard to pure-bred stock imported into the United States is that information has reached the Department of Agriculture that cross-bred animals and others with unknown pedigrees have been recorded in certain books in order to make them eligible for free entry. There is every reason to believe, however, that the real reason is the jealousy of certain American live stock associations, which has been shown on previous occasions against our Canadian breeders and records, and which has been stirred up afresh on account of the number of pure-bred stock taken from here across the line during the past few months. The regulations previously in force were, in the eyes of all fair-minded men, sufficiently strict and onerous to give the American breeder and American records every protection, and if, as is alleged, fraudulent recording has been done to secure free entry, the duty of those who discovered such frauds should have been to notify the secretary of the association with whom such fraudulent recording had been done, so that speedy punishment could have been meted out to the guilty party or parties. Speaking for our Canadian associations, we can assert that any wrong-doing of that kind, when brought to the ears of the association interested, would be promptly punished.

Attached to the circular containing the new rules is a list of American and foreign books of record, registration in which is recognized as a guarantee of purity. No Canadian records are recognized, of course, as we presume that the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture does not consider their standards as high enough, although we should be glad to see wherein they could be improved! How comes it, then, that the Department recognizes the stud books published in France for French Coachers, whose standard is certainly not a very high one.

Here is another point on which we seek enlightenment. When communications were being held with Washington with a view to getting our records recognized by the U. S. Treasury Department as sufficient authority for securing free entry of pure-bred stock across the line, one of the reasons given why the request could not be entertained was that no records would be considered except such as belonged to the country where the breed in question originated, thus cutting off every Canadian record except that for the French-Canadian cattle, called Quebec Jerseys. That this was so is the more readily remembered because shortly afterwards an American buyer bought some of these cattle and tried to get them over free of duty on the ground that they originated in Canada, but, possibly for fear of giving the other Canadian associations a lever for further use, his request was denied. Now, in looking over the list of cattle records recognized by the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, we find that he has admitted Shorthorn records kept in France and in New Zealand. Can the Secretary explain why these two books are allowed? France and New Zealand are not the countries where Shorthorns originated. If their records are allowed, why not ours? We await a reply.

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