

in this country were of that type. But what has he received for his time and trouble? Why simply the same price for this ideal bacon hog, which the packer needs so much in order to keep up the quality of the finished product, as his neighbor receives for his lights and fats, to whose breeding and feeding no attention whatsoever has been paid.

The effect of this is not far to seek. The farmer, who has been anxiously waiting for the extra price promised for bacon hogs, has become discouraged and a reaction has set in which if not counteracted in some way will work serious injury to our important bacon trade. Only the other day a prominent farmers' institute worker informed us that he has had several inquiries quite recently from farmers who wanted to know where Poland China hogs could be procured, as they had decided to go back to this type of hog, as they came to maturity quicker than the bacon type and the drover who buys for the packing house pays just as much for them as for the select type. Elsewhere in this issue, appears a letter from a Waterloo County farmer who states that the same kind of thing is going on in his district, and so common have stories of this kind been during the past few months that it is a question if the export bacon trade of this country has not been sufficiently injured already as to take years to recover from.

Then there is the question of feeding and fitting for market. No one will dispute the fact that more time and care are required in fitting the ideal bacon hog for market than the thick fat fellow. The present practice of buying all hogs at the same figure affords no inducement to the farmer to give whatever time and care are necessary in finishing the bacon hog. And here a danger threatens the trade that has in it as serious consequences as a reversion to the old thick type of hog for breeding purposes has.

Taking it altogether the situation is most serious, and fraught with permanent injury to our export bacon trade in which every Canadian takes a justifiable pride. In our opinion the remedy lies with the packer. Let him pay a sufficient premium to induce the farmer to produce the bacon hog. A premium of 25c. per cwt. at the packing house is not sufficient. Let it be at least 50c. per cwt. and better still 75c. and then the drover will have to discriminate more in buying hogs from the farmer. Under present conditions, while we would strongly urge him to keep to the bacon type in any case, the farmer is not much to blame for becoming a little lukewarm on the subject and desiring to revert back to his old love, the thick fat hog.

In putting the case thus strongly, we have no desire other than keeping up the quality of our bacon products. The situation is acute and drastic measures are required if the reaction that has set in all over this country against the ideal bacon hog is to be stemmed. The packers have the remedy in their own hands. If the select bacon hog is necessary to the successful building up of their trade in Great Britain let a sufficient discrimination be made in the price to induce farmers to produce the kind required. Dollars and cents and not sentiment count for as much with the farmer as with the packer.

On page 378 a list of questions is given bearing directly upon this question. We would be glad to have replies from those interested.

#### Wants All Cattle Dehorned

The dehorning question received some attention in the Legislature last week. Mr. Crawford, of Toronto, in-

roduced a bill asking that legislation be enacted making the dehorning of all cattle under one year of age compulsory in Ontario, which he was forced to withdraw after several members had spoken strongly against it.

While dehorning has grown in favor in recent years, and is more largely practiced by cattle raisers, to compel farmers to dehorn all cattle under one year of age would be a most foolish proceeding indeed. Such a law, if placed upon the statute books, would do more harm than good. It would retard progress and prejudice many against the practice, who are now inclined to favor it. Progress in a matter of this kind can only be brought about by education and showing the people that dehorning is beneficial both to the animal and to its owner.

If Mr. Crawford, who is a large exporter of cattle, and has, no doubt, in his experience seen many losses caused by horns in car lots of cattle shipped, wishes to encourage dehorning, let him pay a premium for dehorned animals sufficient to induce farmers to practice it. In Chicago and other large cattle shipping centres, dehorned cattle, everything else considered, command a higher price than cattle with the horns on. It is also claimed that a higher price is paid for dehorned animals on Toronto market. But if so it has not been sufficiently high to induce cattle raisers to take up the practice in a general way.

#### The Inspector of Records

Mr. W. A. Clemons, whose appointment as inspector of certificates is shared by the national live stock regis-



trars, was mentioned in last issue, is not unknown to Canadian live stock breeders. He is the son of Mr. G. W. Clemons, St. George, Ont., secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association. He was educated in the rural schools of that district and at the Hamilton Collegiate Institute, taking his second-class teacher's certificate at the age of fifteen. After leaving school he returned to his father's farm at St. George and assisted in building up the well known Maple Hill herd of Holsteins. From 1894 to 1900 he had charge of the office of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association, thus acquiring a familiarity with pedigrees and experience in keeping live stock records that will aid him materially in performing his new duties. In 1900 he became secretary to the Live Stock Commissioner at Ottawa, and three years later he was made publication clerk for the Department of Agriculture, a position he has ably filled up to the present time. In 1903 Mr. Clemons married Helen Jean, daughter of Mr. David Nairn, of Galt.

In Mr. Clemons the breeders of Ontario have an official, whose record for sterling integrity and independence of character should be a guar-

antee of the quality of the pure-bred live stock records under his charge. The Minister of Agriculture has chosen wisely in appointing Mr. Clemons.

#### The Hog Supply

The "Cincinnati Price Current's" forecast of the hog supply in the United States, from March 1st to November 1st, 1905, is not without interest to Canadian hog growers, especially if Canadian packers purchase largely in that market when home supplies are short. It says:

"The reasonable interpretation of the available evidence is that there is likely to be 5 to 10 per cent. increase in the marketable supply of hogs for the period ending November 1, compared with last year, with probability of larger numbers for both the first and second half of the period of eight months. In 1904 the second half of the period, or July to October inclusive, represented about 45 per cent. of the summer season total packing; 1903, 47 per cent.; 1902, 44 per cent.; 1901, 47 per cent.; 1900, 46 per cent.; 1899, 45 per cent.; 1898, 47 per cent."

For several years "The Price Current's" forecast has turned out to be fairly accurate, and the foregoing may be taken as a pretty good estimate of the hog supply in the United States during the next six months.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

The Government has decided that the Dominion Exhibition for 1906 shall go to Halifax. At least, the annual grant will go to the exhibition held annually in that city. It is a long stretch from New Westminster to Halifax.

It costs 25c. per cwt. to ship cattle in car lots from Windsor and points west of Guelph to Montreal, while the same service from points in Michigan to the seaboard costs only 22c. per cwt. There is nothing fair about this.

The directors of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, to be held at Portland, Oregon, this summer, have decided not to have a dairy cow test. This is, perhaps, a wise move, in view of that exposition following so closely after St. Louis.

Attempts are being made to introduce wheat growing into Mexico. Large crops can be grown and an endeavor will be made by several large syndicates to put the grain growing industry of that country on a commercial footing.

Rev. Father Burke, that staunch friend and supporter of agriculture in Prince Edward Island, has been in Toronto recently endeavoring to influence the Board of Trade and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in the Island Tunnel scheme. His efforts should meet with success.

The Winnipeg Exhibition Board has decided to carry on the executive work of the exhibition by dividing it up among the directors, each having some particular department, for which he is responsible. This is an innovation in managing exhibitions in Canada that will be watched with interest. The Winnipeg Exhibition has been successfully managed heretofore by Mr. F. W. Heubach, who resigned a couple of months ago.