

# The Grain Grower's Guide

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## Canada's Pork Industry

*The Commission appointed by the Dominion Government have Studied the Hog Question from Birth to Squeal, and have made some Important Recommendations*



IN 1909 the Dominion government appointed five well known farmers and stock raisers as a commission to enquire into the swine husbandry in Great Britain and Ireland and also in Denmark and report as to the best method to improve swine husbandry in Canada. This report has just been published and may be had free for the asking from the office of the Live Stock Commissioner, House of Commons, Ottawa.

The commission was composed of W. W. Ballantyne, of Stratford, and Wm. Jones, of Zenda, from Ontario; from the province of Quebec was appointed Mr. Gedeon Garceau, of Three Rivers; Mr. Joseph Rye, of Edmonton, Alta., was named from the west; Mr. J. E. Sinclair, of Prince Edward Island, and the sixth representative was J. B. Spencer, assistant live stock commissioner, who acted in the capacity of secretary and editor.

At the conclusion of their report the commission sum up as follows:

"The commission composed of farmers residing in various provinces of Canada, who rear or market swine in greater or less numbers each year, started out with a clear understanding of the various phases of the swine rearing industry throughout the Dominion. The instructions given them to investigate and find out as far as possible the conditions responsible for the success of the industry in Denmark, Great Britain and Ireland were fully comprehended. The commission undertook this work seriously and devoted their time earnestly to the task. Every facility that could be asked was placed at their disposal. The commission is prepared to depend on the report to justify its effort.

"A careful reading of the various chapters will reveal many lessons on pork production. The time of the commission was spent among successful men and associations who revealed their methods for examination. Nowhere was there found evidence of success being attained through mysterious methods or secret processes. Intelligent management was found to be responsible for satisfactory results all along the way. This included persistency of purpose and a confidence in the system followed. Everywhere was there found a tendency to intensive methods which demand careful attention to details. Nowhere was haphazard work associated with satisfactory result. Swine rearing as examined in Europe is a highly organized branch of agriculture secondary to and always almost associated with dairy farming.

"In Ireland the rank and file of pig raisers are men of small means who have found in a pig a means of converting unsaleable products from the dairy, the potato field and other parts of the farm into a valuable product. Long experience, coupled with frugal habits and need of the returns from the fatted swine, have taught the most profitable methods of feeding. This cannot be said to be done by any special system, but rather according to the circumstances of each case and the judgment of the feeder begotten through long experience. The average Irish pig feeder is quick to detect evidence of unthriftiness in his pigs, and sharp to

apply the remedy. He does not overstock, but keeps sufficient to use to best advantage the offals and by-products he has, together with as little as possible of expensive food. He keeps on day after day and year after year in raising swine, and this is perhaps the most important lesson he has for the Canadian farmer.

By this persistence he has done his part in bringing the Irish bacon trade into a profitable industry for Ireland and the individual Irish farmer.

"In England the conditions are different. All agriculture may be said to be carried on by an extensive system. While as in Ireland no suitable by-products are

consumed. The English farmer, too, is stable and consistent in his system of farming, and this has given him experience and established a reputation for his products. He has a valuable lesson for the Canadian in his consistency of purpose, application and keen business principles.

"The Scots farmer does not make a specialty of pork production. He milks cows and makes cheese and uses pigs to turn the whey to good account. He buys most of his grain food and must exercise care to get back his money with a little profit and something for the whey. He has studied how to get these,

all along the way. The top place in the bacon trade of England has been the goal in view, and the energies of the government, the pig breeder, the pig feeder, the curer and the seller, all point in the one direction. As one man all interested in the industry pull together and every branch separately works for perfection of the whole. The pig raiser only wants bacon pigs, and these as prolific and good as possible. The feeder, with his eye constantly on the grade his pigs shall ultimately reach, studies to gain this from the least outlay for feed. He does nothing by spells and spasms, but finds the road and persists in following it. Judgment born of successful experience keeps his day to day practice right, and as a pig raiser he succeeds. His conditions are not unlike those of the Canadian farmer who follows dairying, except that he has more feed to buy on account of his limited acres. He is succeeding because he will keep only such pigs as are good mothers of vigorous litters; in feeding them only



MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN BACON COMMISSION TO DENMARK.

First row from left to right—J. B. Spencer, Assistant Live Stock Commissioner, Secretary and Editor; W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford, Chairman; Wm. Jones, Zenda, representing Ontario. Second row from left to right—J. E. Sinclair, representing the Maritime Provinces; Joseph Rye, representing Western Provinces; Gedeon Garceau, representing Quebec.

allowed to waste for want of pigs. The industry goes farther than this, amounting even to an important branch of highly organized system of live stock husbandry. The keeping of pigs is carried on as a business enterprise and no chance is taken in regard to the losing of money. Much of the concentrated food used is purchased at high prices, and the books in the pig account must show a profit. There is little chance to save in the price of food, which leaves the profit to be made from the pig side. The employment of a bright, experienced feeder kept under the watchful eye of the master, is the means adopted in getting results from the foods

and follows intelligently what he has found to give best results. Having learned that sweet whey is better feed than sour, he gives it as fresh as possible, and avoids, as a principle, feeding a larger quantity than experience has taught to be economical. The feeding is done with every care and regularity, usually by the same person. The Scots feeder would teach the Canadian cheese factory patron that there is profit in the intelligent feeding of whey in sweet condition to pigs from store to finished weight.

### Denmark's Example

"The industry as conducted in Denmark has lessons for the Canadian pig raiser

on such foods and in such a manner as he knows gives greatest ultimate profit; in observing the demands of the market upon which the size of his pay cheque depends; and by his confidence in his own efforts and those in charge of the other branches of the industry.

"Everywhere the ideas of pig feeders agree with those of the most successful Canadians in regard to the best age to wean litters. Nowhere were breeders found weaning at less than six weeks, and most breeders leave the litters on the sow until two months' old.

"Both in Denmark and Ireland the

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