

The Steadfast Hog-raiser.

Prices for live hogs do not seem to remain stationary for very long periods of time. Growers must not be discouraged if they do not get the very top notch. It would take a more than ordinary man to know when to finish a pen of pigs so as to get the best price. It is safer not to speculate on prices at all. The only thing to guard against each and every year is to try and not finish in October, November and December, for, owing to our seasons, there is always bound to be plenty at that time coming forward. Apart from this rule, the safest way is to simply go on producing the right sort, keep them growing all the time, and when finished to the most desirable size and degree of fatness, turn them off right away. The average price received by this method for a given term of years will be found to equal the average by any other method. Then, there is greater economy in production, and better system. We should have system running through all our operations.

It is a big mistake to stock up when prices are high, and sell off all the breeders when the profits are small. Taking one year with another, there is good money in raising hogs, and the man who steadily pursues his course through bad as well as good report, is the man who will get the lion's share of it. When a man keeps up his number (what he can handle conveniently and successfully) year in and year out, he can make a greater success than he who stocks up to the fullest capacity for a year or two and then sells all off for another term of years.

There is always something to learn in caring for any kind of stock, and the one who has his object lessons before him every day has the best chance to learn it. Besides, suitable pens and runs should be provided, and these are not in use all the time where a steady business is not kept up, and when pens are standing empty they are paying no interest on the investment.

If we would breed from nothing but up-to-date specimens, grow them properly and market just at the proper stage, we would strengthen the demand in the British market and increase our revenues at the same time.

Our people are prone to save all the sow pigs and make breeders of them when prices are high. This plays havoc with the quality. These young things are bred, and have one, two and sometimes three litters before they are matured; so what can we expect, even though the sows were all standard specimens? Weakly, ill-formed and unprofitable feeders are the outcome. Then, we must realize the fact that, when so many sows are kept, many of them lack the conformation required in a good breeder. We must take our time. We cannot take two or three steps at once. Then, when we have exercised the necessary weeding and culling to secure first-class breeding sows, don't kill them off at the first appearance of a decline in prices. It is the steady, industrious, always-at-it fellow who makes the greatest success.

J. R. H.

Fair Dates for 1906.

McGillivray	Oct. 5
Cardwell	October 9, 10
Caradoc, Mt. Brydges	Oct. 5
American Royal, Kansas City, Mo.	Oct. 6-13
Prince Edward Island Agr. and Industrial Exhibition	Oct. 8-12
Muncy Fair	Oct. 9, 10, 11
Caledonia	Oct. 11, 12
Calstar Agr. Fair, Abingdon	Oct. 12, 13
International, Chicago	Dec. 1-8
Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph	Dec. 10-15

[Note.—For general list of Ontario fairs, see "Farmer's Advocate," August 23rd, page 1343.]

Managers of fairs whose dates do not appear on our lists will confer a favor on our readers by sending in their dates.

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King's County, P. E. I.

The grain harvest is pretty well all gathered in. In general, it is considerably below the average. Wheat, on the whole, is not more than half a crop, for while there are many good fields, many others have been almost totally destroyed by the ravages of the joint-worm and weevil. It might be well to note that wheat sown from the 1st to the 10th of June seems to have escaped damage from these pests. The oat crop is short and thin in many places, but is better filled than it was in the short year of 1904. Potatoes will not be more than one-fourth of a crop. We venture the opinion that there will not be more than enough potatoes to supply the home market harvested on P. E. I. this fall, as many of our best potato-growers will have to buy for their own use and for seed. Some early ones are being shipped to Sydney and Halifax, bringing 35 cents to the growers. Prices, in general, are good, cheese selling at 12½c. at the Dundas factory. Lambs are selling at 4c. per lb., live weight, for first quality; dressed pork at 8c.; eggs, 16½c.; butter, 18c. to 20c.; beef, grass fat, at 3c. a lb., live weight. Farm laborers cannot be hired at any price, every young man that could get away having gone to the North-west harvest fields. Most of them will come back in December, and when they deduct car fare and travelling expenses, will find themselves not much better off than they would have been had they worked equally as hard at home.

The P. E. I. newspapers are carrying on a creditable campaign on behalf of P. E. I. as a good country to settle down in, and we believe the facts they are placing before the people will cause many to hesitate before leaving our fertile, easily-worked soil for the hardships of pioneer life. The Charlottetown Exhibition is now the chief topic of conversation, and everyone who can do so will attend, which is right and proper, as the directors are doing their best to make it the best show ever held. A great many farmers are now plowing sod for next year's crop of oats. This will be backset next spring and seeded out. Mr. Duncan Anderson, of Rugby, Ont., advised our farmers to follow this method when doing Institute work here two years ago, claiming that it was a fine way to rid land of weeds. Those who did it last year have the best grain crops this season, which proves that Mr. Anderson's advice was sound. Owing to the short straw and potato crop, feed prices will likely rule higher than last year, as potatoes are a big item in the feed list of P. E. I. Island farmers.

GEO. E. SAVILLE.

Dundas, P. E. I.

What About the Price of Hogs?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

During the course of last winter the agricultural community of Ontario became deeply interested in a conference between representatives of the farmers, headed by Hon. John Dryden, D. Anderson and T. McMillan, and the packers, represented by Prof. Smale, Messrs. Flavell, Wilson and Bowman. After the Winter Fair meeting and several conferences on the question, a solution of the question was proposed, and, I believe, the principle assented to that there should be conferences from time to time for establishing a fair price to the farmers, based upon the ruling prices of product in Great Britain. While admitting the value of the British market to the Canadian bacon producer, still I do not think the discussion covered the whole ground. The representatives of the farmers seemed to consider only the market for product in Great Britain, and, of course, the packers very wisely did not draw attention to the value of the domestic markets of our own country. What the home consumption of Canada is to-day we do not accurately know. Three or four years ago it was estimated by one of our leading packers that of the total amount received at Ontario packing-houses, at least 75 per cent. was exported, the remaining 25 per cent. being consumed at home. This estimate, of

course, did not include the very large amount cured and consumed in the farm homes of the country, the amounts handled by little local houses, and the very large amount handled by local butchers and dealers all over the country—only that received by the large export concerns of the country. Since that time the domestic consumption has increased enormously. Immigration has been flowing in, great public works are under way, labor everywhere is fully employed at very high wages, and a specially strong demand prevails for all classes of pork products; for there is no meat so suitable for the needs of the new settler, the miner or lumberman, or the laborer on our great public works, as the product of the hog. To-day, probably from 40 to 50 per cent. of our total production is consumed at home, and we must remember that our packers are protected in our own markets, and take full advantage of the favors granted by the tariff.

During the greater portion of last summer (1906), certainly our farmers had nothing to complain of. Prices were very high, competition keen, and trade, from the farmers' standpoint, very satisfactory. But during the last few weeks conditions have not been so satisfactory. Our packer friends may have had a conference, but I don't think the farmers were called in to assist. In the latter half of August we had a sharp sagging in the prices of live hogs, running from 25c. to 50c. per hundred live weight per week for some weeks, until the average price of live hogs at country points was reduced from around \$7.50 to about \$6.00 per cwt. What about the market for product during these same weeks. I remember one cable from England, in, I think, the third week of August (Montreal Gazette), "Canadian bacon in small supply and good demand, at an advance of 8 shillings per cwt." During all these weeks the Liverpool cables show a slowly stiffening market. Turning to the reports of our local provision markets, we find reports like the following during all these weeks: "Stocks of provisions very light, in strong demand, with an advance of ½ cent per pound in most lines probable next week. Packing-houses, owing to the light supply of hogs and strong demand, are practically bare of stocks." To-day (Sept. 29) supplies of hogs continue light and provision stocks very small. There is a specially big demand for hams, prices unchanged. During these weeks of depression in live-hog prices in Ontario, the markets for hogs at U. S. points have been steadily advancing, until the top price at Buffalo the past week has been around 7c., as high as \$7.25, while the top price for singers at Toronto has been \$6.40 to \$6.50. The farmers would like to know how it is Buffalo packers can pay 50c. more for hogs than Toronto, the manufactured products of which sell at from 1c. to 2c. per pound less in the United States than same lines sell at in Ontario, and whose bacon sells at from 8 to 10 shillings per cwt. less in Great Britain than Canadian. The action of the packers during the last few weeks has aroused distrust in the minds of many producers, and will militate against any very great increase in the numbers of hogs in Ontario next year. As one of those who believe in hog-raising as one of the great natural industries of Ontario, I would say to the packers, "Gentlemen, give us a square deal, and you will find that the farmers of Ontario are quite capable of supplying any demand you may make."

Elgin Co., Ont.

T. H. MASON.

Entomological Society Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Entomological Society is to be held at the Agricultural College, Guelph, on Wednesday and Thursday, October 10th and 11th.

"He in whom the love of repose predominates will accept the first creed, the first philosophy, the first political party he meets—most likely his father's. He gets rest, commodity and reputation, but he shuts the door of truth."—[R. W. Emerson.]

"Show me the man who cares no more for one place than another, and I will show you in that same person one who loves nothing but himself."—[Southey.]

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