

mers have the bulk of their hogs ready for market. The explanation given by the packer for these variations is the condition of the market in the United Kingdom. While the falling off in price in the fall months may be due to the large influx of poultry, game, etc., in the British market, lessening the demand for bacon, it is not so easy to understand why there should be such marked variation in price at other seasons of the year. Rightly or wrongly, these variations are attributed by the farmer not to market conditions in the old land, but to undue manipulation by the Canadian packer. It would, therefore, seem to be as much to the packers' interest as to the farmers' to remove this suspicion by endeavoring to pay a more even scale of prices during the season. Then, as to the fall trade, the opinion prevails among farmers that the lower prices are due as much to the larger supply of hogs to be marketed at that time as to the falling off in the consumption of bacon in England.

One remedy suggested at Guelph was for packers and farmers to get together and, if possible, agree upon some scale of prices that would be satisfactory. This appears all right in theory, but as to how it would work out in practice is another matter. However, there is no doubt that if the packer, whether by consulting the farmer or otherwise, could arrange for a more steady scale of prices during the year it would do more than anything else to stimulate the production of hogs in this country. Moreover it seems necessary that this should be done in order to restore the confidence of the farmer, both in the packer and in the business.

The Bonding Privilege Cancelled

The Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, has, no doubt, acted in the best interests of the farmers of this country in withdrawing the privilege which the packers have had of killing American hogs in bond. During the past year, owing to a shortage in the Canadian supply, packers have been bringing in large numbers of American hogs for slaughter in bond and exporting the product through Canadian channels to Great Britain. In two ways chiefly this has been a menace to the Canadian bacon trade. It has seriously endangered the health of Canadian hogs by exposing them to the ravages of hog cholera so prevalent in many parts of the United States. It has also endangered the high reputation of Canadian bacon in the British markets, as there are good reasons for believing that considerable of this Canadian cured American bacon has gone forward to Great Britain and sold there as a Canadian product.

The packers' view of the matter, as presented at Guelph, was that American hogs were only brought in to keep their factories running during the scarcity of Canadian hogs, and to give steady employment to their workmen. It was also stated by them that danger from

disease was safeguarded by rigid government inspection and that there was as great risk from hog cholera by carrying American hogs on Canadian railways as in slaughtering in bond. The packers also stated that there could be no possible chance of selling American bacon as Canadian if on each side of bacon was branded what it really was.

While all this seems reasonable, it might be asked why did not the packer, of his own accord, brand on each side of American bacon he cured what it really was. Had he done so and safeguarded the reputation of the Canadian article in other ways, the agitation for the withdrawal of the bonding privilege might perhaps never have been set in motion. But he did not do this, with the result that both the government and the people had good reason to believe that everything was not on the "square" in the exporting of the product of these American hogs. It is better to err on the side of safety, and while the withdrawal of the bonding privilege may lessen somewhat the profits of the packer, the farmers of the country will feel that their interests are better safeguarded by preventing American hogs from being slaughtered in Canada. It is, however, up to the farmer to produce sufficient hogs to keep the packers' establishments running.

The Automobile and the Horse

We hear a great deal these days about the advance of the automobile and mechanical traction power, and there are not a few who believe that sooner or later motor power will to a very large extent put the horse out of business. They base their calculations upon the cheapening of motor power and the comparatively low prices at which automobiles will be sold in the near future.

But may not the cheapening of the automobile have the same effect as the cheapening of the bicycle had a few years back. We all remember the sudden collapse of the bicycle business at that time. People not only stopped buying, but quietly put away their wheels and adopted some other mode of locomotion. And may not a similar collapse await the automobile if its price is brought down to the level of the more common people. It will not then be a mark of distinction to own automobiles. They will gradually become unfashionable and assume their normal position along with the electric car and other methods of locomotion.

When that time arrives the horse will be elevated to a higher plane. Handsome and better carriage horses will be in demand; larger and better draft horses will be required and special class horses will sell at a higher premium. If the cheapening and consequent collapse of the automobile business comes as did the bicycle collapse there will be more profit than ever for the farmer in the production of high-class horses to suit

the market demands for special class horses. On the other hand, the all-purpose horse and the small, cheap horses will be less in demand than ever.

However, the horse situation at present is full of encouragement for the producer. Prices for good horses continue at a high level. In fact, some classes of horses are not to be had in this country at any price. Of course there is a liberal supply of inferior to medium horses of nearly all classes to be had, but even these horses bring remunerative prices.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The increase in domestic exports for the five months ending Nov. 30th of the corresponding period of 1904 was \$18,000,000 and the gain in the aggregate trade for the five months was \$26,000,000. Who says this country is not going ahead?

The farm forestry department of the Ontario Agricultural College is now in a position to distribute one million seedlings a year to farmers for reforesting purposes. While this seems like a large number it will only begin to supply the demand if the lands depleted of wood in the last twenty years in this province are re-planted.

A national anti-monopoly league has been formed in the United States to withstand the unlawful combinations of capital in restraint of trade which have become prominent in recent years. The aim seems to be to unite all the independent manufacturers in one organization to cope with the trusts.

The Late Joseph Yuill

Many friends of good agriculture and progressive dairying will learn with regret of the passing away on Nov. 27th last of Mr. Joseph Yuill, of Carleton Place, Ont. He was one of the stalwarts in agriculture in eastern Ontario, and took an active interest in furthering every movement for the advancement of his chosen calling.

As a breeder of Ayrshire cattle he was favorably known far beyond his own district as an exhibitor and champion of this breed. For many years he was an active worker in Farmers' Institutes, addressing meetings in many parts of the province. To Mr. Yuill and his good wife, who survives him, we are indebted for the travelling dairy, they having spent one season many years ago in going about from place to place giving practical demonstrations in butter making.

Mr. Yuill was born sixty-seven years ago, on the farm on which he died, being the second son of one of the pioneer settlers who came from Glasgow in 1821. From early youth until a few years ago, when failing health compelled him to give up, he was active in all branches of farm work and took a particular delight in his calling. In religion he was a Presbyterian and in politics a Liberal. He married in 1864 Margaret Goehans, of Ramsey Township, who, with a family of nine children, are still living. The funeral of the deceased was largely attended, showing the esteem and respect in which he was held.