

on good footing whenever there was a depression in prices Canada's export cheese trade would never have been what it is at present. If the same perseverance and determination is applied to the development of the export bacon trade as was applied to the cheese trade there is no reason why the former should not bring into this country within a very few years fifteen or twenty millions of dollars annually. What is wanted is that everyone interested, from the producer to the packer, should put forth every effort to turn out the quality of bacon that the market demands.

For the year ending December 31, 1898, England imported from Canada bacon to the value of \$5,000,000, which is a gain of nearly 100 per cent. as compared with the year previous. This amount, however, is only about one tenth of the total amount imported by Great Britain. Last year the Mother Country imported over \$50,000,000 worth of bacon and, what is surprising, these imports increase each year at a marvellous rate. The increase in the imports of bacon by Great Britain during 1898 was \$7,500,000 more than in 1897. With this large and rapidly-growing market for our bacon is there any good reason for doubting that within a very few years our export bacon trade will be very largely increased? Even at present prices for bacon hogs there should be money for the farmer in producing hogs if he understands how to breed and feed to the best advantage. Prices for bacon fluctuate the same as for any other commodity, but if the yearly average is taken into account values for this product are comparatively speaking as high as for any other.

Agriculture in Public Schools

The Minister of Education has introduced a bill in the Legislature to amend the Education Act. One of the amendments makes further provision for the teaching of agriculture in the public schools. The clauses referring to this subject are as follows:

(1) The Council of every municipality may, subject to the regulations of the Education Department, employ one or more persons holding the degree of Bachelor of Science of Agriculture or a certificate of qualification from the Ontario Agricultural College to give instruction in agriculture in the separate, public and high schools of the municipality, and the Council shall have power to raise such sums of money as may be necessary to pay the salaries of such instructors, and all other expenses connected therewith. Such course of instruction shall include a knowledge of the chemistry of the soil, plant life, drainage, the cultivation of fruit, the beautifying of the farm, and generally all matters which would tend to enhance the value of the products of the farm, the dairy and the garden.

(2) The trustees of any public, separate or high school or any number of boards of such trustees may severally or jointly engage the services of any person qualified as in the preceding section for the purpose of giving similar instruction to the pupils of their respective schools, providing always that such course of instruction shall not supersede the instruction of the teacher in charge of the school, as required by the regulations of the Education Department.

(3) As far as practicable the course of lectures in agriculture by such temporary instructor shall occupy the last school period of each afternoon, and shall be open to all residents of the school section or municipality.

This provision, if the municipalities and boards of trustees take advantage of it, furnishes an opportunity for doing very good work in connection with the study of agriculture in our schools. But we must confess to having some doubts as to whether the municipalities or boards of trustees will be willing to spend the money required to engage a special lecturer for this work. The tendency now is to cut down expenses as much as possible, as is shown by the low salaries that teachers are paid, and to induce these bodies to expend a sufficient extra amount to cover this special instruction will, we think, be a very hard task indeed. However, though we hope that before very long the Minister will go the whole length and place the study of agriculture in the public schools on the same plane as the other subjects taught and for which a special text-book has been authorized, this arrangement will serve to arouse fresh interest in the subject and perhaps induce many of the teachers to take a special course in the Agricultural College in order to fit themselves for this new work.

To Extend Inter-Provincial Trade

At the Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' meetings held a couple of weeks ago strong committees from each of these organizations were appointed to form a deputation to wait on the Ontario Government to ask for a grant of \$1,000 for the purpose of extending the inter-provincial trade in purebred live stock. The Legislature could not, we think, expend \$1,000 in a better way. The associations, with the means now at their disposal, have succeeded in putting this trade on a good working basis, and all that is necessary now to bring it to its fullest development is for the Government to come to their assistance by providing the funds to further extend this work. The associations during the past year have published a monthly list of the purebred stock for sale by the members. These lists have been sent to prospective buyers in the other provinces, the United States and elsewhere, and have been the means of greatly increasing the trade in purebred stock for which this province is so well adapted. We understand that it is the intention if more funds can be secured, to circulate these lists more widely and thus greatly increase the market for pedigreed stock.

The Tuberculin Test in England

There is no question, perhaps, agitating the minds of stockmen and breeders of all countries to-day more than that of tuberculosis and the application of the tuberculin test. At the breeders' meetings held in this city two weeks ago this question seemed to supersede all others in the minds of most of the cattle breeders present. The subject is just now receiving more than usual attention in England. At a great meeting held recently at Marlborough House, over which the Prince of Wales presided, this all important question came up for discussion. The consumer there, as distinct from the breeder and cattle owner, is looking for more rigid inspection of the meats, etc., which he buys, which might mean the abolition or rigid inspection of town dairy herds and private slaughter houses, or the compulsory application of the tuberculin test to the whole of the herds in the United Kingdom. Those in authority, however, seem to be decidedly averse to adopting any harsh measures. The Marquis of Salisbury, at the meeting referred to, appeared to deprecate parliamentary action of any kind, the general feeling being that any enforcement of the tuberculin test should be voluntary rather than compulsory. This seems to us to be a rather wise course to take, and if our Government would relax a little in regard to the application of the tuberculin test to purebred cattle coming into Canada, we do not think our breeders would take advantage of the situation to bring in diseased animals. They have as much honor as any other class of our citizens, and if left to themselves we do not think they would knowingly bring into the country cattle that should not come here.

Western Dairymen Appoint Instructors

The Board of Directors of the Cheese and Butter Association of Western Ontario met at Stratford on Feb. 11th, when it was decided to expend \$3,400 for instruction at such cheese factories and creameries in Western Ontario as would apply for the services of the instructors. Four instructors were appointed as follows: James Morrison, Stratford, for the south-eastern division; C. O. Luton, Belmont, for the south-western division; George McDonald, Bluevale, for the north-western division, and Arch. Smith, Beachville, for the north-eastern division. In addition to looking after the cheese factories in his division, Mr. Smith will act as instructor at the summer creameries under the jurisdiction of the association. The following scale of fees will be charged cheese factories and creameries: Fees for visits of one day's duration—One visit, \$5; two visits, \$8; three visits, \$10; four visits, \$12.50; five visits, \$15. Fees for visits of two days' duration—One visit, \$6; two visits, \$11; three visits, \$15; four visits,