

very great danger of our export bacon trade falling behind unless some greater inducement is given the farmer to produce the select bacon hog. If this type of hog is worth more to the packer than either lights or fats, then he ought to pay the farmer a higher price for it. This in our opinion is the only way of keeping up and improving the quality of our bacon products.

Government sales of Yorkshire swine are announced for points in Lambton and Kent counties this month, with a view to disseminating the bacon bred among the farmers of these districts. While these sales will, no doubt, aid very materially in attaining this object, we cannot but think that much more would be accomplished in this direction if by education or otherwise, the packer could be induced to pay a higher premium than he is now doing for select bacon hogs.

The Farmer's Orchard

It is all too true that the average Ontario farmer pays little or no attention to his orchard. He usually reasons that if the crop is a good one the price will not be high enough to pay for the cost of picking and marketing. On the other hand, if the price is high, as is the case this season, the crop will be so poor as not to be worth while bothering with.

While this process of reasoning may have some foundation, in fact, it might apply to any other branch of farming. If there is a big wheat crop prices will not be as high as when the crop all over the country is a poor one, and yet farmers grow wheat year after year as a money-making proposition. The same is true of other farm crops. Whether the price is high or low especial attention is given to their cultivation and harvesting. But with the orchard it is different. It is in the majority of cases left to shift for itself. Unpruned, unsprayed and neglected it soon becomes an eyesore in the community. If a few apples are grown, sufficient for family use, the farmer is satisfied. As a money-making concern, year in and year out, it is never considered.

This should not be. Given the same care and treatment that the other branches of the farm get, the orchard will pay and pay well. If a few acres are given up for the orchard and money expended in planting trees, then it will pay to give some attention to realizing a profit on the investment. Of course, the average farmer is handicapped in managing his orchard as compared with the fruit specialist. Particularly is this true in connection with spraying, a very necessary operation these days, if clean fruit is desired. The marketing is also a difficult task and often the small grower is at the mercy of the packer and shipper and where

the deal is completed, feels that he has little to pay for his trouble.

But there is a remedy for all this. The co-operative Fruit Growers' Association is essentially a farmers' organization. While it will prove advantageous to the large grower, it is the small grower of fruit who will benefit most by it. It will aid him materially in the picking, packing, and marketing of his fruit. We do not know whether spraying has been taken up in a general way by the co-operative society or not. But if not, it should be. A co-operative society with a power sprayer can do a great deal to improve the fruit crop of its members, and thus encourage the farmer to take better care of his orchard.

Test Your Cows

During a year when the milk flow is large and prices high, dairymen are apt to run away with the idea that everything is lovely, that all cows are good cows and are returning them a profit. But do not be too sure about it. A poor cow certainly has a better chance to pay for her keep when cheese and butter are selling at a high figure than when the market is at a low ebb. But does she do so? That is the question that every dairyman should answer for himself.

The only sure and safe way to answer this question is to test each individual cow. It is not too late now to make a test. In fact the farmer has more time just now for conducting a test than during any other part of the season, and every dairyman owes it to himself and to his pocket-book to make it. Besides, it is not fair to the good cow to have her making up the shortage of the poor cow each month.

A testing outfit does not cost much and will pay for itself in one test. On page 734 of last issue a complete outfit, that we can recommend, was advertised for \$5.00. With an outfit of this kind a dairyman can test his cows individually for a week and know exactly whether a cow is paying for her keep or not. A cow that cannot pay for her keep during 1905 should be relegated to oblivion in short order, as she will be a burden to her owner for all time to come.

Test your cows; find out what each one is doing and dairying will become both pleasant and profitable.

New Ontario Institute

On October 24 a meeting will be held at New Liskeard to organize a Farmers' Institute for the Temiskaming district. The Hon. Mr. Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, will be present and give an address.

This is a good time to clean up around the fences. What is more unsightly than dirty fence corners. Clean fields and clean fence corners add greatly to the value of the farm.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is delightful weather for fall work on the farm. Under these favorable conditions the farmer who is not up with his work will have no good excuse to make.

The packers are bringing in more American hogs. It is a "hoggish" kind of a thing to do. If they would play fair all the year round the farmers in Canada would produce all the hogs required.

Mr. A. W. Donly, Canadian Commercial Agent in Mexico, reports that the wheat market there has suddenly become very stringent, and if samples of Canadian wheat are forwarded good business may be done.

The farmer who raises good horses is having his innings just now. Never, perhaps, in the history of this country have prices for good horses been as high as at the present time. It is to be hoped they will continue so.

How the price of cheese keeps up! The old brindle cow is in a good way this season to earn the price of her winter's keep. If she does not do so she should be relegated to oblivion, and placed among the "has-beens" of the dairy.

Is it not about time for the horse breeders to get a move on, if they desire the Minister of Agriculture to carry out their wishes regarding the advancement of the business next season. This matter has been delayed long enough. Prompt action is necessary.

Annual agricultural shows are held at Rosebank and Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in February and April, respectively. Commercial Agent Kitson suggests that animals sent from Canada for sale should be exhibited at these shows. There is no use in sending animals of poor quality. Only the best is wanted.

At a meeting of the British Dairy Farmers Association regrets were expressed that the government had failed to pass the butter bill preventing the sale of water-logged butter or the adding of water to butter. It was claimed that most of this came from the colonies. They should have added, "with the exception of Canada."

Dairy Commissioner Ruddick returned last week from Great Britain. Canadian cheese is steadily gaining ground there, and with a little more attention to the details in making will meet all competition. Butter is not so favorably situated. It has to meet competition from all parts of the world. Owing to scarcity this season, Canadian butter has been more asked for, and as the merchants have found it satisfactory, Mr. Ruddick thinks the future for our butter in the British market is very bright.