

during the past twelve months four pounds per capita, and this is mainly in pork and due, no doubt, to the very high price of the live hog. In Great Britain also there has been a falling off in the consumption of pork, due also to the same cause.

Germany, like Great Britain, is becoming more and more dependent upon other countries for her food products. Formerly Italy, France and other European countries exported hogs or hog products. To-day, with the exception, perhaps, of Denmark and Ireland, every country in Europe is compelled to import hogs. South-eastern Europe no longer determines the market price of hogs in that section of the world. The exports of Denmark and Ireland find a market in England, so that other European importing countries must look elsewhere for their supplies.

This is the European situation in a nutshell. If the surplus hog products of Canada, Denmark and Ireland go to Great Britain, other European countries will have to look to the United States for their supplies. And this phase of the situation is attracting some attention in the latter country at the present time. Interest there centres chiefly in the possibility of effecting a tariff arrangement with Germany whereby American meat products will be allowed to enter that country free of duty or with a very nominal tariff. At present, prices in Germany are fully double the highest prices paid in the United States for live hogs. If access to that market were secured it would greatly stimulate the hog industry of that country and increase the price of the finished animal.

But whether a tariff arrangement in meat products between Germany and the United States is effected or not, the present position of the world's hog markets is not without encouragement to the producer. While the price in Canada is regulated chiefly by market conditions in Great Britain, any material advance in the price of the American hog must have some effect in enhancing the value of hog products in Canada. Considering the market situation as a whole and that pork products are steadily gaining in popularity as a food, the farmer will be quite safe in keeping up his hog supply. While there has been the usual fall slump in prices here they are sufficiently high yet to make it quite profitable to produce the bacon hog in Canada. And our advice to farmers is to keep up the hog supply.

Apprehending Horse Thieves

To Councillor John Gardhouse belongs the credit of bringing before the York County Council on Tuesday last a matter that is of very great importance to every agricultural district in Ontario. There has been throughout the province of late a great deal

of horse thieving. With the machinery now at the disposal of the people living in rural sections it is very difficult to locate the thief or recover the stolen horse. It is a question if one quarter of the horses stolen are ever recovered. This means a heavy loss for the owners, besides encouraging the thief to continue his stealing operations.

The machinery in force in country districts for the apprehension of horse thieves, or for that matter thieves of any kind, is somewhat slow and antiquated. The county high constable is applied to, and he in turn sends word, usually by post, to different parts of the country, and as soon as a clue is found a constable is put on the thief's trail. But this constable will not do anything unless the owner of the horse will guarantee his salary and expenses, and as he has no guarantee that the constable will use his best endeavors to hunt up the thief, and may only mark time in order to run up a good bill, the owner often hesitates about doing so. Even if the owner offers a substantial reward, constables, being jealous of each other, fail to work together, and the thief has an easy time of it. At any rate, whatever the cause, more thieves get away safely with the stolen property than are apprehended, resulting in serious loss to many farmers who can ill afford it.

The remedy proposed by Mr. Gardhouse, and which has the sanction of the York Council, is that the Provincial Government take the matter up, and either by providing a special detective system or some other means, endeavor to put a stop to horse-thieving, which is increasing every year. A committee of the council will shortly wait upon the Government in the matter, and it might be well if other county bodies would join with them. York county is not the only one interested, and it is safe to say that there are few counties in the province where horse thieving is not practiced, and the stolen property never recovered. The present county machinery appears inadequate, and the horse-thief apparently has an easy time of it, and continues his nefarious work unmolested.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. H. B. Cowan, who succeeded Mr. Creelman as superintendent of fairs a few years ago, has resigned. Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, Alexandria, Ont., has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Wilson is a farmer and breeder of Ayrshire cattle in Eastern Ontario.

The Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, stated in the House of Commons the other day that something would be done this session towards providing for a series of cold storages throughout Canada. What the legislation will be he did not state

definitely, other than that no monopoly would be created.

The Institute conference at Guelph was an important gathering. It is a question, however, whether it would not be better to eliminate most of the set addresses in a gathering of this kind and merely have some one in each department to direct discussion.

The cheapest cuts of beef sell in Vienna, Berlin and Paris at 14c per lb, due to the high tariff wall against foreign cattle. Americans are agitating for some reciprocal tariff arrangement whereby the cheaper grades of American cattle could be exported to Austria, Germany and France. Why not a reciprocal tariff arrangement with Canada also?

The Sultana seedless grape is a product now being offered for sale in the United States and, like the seedless apple, it is not of modern origin, as its promoters claim for it. A prominent official of the U. S. Department of Agriculture says that the seedless grape is not only not a new thing, but that its history is lost in oblivion.

The Hon. John Dryden has completed his work in Ireland and returned to Canada. The value of his services to agriculture in the Emerald Isle during the past six months cannot be overestimated. If the valuable suggestions he was no doubt able to make are put into practice, a brighter future is in store for the Irish farmer.

The speech from the throne at Ottawa last week did not forecast very much legislation of direct interest to the farmer. However, before the session is over more legislation will no doubt be introduced. There is, perhaps, nothing of importance in relation to agriculture that needs attention just now, excepting it be cold storage.

Mr. Geo. H. Greig, for many years secretary-treasurer of the Manitoba Live Stock Associations, has resigned. He will be succeeded by Dr. A. W. Bell, recently appointed manager of the Winnipeg Industrial Fair. While Manitoba breeders regret exceedingly the loss of Mr. Greig's valuable services, they will have in Dr. Bell an efficient and painstaking official, who is quite in touch with the live stock interests.

The trades unions and the farmers are to co-operate in twenty-four of the states of the Union. The latter have formed a union to be known as the Society of Equity. All farm products will be branded with this society's label. Receiving stations will be built in the leading cities and the society's goods offered for sale, the labor unions agreeing not to buy any goods that do not bear such label; the farmers, on the other hand, agreeing to buy only union-made goods.