

upon every barrel. A method of registration by which the packer could register his name and address and receive a number to be stamped on the barrel might be simpler. But it makes little difference what is the nature of the measures adopted so long as they are effective in putting a stop to this dishonest apple packing. Unless it is put a stop to or in a large measure curtailed it would be better not to ship any apples at all out of the country. Honesty in Canadian trade is too valuable a commodity to be allowed to be tampered with by a few unscrupulous apple-packers.

Information Wanted

A subscriber at Gould, Que., wishes to hear from some of the readers of FARMING who have had experience in running water into stables for cows. This is a good practical topic, and we would be glad to have information regarding it for publication in these columns. We would also be pleased to have, in this connection, diagrams of water systems in stables that we could reproduce. Send along full particulars, and help your brother farmer who may not be so happily situated as you are.

Prices for Bacon Hogs

The improvement in the live hog market during the week, though slight, will come as a relief to farmers who have turned their attention largely to raising hogs for the export bacon trade. Some think the improvement should have come a week or so sooner, and if the market here is governed by the condition of the current English bacon market it certainly should have come earlier. Those who followed at all closely the market review published every week in FARMING will have noted that two weeks ago we quoted a cable report showing an advance of 2s. per cwt. in the English bacon market. This was followed last week by a report showing another advance of 2s., making a total advance of 4s. during the past three weeks. This, coupled with the statement that stocks were low and that holders were not pushing sales, would indicate that if the live hog market here were influenced by the fluctuations in the English bacon market we should have had an improvement in prices at least two weeks ago.

In an excellent article on the bacon trade published in the Gazette Department of FARMING last week, Mr. J. W. Flavelle, manager of the Wm. Davies Packing Co., Toronto, is represented as stating that the Canadian packer has to regulate the prices paid for his hogs by the probable condition of the English bacon market six weeks later. If this be true, then the advance of last week is due to an expectancy of higher prices for bacon about the middle of January. Mr. Flavelle emphasized the fact that there was no secret understanding between packers in regard to the buying prices for hogs. His statement that the bacon landed in England the last two weeks in September which represented hogs marketed during the first and third weeks of August, cost 47s. 6d. and realized 46s. 5d. would seem to show that our packers are losing money very fast.

However this may be, it is not likely that such a condition continues for any length of time. At the prices that have been paid for choice bacon hogs during the past month or two we are inclined to believe that there is more money in the business for the packer than for the farmer.

In the article referred to appears a statement that better prices have been paid for hogs at Buffalo and Chicago than were paid by our packers. This is something that is really hard to understand, in face of the quotations for Canadian and American bacon in the English market. Hodgson Bros., Liverpool, in their bacon market report of November 18th, quote as follows. "Singed Wiltshire, Canadian, 45/55 lbs., 40 to 42s; American, 40/50 lbs., 35 to 37s." Here we have a difference of 5s. in the price of Canadian and American, and yet choice Canadian bacon hogs have been bringing lower prices than the best Ameri-

can hogs. If the American packer can afford to pay \$4 to \$4.25 for hogs and make money out of the transaction, Canadian packers could afford to pay at least 10 per cent. more for live hogs, and still have a good profit. This is how the situation strikes us in making this comparison of values. There may be other conditions affecting the Canadian hog market that we know not of.

Mr. Flavelle's remarks in regard to the large percentage of fat and soft bacon are worthy of note. That during four months of the year faulty stock should average one-third of the whole is a serious matter, indeed. From this it would seem that we are not making much advancement in breeding and feeding the bacon hog. The losses given of \$1.65 on soft bacon and \$1.25 on fat bacon for each pig are large, indeed, and that these could be saved by proper feeding is something that our farmers should remember. It will be interesting to compare the losses on fat hogs with the prices paid for choice bacon hogs and fat hogs. Last week the quotations on the Toronto market were: Select bacon hogs, \$4.25; thick fats, \$4, and light fats, \$3.75 per cwt. Here we have a difference of only 25 cents per cwt. in the prices for bacon and thick, fat hogs, while there is a difference of \$1.25 per 95 lbs. in the prices for choice and fat bacon. Of course, it must be remembered that the figures Mr. Flavelle gives were based upon the prices for hogs a few months back, when the difference between the prices for bacon and fat hogs was much greater. But even so, we hardly think that the average difference in the prices for the hogs in the time referred to would equal the average difference between select and fat bacon in the English market for the same time.

We draw attention to this matter because we are still convinced that our packers do not make the difference they should in the prices paid for select bacon and fat hogs. There has been an improvement this year over last, however, but taking one season with another the premium paid for select bacon hogs of the right stamp is not large enough. If our packers desire to secure the best quality of bacon hogs they must be prepared to pay a good premium for them. There is no doubt something in the statement that the packer cannot tell the hog that will make soft bacon from the good one when buying. This is a condition that our farmers can remedy by proper feeding. Though much has been said and written about breeding and feeding the bacon hog it is evident that we are yet far from having solved all the problems connected with the business. The industry is an important one and everyone connected with it should put forth his best efforts to get at the bottom of the matter.

Canadian Machinery for Paris

We had the privilege a few days ago of viewing an exhibit of agricultural implements now being prepared by the Massey-Harris Co., of this city, for the Paris Exposition. This is without doubt the finest display of its kind that has ever been seen in Canada, and we question if it has an equal in any exhibit turned out by any agricultural implement establishment on this continent. It is a credit not only to the manufacturer but also to Canada and we are sure that every Canadian, who is so fortunate as to visit Paris next summer and sees this exhibit will feel honored in that he lives in a country where such splendid workmanship is produced.

The Massey-Harris firm have been sparing in neither time nor money in their efforts to turn out a creditable exhibit. What is specially commendable about the preparation of this exhibit is the sturdy Canadianism connected with it. The management felt that in making a display at Paris, Canada must be kept to the front and, consequently, an extra effort was put forth to turn out an exhibit that would not be surpassed by any other country. In this we