

Buffalo, New York and other large cities that maintains the price of pork. They have in the United States a very large foreign population, as well as a large negro population; these people prefer the thick, fat pork, and consume large quantities of it, and of lard. In Canada, on the other hand, our home trade is small. There is, it is true, a rapidly increasing consumption of hams and bacon in our towns and cities, but the demand is for mild-cured, lean, nicely marbled meat; just the class of goods required by our export trade. There is, in some country districts, and with an occasional customer in the city and town, still a demand for stout bacon, but over 90 per cent of the trade calls for meat that has been described as 'streaked,' meaning that the fat is freely intermixed with lean. The mining and lumber camps will buy and use large quantities of fat meat, but even here there is a growing demand for lighter and leaner goods, both as long clears and as barrelled pork. Recently a Canadian packing house had a large stock of long clears running from 35 lbs. to 50 lbs. average. A great deal of this went to the lumber camps and gave satisfaction. A provision dealer in Toronto told the writer that on account of this light bacon having gone to the lumbermen, they now wanted nothing else in many cases, as it suited their requirements exactly. The big, heavy fat sides that formerly found a ready market in the lumber camps, are now in many cases not wanted. Dealers say that it is difficult to sell these heavy sides, and that they must be sold at a low price in order to get rid of them. The lumber camps use a great deal of mess pork, which as a rule they buy in the United States, as it can generally be bought there at a lower price than Canadian packers can afford to put it up for, and this pork has the additional advantage that it can be carried for many months much better than long clears; so we suppose there will always be more or less of that cut wanted. Lumber shanties, the French population in Quebec, and the fishermen still call for a considerable quantity of fat meats. This trade, however, is growing smaller each succeeding year.

The province of British Columbia is an important market for hog products, calling altogether for the product of sizeable hogs with plenty of lean in it. A large part of the requirements of that province is supplied by the United States; this is because the price in Canada is often too high. Curers in the Western States are able to name prices that put the Eastern Canadian curers out of the market. This accounts for the important figures in the trade and navigation returns of imports of hog products into British Columbia.

The trade in Montreal, which uses a considerable quantity of fresh pork, as well as the large sausage and lard trade in that city, results in a quite important market there for heavy fat stock.

Though the greatest care may be taken by both our feeders and breeders to produce just what the markets require in the way of lean singers, there will always be more than enough of the heavy fat type to meet the demand.