

Issued
Each Week



The CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD



Only \$1.00
a Year

AGRICULTURE, THE KEystone OF CANADIAN PROSPERITY

Vol. XXVII.

FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23, 1908

No. 49

DANISH FARMERS ARE T'KING OUR BACON TRADE

Canadian Exports of Bacon to Great Britain Have Decreased Until Our Position in the British Market is Seriously Threatened.

AT last we Canadians seem to be awaking to the fact that we are in grave danger of losing our export bacon trade. If we do, it is going to mean a loss of many million dollars to the farmers of Canada. The dairy industry, also, will be seriously affected as hog raising has been proved to be one of the most profitable adjuncts of the dairy.

For years we boasted that we led the world in our exports of bacon to Great Britain. We can do this no longer. During the past seven years the Danish farmers have taken the palm from us. Last year they shipped the produce of twice as many hogs to Great Britain as we did. They did this in spite of the fact that the price of feed is higher in Denmark than it is in Canada.

STRIKING FIGURES

Let us look at what has happened during the past seven years and ask ourselves what will happen during the next seven years if things are allowed to go on as they have. The following table shows how seriously our exports have fallen off, while the exports of our chief competitors have increased:

HOG PRODUCTS SHIPPED TO GREAT BRITAIN	1900	1907
	Canadian	\$1,189,976
Danish	1,087,000	1,767,970
Irish	410,500	483,656

In the excellent address on this subject, delivered at the Guelph Winter Fair, by Prof. G. E. Day, which was reported fully in our issue of last week, Professor Day made some statements that are of such outstanding importance we think it well to repeat them here. Professor Day said:

"If we drop the bacon hog at this critical juncture, we may expect to see the swine industry shrink to a much greater extent than it has shrunk already."

"Some Canadian farmers have found bacon feeding unprofitable. Other men have found it very profitable indeed."

"If feeding bacon hogs is only a moderately profitable adjunct to our business, we had better foster it and strive to improve it, for profitable branches of agriculture are not so numerous that we can afford to treat them lightly."

"The man who loses money on hogs is usually

the man who overstocks his premises, and attempts to keep hogs under circumstances which makes success impossible."

"The hog is generally carried most profitably as an adjunct to other farm operations—as a sort of side line."

"The price of feed in Denmark is higher than it is here. The Danish hog feeder has to buy by far the greatest part of the feed for his hogs."

"The Canadian farmer has an immense advantage over the Dane and can produce hogs at a much lower cost."

When we bear in mind that Professor Day has conducted extensive experiments in the raising

A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
To All.

of hogs in this country—in which work he has had the co-operation of several hundred practical farmers—and that he visited Denmark a couple of years ago to investigate the conditions there, we must admit that his opinions are deserving of every consideration. Of late years, in Canada, it has been popular to heap abuse on our Canadian packers. This has not helped to improve matters nor is it likely to. As long as our farmers and packers fight among themselves, the Danish farmers are going to continue to beat us in the British market.

TIME FOR ACTION

The time has come when we must take concerted action if we are going to regain the position we have lost, or even hold our present position.

The first point we must decide is, "Can hogs be raised at a reasonable profit at the prices that have prevailed during the past few years?" If they can, then steps must be taken immediately, by our more successful hog raisers, by our swine breeders' associations, by our pork-packers, by our Provincial and Dominion Governments, and

by our agricultural press, to show how absolutely necessary it is that, if we are to retain our export bacon trade, we must produce a more uniform supply of hogs.

If we find that we cannot hope to raise hogs profitably, and that we cannot compete successfully with the Danes, and other European farmers, then the sooner we cease to strive for that trade the better. The astonishing feature of the situation lies in the fact that the Danish farmers, so we are informed by a director of one of our leading milling companies, buy whole shiploads of feed from our Canadian mills each year, to feed to their hogs, and yet their hogs are driving our hogs out of the British market. Can this mean that the Danes are better feeders and fanciers than we are? Surely their cheaper labor and co-operative packing houses cannot offset our great advantage.

CLAIM HOGS ARE PROFITABLE

As Professor Day states, and as we have received from farmers show, a large proportion of our more successful breeders of hogs, are convinced that even at the prices that have been paid for hogs during the past three years, it has been possible to produce hogs at a profit. An editorial representative of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, who recently interviewed a number of leading farmers and agricultural authorities in Ontario and Quebec, was assured by them all that they believed that by careful feeding, hogs can be raised at a reasonable profit, even at the prices that have prevailed this year. One breeder stated that at one time he had raised hogs at a cost of \$2.35 a cwt. (not counting anything for the whey fed), and sold them at a profit at \$4.25 a cwt. He had figures to support his claim. All the parties who were interviewed admitted that there is grave danger that our bacon trade will suffer serious injury unless steps are taken immediately to improve the present situation.

ACTION REQUIRED

With the facts we have before us we must face the situation squarely and be prepared to deal with it intelligently. As the interests involved are national in scope the question is one that should be considered by the Dominion Government. The question that must be answered and answered conclusively is: "Can hogs be raised at a profit under such conditions as have existed during the past period of years?" To settle this question both the Dominion and Provincial Governments should undertake far more extensive experiments and investigations than have yet been attempted. In this connection an effort should be made to secure reliable information from hundreds of our farmers to find how much it does cost them to raise hogs. If necessary,

On and after the first of January, 1909, the name of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World will be changed to - - -

Farm and Dairy and Rural Home

Our readers and advertisers are asked to bear this in mind and to tell their friends about it, so that no person need be surprised when they receive their copy of the paper after the first of the new year and find that it contains a different name. There will be no other change. The front cover design and the rest of the paper will be just as they are at present. Remember the name—Farm and Dairy.

THE RURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED
Toronto, Ont. - - - Peterboro, Ont.