

to persons who have completed a college course and have taken a bachelor's degree, except to non-graduates who are recommended by the faculty of the college with which they are associated, as properly qualified to take advanced work in agriculture. All correspondence relating to membership in this school should be addressed to Professor W. H. Pew, Registrar, Graduate School of Agriculture, Ames, Iowa.

1909 Crops Turned Out Well.

A bulletin of the Census and Statistics Office, issued April 13th, shows that at the end of March the quantity of wheat in farmers' hands in the whole of Canada was about 18.28 per cent. of the crop of last year. This is 30,484,000, out of 166,744,000 bushels, as compared with 20.23 per cent., or 22,747,000 bushels, out of the harvest of 112,434,000 bushels in 1908. Of oats, there was 40.03 per cent., or 111,199,000, out of 353,166,000 bushels, as against 43.62 per cent., or 109,222,000, out of 250,377,000 bushels last year. Of barley, there was 29.81 per cent., or 16,517,000 out of 55,398,000 bushels, as against 33.56 per cent., or 15,692,000 out of 46,762,000 bushels last year. Of buckwheat there was 1,835,000 out of 7,806,000 bushels, being 23.50 per cent., as against 29.03 per cent., or 2,078,000 bushels out of 7,153,000 bushels last year. Of corn, which was nearly all produced in Ontario, there was on the farms at the end of March 3,604,000 bushels, out of a total crop of 19,257,000 bushels. Of potatoes there was 43,289,000 out of 99,087,200 bushels, or 43.68 per cent., as against 44.10 per cent., or 32,542,111 bushels out of a crop of 73,790,000 bushels last year. Of turnips and other roots, there was 15.93 per cent., being 17,166,000 out of 107,724,600 bushels, as against 39.18 per cent., or 39,671,000 bushels out of 101,248,000 bushels last year. Of hay and clover, there was 23.51 per cent., being 2,793,000 out of 11,877,100 tons, as against 34.51 per cent., or 3,952,000 tons out of 11,450,000 tons of the crop of 1908.

It is estimated that 95.87 per cent. of the wheat crop of the Dominion in 1909, equivalent to 159,868,000 bushels, was of merchantable quality; of oats, 90.86 per cent.

The report of the Department of Trade and Commerce shows that there had been inspected at Winnipeg and points West, for the seven months ended March 31st, 69,514 cars, or 74,032,110 bushels of wheat; 12,154 cars, or 23,092,600 bushels of oats; and 3,118 cars, or 3,741,600 bushels of barley. At the same date last year the figures were 61,098 cars or 64,152,900 bushels of wheat, 9,152 cars or 16,473,600 bushels of oats, and 2,576 cars or 3,091,200 bushels of barley.

Of the total production of wheat in the Northwest Provinces last year, 96.48 per cent. was merchantable; of oats, 95.13 per cent., and of barley, 95.44 per cent., Manitoba showing the highest percentage.

The percentage of the products of the farm in 1909 which was of merchantable quality ranks high for all the crops in all the Provinces, the only exception being potatoes in the Maritime Provinces, where correspondents report heavy losses to this crop through rotting.

The condition of live stock in the Dominion at the end of March was uniformly high for all classes of farm animals, being 93.98 for horses, 91.42 for milch cows, 89.30 for other cattle, 92.43 for sheep, and 92.77 for swine. In 1909 the condition of horses was 81.40, of milch cows 78.70, of other cattle 73.79, of sheep 78.32, and of swine 74.34. The high standard condition of live stock is attributed by correspondents to the mildness of the winter, and to the excellent quality of hay and other fodder, particularly corn, and to the very general abundance of coarse grains and roots.

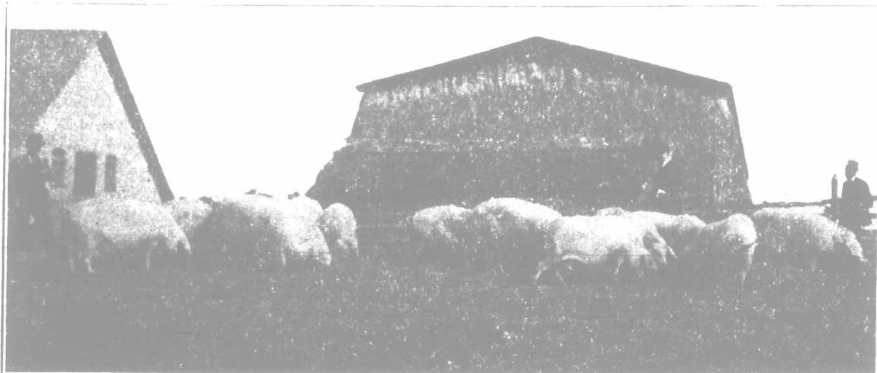
Correspondents report an early opening of spring in all parts of Canada, and in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, as well as in the counties of Ontario along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, about one-half of the seeding was finished at the end of March. A very favorable account of the condition of fall wheat is given for Ontario at the same period, but in Alberta the crop suffered to some extent from drouth at the seeding season, and later from winter exposure.

An Appealing Prospect.

The newspapers in London, Ont., realizing the importance of agriculture to the country, and the possibilities of great development, particularly in the more intensive branches, have been devoting considerable editorial space of late to the promotion of fruit-growing and other phases of agriculture. "More and more does it become evident," says the Free Press, "that Ontario's lands are too valuable to be devoted to the production of wheat, in competition with the great wheat lands of the West. Instead, the more intensive kinds of farming must be resorted to. . . . Ontario, then, as a great fruit-growing and dairying Province, is not the prospect an appealing one?"

The Swine Commission's Report.

The long-expected report of the Canadian Commission on Swine Husbandry, in Great Britain and Ireland, and in Denmark, has been laid before Parliament at Ottawa by Hon. Sydney Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture. The Commission arrived in London on June 27th, 1909, and their inquiry was carried on in England, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark and Holland. Information was gathered relating to the marketing of bacon and pork, as well as to hog production and selling. The Commissioners were W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford, Ont.; Wm. Jones, Zenda, Ont.; Geddon Garceau, Three Rivers, Que.; J. E. Sinclair, Prince Edward Island; and Joseph Rye, Calgary, Alberta—all men of experience in swine-rearing—with James B. Spencer, Assistant to the Live-stock Commissioner, Ottawa, as Secretary and Editor. The importance of the subject in the public mind might be gathered from the fact that Parliament had voted \$10,000 to carry out the purposes of the Commission.



A Herd of Landrace Brood Sows.

The report, which covers some 60 pages, is a model in compactness, lucidity of detail, and in the appropriateness of its numerous illustrated features. The Commissioners have evidently carried out their work with serious earnestness, and Mr. Spencer's experience in agricultural journalism, as an information-gatherer and sifter, and in photography, stood him in good stead. To epitomize in readable form the practice of bacon production and disposal in four or five countries, was no light undertaking, but it has been well accomplished; better, in fact, than in any other public review we have seen covering the same field. As was foreshadowed in "The Farmer's Advocate," when the Commission set out upon its mission, the report is not one of startling disclosures, or the discovery of magic secrets in hog-raising. Abroad, as here, success depends on management, and the important practical details of methods abroad have been repeatedly published for the information of Canadian producers. But the candid reader must be struck with the infinite care as to detail

regenerate hog-raising and to capture the British market. They did both. From killing 23,407 pigs, worth \$11.80 each, in 1888, the trade grew to a killing of 1,549,550, worth \$14.36 each, in 1908. Danish farmers have been paid more for their hogs per cwt., live weight, than Canadians, for seven years past, according to one table in the report, the average for the latter in 1908 being put at \$5.90, while the Danish quotation is \$6.93. The last quotations given are for July, 1909, being, respectively, \$7.91, and \$8.80. Danish bacon sells for more in London, Eng., the range being \$13.50 per 100 pounds in January, 1909, for Canadian, and \$13.92 for Danish. In December the prices were, respectively, \$17.03, and \$17.52. The proximity of the Danes to the English market gives them an advantage in the style of curing permissible. Figures are given of the cost of interest, labor, management, etc., for handling hogs in the Danish co-operative factories, varying from \$1.10 per hog in a 10,000-pig-per-year factory,

to 60 cents per hog in a factory handling from 90,000 to 120,000 hogs. The value of offal (heads, feet, lard, entrails, bones, tongues, etc.) vary from \$1.75 per hog to \$2.25. Co-operative pig-breeding, co-operative feed buying, and co-operative hog-selling and packing, did the trick for the Danes.

Under heavy penalties, the Danes bound themselves to stick together, and they did, under strong, well-paid managers. Salesmen acting for several factories, have received salaries as high as ten thousand dollars per year.

Co-operation, as our readers are aware, is also succeeding well in Ireland, but the success attending the rearing of bacon hogs in many parts of England, Ireland and Scotland is due mainly to the quality and the care exercised in breeding, feeding and management. The use of barley, mill-feeds and skim milk is conspicuous in the rations reported. The different countries visited are not without troubles in the pig business, but they do not quit; they set about discovering the weak points and applying the remedy. In concluding their report, the Commissioners feel warranted in suggesting the following remedies for the improvement of the swine-rearing industry of Canada:

1. The adoption on the part of the packers of an attitude of sympathetic co-operation between themselves and the producers, whereby every possible encouragement would be given farmers to increase the quantity and improve the quality of their hogs. This would involve a constant, earnest desire and readiness to afford every facility on their part in co-operation with the producers to investigate and solve problems which may give rise to dissatisfaction. It would require the adoption of careful grading of the prices of hogs through the year, guarding against discouragingly low levels. It would require the control of buyers, and the recognition of quality in the prices paid for the hogs.

2. The co-operation of farmers in engaging a salesman for their hogs, as is carried out by the Eastern Counties Farmers' Association of England.

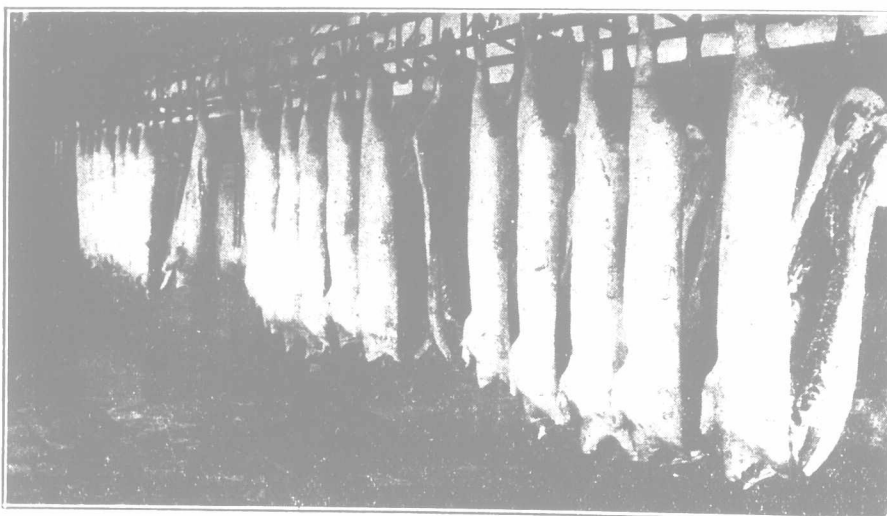
3. The adoption of the system of selling swine in the open market, as applied to cattle and sheep.

By the co-operation of neighbors, earloads could be sent forward at regular intervals.

4. The establishment of co-operative packing-houses, as conducted in Denmark and Ireland.

Copies of this report may be obtained by a request for it to the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, by post card or letter.

A big legal battle is on between the Ontario Government, acting on behalf of Kent County farmers, and the old Canada Company. The Canada Company claims that when it sold the land to farmers it reserved all mineral rights. It has been selling to oil and gas companies the right to bore wells on farms, hence the clash.



Offspring of breeding-center dams, after being tested for cheap production, are judged by bacon experts.

which Old Country and Danish farmers, on high-priced lands, and purchasing so largely high-priced foods, devote to their business in order that the ultimate cent of profit may be realized. In economical production, there are hog-raisers in South-western Ontario, where clover and corn are the stand-bys, and in other sections of Canada, that could probably beat the Danes on that score, but the whole business in Canada lacks the steadiness and systematic thoroughness of the little European country which, though only about two-thirds the size of Nova Scotia, last year exported to Britain \$28,252,730 worth of bacon, and about double that in butter and eggs, from a farming population of some 1,500,000. Their bacon business is a comparatively recent creation. Shut out of Germany a few years ago, the Danes (Government and people combined) undertook to