

munication a good trade in fat cattle and sheep will soon spring up with the Old Country.

P. E. I. is much behind the times in the production of beef-cattle. There is now a grand opening in this Province for beef-growing. What is wanted, however, is a large importation of beef herds of cattle, such as the Aberdeen-Angus, to improve the beef qualities of our cattle. Any speculator and cattleman who would import a car-load of well-bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle would find a ready market for them from the farmers of this Province. There never was a better opening than now for beef-making on an improved scale. So far our farmers have had dairying so much in mind that beef has been lost sight of. A very shrewd farmer told me the other day that when his new barn was completed he intended to go extensively into beef and sheep, and, with this in view, contemplates making an importation of Angus cattle. He has already a fine flock of sheep. Sheep and beef, he thinks, are avenues for cash that our island farmers have not, so far, considered. This man is making provision in his new building for a large root cellar and silo, and affirms that there is much less hard labor and fussing about sheep and beef cattle than with dairy cows; and he is right. The trade in lambs this fall was very large. One shipper, Mr. Jones, of Quebec, has shipped 10,000 lambs from here to Boston, and about 500 live geese. The trade in poultry is increasing rapidly, and at present there is a grand opening for turkey-raising. I believe the poor harvest of this year is a blessing in disguise, as it will cause our farmers to move as they never otherwise would in the production of more extensive live stock.

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Hermanville Farm, P. E. I., Nov. 20.

Argentina Competition in the Cattle Trade

According to the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* one of the great shipping questions of the future will have reference to the arrangements for carrying on the live cattle trade with Argentina. The shipment of live stock from that country to Great Britain is increasing by leaps and bounds, and considerable interest has been aroused as to the best plan for conveying the cattle on the ocean trip. The journey is a long one and the risks are much greater than those involved in the traffic across the Atlantic. The difficulties connected with the shipping, however, do not seem to put any damper upon the trade, which is growing larger every year.

South America has boundless free grass range and the breeders there are importing largely of the best English beef breeds to improve their herds and bring them up to the export standard. The only way the American and Canadian farmers can meet this competition and maintain their supremacy in the European markets is by breeding high grades and purebred stock of the improved beef breeds. The South American farmer may have a larger amount of free pasturage for his cattle to run on, but the farmers of this country, with their skill and experience, should be able to breed better beef cattle of the best beef type. To do this, however, more importations of good beef breeding stock will have to be made than have been made during the past few years.

Docking Horses

The council of the Royal Agricultural Society has passed a resolution that, beginning with the Maidstone meeting in 1899, no foals with docked tails shall be allowed to be exhibited at the society's country meetings; that after 1900 the same rule shall apply to yearlings as well as foals, and that after 1901 to two-year-olds also. This action of the council is arousing considerable discussion in horse-breeding circles in England. Those opposed to docking horses claim that it is a cruel practice, and should not be

countenanced in any way by the Royal Society. The cruelty is not alone in connection with the operation, which at any age of the animal should be performed with the greatest care, but with the poor docked animal when turned out in the fields in fly time.

Those in favor of docking claim that the practice is not as cruel as castration, fowl cramming, and a number of other things that are contrary to nature. Their strong objection to the action of the Royal Society is that it will interfere with the very profitable trade in carriage horses, whose tails are invariably docked. By preventing animals with docked tails from being shown breeders will not dock their foals, and consequently the practice will largely disappear. So it is claimed by those in favor of docking, and no little feeling has been aroused against the council's action.

Do Fattening Pigs Need Exercise?

It is a debatable point whether the modern up-to-date pig-pen is the best thing in the world for the export bacon trade. Some recent experiments in pig feeding, notably those conducted by Professor Day of the Ontario Agricultural College, seem to indicate that a pig needs a goodly amount of exercise in order to produce the best quality of bacon. More definite information on this point will be forthcoming when the results of Mr. Day's experiments are published. If these show that exercise is a necessary factor in the production of the best quality of bacon, the modern pig-house, in which a number of hogs are confined in a small pen while being fitted for the trade, will have to give way to some more suitable method.

In our issue of November 1st we gave a short description of a small pig-house used in some of the Eastern States, which should fill the bill where exercise is necessary in the feeding and fattening of hogs. These are built so that they can be moved about as needed. Some of the modern piggeries are raised from the ground so as to give a chance for drainage, and thus making it impracticable for the pigs to get from the pens to the adjacent yard if one could be secured. Where the piggeries are built close to the ground a small yard can easily be arranged for adjacent to them, where feeding pigs can get all the exercise they need. This subject is worth considering by those contemplating erecting piggeries. During the winter months warmth should be considered, but, even so, it is not necessary to keep pigs cramped up in a small space in order to get it.

The Mission of the Agricultural Paper

The *Ohio Farmer* in a recent issue discusses this question in a practical and common-sense way. It says:

"The wonder is that every farmer does not take some agricultural paper. The excuses made for not taking such a paper are varied and amusing. One hasn't time to read. Another can't afford it. Another takes too many papers. Another comes out flat-footed, and says he don't believe in paper farming. This latter class, however, will not stop to discuss the question, generally. He passes right on, with his nose in the air. The writer once kept a record of eighty-eight farmers solicited at a fair, in half a day. Of these only about one-fourth took any agricultural paper, and only eleven subscribed for the short term. Communities differ. In some, half or more are readers of agricultural papers, and in others not one in five read such papers.

"We have analyzed this matter quite thoroughly, trying to get at the cause of the prejudice against book or paper farming. We have watched farmers at fairs who said they took no farm journal, and would not subscribe, and have seen them invest twice the cost of the paper in gambling schemes, tests of strength, etc. They are men whose education has been neglected. They have been taught that 'paper farming' is no good, and they are men who do not