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E. R. Brown
General Agent
Charlottetown

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

NOVEMBER 23, 1897.

UNCLE SAM'S PROPOSAL.

It is now stated that the proposal of Mr. Foster, representing the United States, which the Canadian delegates took home with them, to submit at a Cabinet Council meeting was:—

First—That both nations agree at once to a suspension of all killing of seals during the next season in the Pacific ocean and Behring Sea, the modus to go into operation on the first of next month.

Second—That representatives of the governments of the United States and Great Britain, including Canada, be designated to enter, with as little delay as possible, upon the consideration of all unsettled questions between Canada and the United States, with the view to a settlement by treaty, this to include the sealing question and any other matter which either government may choose to bring forward.

This is as much as to say, "give us what we want; and then we'll be ready to consider what you want."

WHAT'S WANTED IN PORK RAISING.

We have taken the liberty to clip from the Farmer's Advocate a letter of the William Davies Packing Company concerning the needs of the Canadian bacon trade, and trust that it will be carefully read by every farmer in this Province. The comparative nearness of Prince Edward Island to the British market gives it an advantage which, other things being equal, must tend to the profit of our farmers in respect to many articles of export, and particularly in respect to pork. It seems to us that pork is one of those things in the production of which our people ought to compete continuously with success. The corn fed pork that is produced on the prairies of the United States is not liked by the British people who say "there's nothing in it." We can produce the pork that is relished upon favorable terms as compared with Ontario or any other part of America. Therefore, we ought to set about the production of pork, as a permanent industry. Messrs. Battenbury have opened the way to this by the erection of their ample packing house, and they have also been the means of introducing a number of Tamworths (the best bacon hogs) to cross with hogs that are here. We hope that they and the farmers of the Province at large will co-operate for the purpose of building up an interest that will be mutually profitable.

A good many practical suggestions tending to this desirable end are given in the letter which we publish today. One of these is worthy of particular attention, inasmuch as it involves a change in the lines of breeding. It is desirable to have a continuous supply of hogs so that the English market may be supplied in midsummer and midwinter as well as in the fall and spring. More money can, in point of fact, be made by having hogs ready for market in July and August, than in November, December and January. Besides, hogs marketed in the summer time can be shipped while navigation is open and bring in immediate returns to the packers, whereas hogs marketed later in the fall have to be held all winter involving costs and losses which reduce the profits of both farmers and packers. Again, it is in spring and early summer that our farmers have most abundant supplies of skim milk and whey and green feed, while the cracked grain required can be carried through the winter without loss. Consequently our farmers ought to aim to have a large proportion of their young hogs ready for delivery in July, August and September.

—Eight hundred thousand dollars for butter and cheese this year! Let us see. It would take nearly 3,000,000 bushels of oats at 27 cts., or take 3,200,000 bushels of potatoes at 25 cts., to fetch as much money. Not so bad for the cows of little F. E. Island.

REV. MR. BRYAN'S LECTURE.

The lecture of Rev. J. T. Bryan in St. Peter's Hall, last evening, was fairly well attended. The lecturer traced the history and vicissitudes of the Church of England from the time of its foundation in the Apostolic age up to the meeting of the Lambeth Conference a few months ago, and showed that through all there was preserved a line of continuity. "Things which interested our forefathers" were made additionally interesting to us by the beautiful illustrations of scenes in English Church history. Mr. Doull was in charge of the stereopticon. The Hon. F. Brecken moved the vote of thanks which was seconded by the Master of the Rolls and heartily given by the audience.

PERSONAL.

At the Hotel Davies: S E Hue, E W Barlow, Montreal; J H McKenzie, Pictou; G H Clemens, Toronto; B C Cox, Souris. We are glad to see Mr. Geo. C. Hennessy, who has been confined to his home for the past week with a sprained ankle, moving around again.

Mr. W. W. Beer left this morning on a business trip to Montreal, Toronto, and other western cities. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Beer.

Mr. Geo. Reid has just returned from paying a short visit to his parents, Capt. and Mrs. Joseph Reid, who are at present in S'ide spending a few weeks with her friends.

Registered at the Queen: H L Middleton, St. Louis; Jack Isbell, St. Louis, S E McCram, Brockville, Ont; Rev E H Gough, Summerside; Dr Honeywell, Hunter River.

Mr. and Mrs. W H Scovill have returned from a trip through P. E. Island, as a result of which Mrs. Scovill is very much improved in health.—St. John Sun.

Rev. Ernest H. Gough arrived in the city this morning by train from Summerside and is now at the Queen Hotel. Tonight he will deliver his great lecture "War and its Horrors" in the Kindergarten Hall.

Miss Maggie Wisdom, who is about to leave Charlottetown for Toronto, was last evening presented with a complimentary address and a purse containing a \$10 gold piece. The presentation was made by the Superintendent of St. James' Church Sunday School on behalf of the teachers and officers of the school. The address spoke in terms of praise of the work done by Miss Wisdom in connection with the Sunday School, and expressed the kindest wishes of all concerned for her future welfare. Miss Wisdom returned thanks for the kind address and the substantial token of esteem which accompanied it.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—The Montreal Gazette describes the recent "play" at Washington as "a pretty farce."

—An uproar has been created in Truro by the proposed transfer of the central of the Truro-Stellerton position of the Intercolonial railway to the Oxford-Sydney district.

—The Toronto Globe remarks that "There is a certain pleasure in learning that Mr. John Thompson, son of the late Premier, has made his appearance as a speaker at a political meeting. It is probably too early yet to judge whether he inherits the talents of his father but he will have the best wishes of very many of his fellow-Canadians for a useful career in politics and his profession."

See the "Auld Brig" also see the news at the Kirk Hall this p. m.

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Mark Wright & Co., Ltd
THE HOME MAKERS.

NEEDS OF THE CANADIAN BACON TRADE

Supplies of Live Hogs—Future Prospects—
Old-Fashioned Stuff Not Wanted—
Points on Breeding and Feeding From the Packers' Standpoint.

To the Editor Farmer's Advocate:

Sir,—You ask first, "Do you find supplies of live hogs sufficiently numerous and regular throughout the year?" We reply, they are not sufficiently numerous if she supply was regular and constant; but it is "now a feast and then a famine." The deliveries in October, November, December, and April and May are about double any other five months in the year. This is the time when, as a rule, bacon is cheapest in England, and the very large supplies depress prices to a ruinous point to the exporter of bacon, and to a disappointing price for hogs to the producer. We know some farmers who arrange to have their hogs ready for sale in July and August when prices are high; and mark you, they are high then, not so much because of the scarcity as because that is the time when the English people eat bacon and ham. Canadian farmers are now standing in their own light by all having them for sale at once. Canadian bacon is making a name for itself, and we think will before very long take the place alongside Danish, which will mean more to Canadian farmers that they have any idea of; but that position can only be attained and kept by our having a regular supply. During September the agents for Canadian bacon in England could not supply their customers' wants. This led to a good deal of heartburning and dissatisfaction. We paid in August and September 5½c. and 6c. for prime singers, and are now paying 4½c. At this latter price we shall be more than pleased if we can get out without serious loss. Doubtless some farmers will say the spring pigs are ready in October, and the fall pigs are ready in April and May; but these things can very largely be controlled. Of course it will require attention and care, but the extra price obtained will pay for that.

2nd. You ask "Would you say that the prospective demand will warrant increasing stocks beyond what they have been during the past year?" Our reply is, that while we would not advise anyone to rush heedlessly into hog raising and feeding, we believe that a steady increase will prove satisfactory to the producer, and will be necessary to bacon curers doing a successful export business.

3rd. Replying to your question, "What points of difference, if any, are there between Canadian and British or foreign trade that have a bearing on the work of the breeders and feds?" The excellent mild-cured bacon that is now manufactured is alike pleasing to English people and Canadians, and for town and city trade has entirely driven out the old-fashioned stuff that was a salt as Let's wife and warranted to keep for seven years. It was fit to go to the Klondyke. Nowadays the cities and towns demand, and even farmers buy, this mild cured meat, but there is a demand for a considerable quantity in Canada of coarser meat for mess pork and long, clear bacon. This is used in the back country and by contractors for feeding the hands who are building railways and such work. For this purpose heavy hogs are required (also for mess pork for lumbermen); but as this sells at a low price, of course the hogs bring only a proportionate figure. The Canadian hog is particularly adapted for a fine class of English trade in London and the Provinces. Therefore, it would seem to be to the interest of producers that they should raise the kind of hogs suitable for the export business. We are pleased to say Canadian farmers have, on the whole, responded very handsomely to the earnest suggestions of the export packers, and have bred the right style of pigs, but more attention is required to feeding. The majority err in keeping them shut up and feeding too much grain or meal; they should till four months old, have plenty of exercise and rough, coarse food. This develops them; the former plan stunts them. We want them long and fleshy.

As remarked above, Canadian farmers are doing well, but in their haste to market their hogs are forcing them too rapidly, shutting them up and feeding strong food from the start. The consequence is while there is only moderate showing of fat all down the back, there is too much fat all through the side. This is a very serious fault, and will lower the

character of our bacon in England, and we are in great danger of losing the ground already won. This really must have the earnest attention of farmers. Let the pigs have the run of a large yard or small field with a shelter. It is impossible to overrate the importance of this. We have been paying 1c to 2c per lb live weight for Canadian hogs in excess of American, and the difference can only be maintained by vigilance and close attention to the points we have named. Many farmers suppose because we ask for lean hogs we want them thin, and that scalds will fill the bill—a grievous mistake. Fed as we have described, and finished off with meal from mixed grain to weigh 160 to 180 lbs alive, they will fill the bill to perfection. But here we must warn farmers not to feed them too fat; if they do, they will not bring within half a cent of No. 1, and perhaps even a greater difference. The buyers of Canadian Wiltshire bacon in England are willing to pay a good price for the right article, and discriminate very severely against the wrong. For months past, with the exception of the last few weeks, there has been a discrimination against fat sides of this character, running from 8 to 12s per 112 lbs. This means that given two hogs out of one pen, one running stout and thick with fat on the back, and the other somewhat lean and fleshy, the product from the fat hog has sold at from 2c to 2½c per lb less on the English market than the product of the best.

4th Q.—Having in view the probable tendencies of the most profitable market demand of the next few seasons, what points in breeding, such as character of side, back, belly, ham and shoulders, are deserving of special attention?

Regarding the most profitable market demands of the next few seasons, it is likely to be for long, lean sides, and they can only be made from long, lean hogs, and the animal when standing, or hanging after killing, should hardly show where the shoulder ends and the ham begins. Thick shoulders are an abomination, and thick, unwieldy hams would be objectionable, but we have very little trouble from the latter. We are of opinion a good deal of nonsense has been said and written about the desirability of thick hams. Of course, with the greatest care in breeding, there will occasionally turn up an animal of abnormal shape; but as a rule, if a pig is well-bred his hams will be all right. We have often seen a hog with a heavy, thick shoulder and a miserable thin belly and flank, and such an animal is objectionable and unprofitable in the highest degree. At the last Markham fair we offered a money prize for the best pen of bacon hogs, and our foreman was the sole judge. They afterwards came to our bacon factory, and they were a pleasure to look at. A line stretched along the back and sides would have touched along the whole length. Thick bellies are very desirable. We are a little diffident in advising how this can be attained; but that it can be is certain, because we get thousands of that description.

5th. "Would you emphasize any points needful in regard to feeding, age when sufficiently matured, pure-bred or cross-bred, etc.?"

In replying to this question, we will take up the last point first, whether we prefer pure-bred or cross-bred. We prefer Tamworths, pure-bred, but don't want pure-bred Yorkshires on any terms. The hogs of which we spoke so admiringly were cross-bred Yorkshires and that is the prevailing style in Ontario now, and we want nothing better than pure-bred Tamworths or cross-bred Yorkshires. Regarding feeding, there can be no doubt that a mixture of meal with dairy slops makes the sweetest and richest pork. Peas alone have a tendency to make the meat, both fat and lean rather hard. Lastly, as to the age at which they are sufficiently matured for our purpose: that will depend very much on the way they are cared for, but with proper attention they would be in good shape at six to eight months old. In the former part of this letter we have laid stress on the young pigs getting plenty of exercise, at the same time plenty of coarse food, so that they will grow into long, rangy stores.

Far too many pigs are sent to market weighing only 130 to 140 lbs, and many of them thin. They are a nuisance to pork packers and often entail a serious loss, and drovers should not buy them. In one word, pigs weighing 120 to 140 lbs are very undesirable. They will be discriminated against more severely in the future. The future of the bacon trade is in the hands of farmers as much as in the hands of packers; hence we have a right to ask for co-operation.

Hoping the above will be of service,
Yours truly,
THE WM. DAVIES CO., Limited.
Toronto, Nov. 4th.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing the expected decline in England has come. It is worse than a decline—it is a crash; and this simply because, as we have said in our letter, farmers will persist in giving us hogs so irregularly.

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