PRACTICAL FARMING

Developing The Bacon Hog.

For a number of years Canadian farmers have confined their efforts in hog raising to the production of a bacon type. This was brought about by a keen demand in the British market for what is known as the Wiltshire cut—the whole side of the hog with the head off, and cured in that way. While the consumer is willing to pay liberal prices for a desirable product his taste is exceedingly fastidious. Therefore, the producer in catering to this market has always found it necessary to exercise all the skill at his command in order to hold the trade and at the same time secure an adequate profit.

In the first place, the bacon industry is founded on judicious selection and mating of breeding stock. To make Wiltshire sides a hog weighing from one hundred and sixty to two hundred and twenty pounds, live weight, is required. The most valuable meat is found along the upper part of the sides as far forward as the shoulder. When the shoulder and the neck are reached there is a very material drop in value. This means that the hog with a heavy rough shoulder produces an undesirable side because it is heavy at the cheap end. It is likewise an indication that there should be a good length from the back of the shoulder to the ham, because this is the most valuable part of a side of bacon. Similarly, on account of the belly meat being cheaper than the part above it explains why the bacon hog requires to have a trim belly and a straight underline. Also, the layer of fat along the back must be of uniform thickness—from one and a quarter to one and a half inches—while the whole side throughout its length must possess a uniformity of depth. The breeds from which this conformation is obtained in the largest degree are: Yorkshire, Tamworth and Berkshires in the order named. Hence, among the producers of Wiltshire sides practically no other class of hogs are kept.

But securing the desired conformation is only the first stage of the game. The hogs must be fed and managed in such a way as to give the right quality. One of the greatest defects in this connection is a tendency of some sides to turn soft during the subsequent process of curing. The term softness as used here does not mean fatness; in fact, a thin side is more apt to develop softness than a fat one. It is a spongy condition and varies in degree. Only a slight tenderness will detract considerably from the value of a side, while the more extreme cases will render it entirely worthless.

Experiments have shown that softness may result from a number of causes. Perhaps one of the most common of these is exclusive meal feeding, especially if the exercise is limited. Swine are grass-eating animals and this fact must be remembered and acted upon in connection with any system of feeding that may be adopted. Then, too, the trouble is frequently caused by feeding only one kind of grain. Where corn is largely fed there is a great tendency to softness. There is, however, no grain grown that contains all the essentials of a complete food and it is only by mixing that anything like a perfect grain may be found. Unthrifty, unfinished over-done hogs also have a marked tendency to softness.

It will be seen from the foregoing that a mere gain in weight is not the only object that the feeder must have in mind. All the way from birth to maturity he is aiming to build up quality in his product. He must avoid such practices that will prove detrimental to it and take advantage of those that experience has proven beneficial. Starting with a litter of youngsters he plans to keep them growing right from the first. The early gains are the cheapest, besides it is the thrifty pig that makes the best bacon. When they are about three weeks old they will begin to take a little feed other than the mother's milk. Instead of allowing them to eat from the trough with the sow many feeders have a part of the pen divided off, with a small trough in it, where the little ones can go out and in at will. A handful of shorts mixed in a little new milk gives them a start and usually prevents any danger of scours, skimmilk being gradually substituted. By the time they are eight weeks old the process of weaning will have been brought about naturally with no setback due to a sudden change of diet. Until they are about three and a half months old they should be fed well with skimmilk and shorts, occasionally adding a little meal consisting of a mixture of peas, oats and barley. From this on they should be allowed some green food, such as grass in summer or roots in winter so that their ration will be about one-third grain. The object now is to keep them growing until they are about two hundred pounds live weight, when they should be sold. It is desirable that they be fed so as not to attain this weight much before they are eight months old so as to insure firmness to the meat and prevent fatness. When they show signs of developing too fast the grain and milk may be diminished and the green food increased.

Poultry

Fresh air is needed in the poultry house, but keep out the wind.

A dirty egg looks as if nobody would want to eat it. What's more, it won't sell. Clean it up.

Chicken meat is more essential now than ever. It is being made a substitute for beef and pork, which argument is pretty much worn out; but it has the added argument of being quickly and cheaply produced and of calling on transportation less than any other meat. Poultry is raised and killed in the same locality to a greater extent than any other kind of meat. It is also a chief diet for hospitals. There is no hospital in the country but what considers chicken meat one of the main essentials.

Dry-picked poultry brings a better price—both flesh and feathers. Scalding the feathers removes the animal oils and makes them comparatively worthless. For dry-picking the best method is to sever the jugular vein quickly and then thrust the knife into the brain. Bleed well. The fowl dies almost immediately. The feathers are loosened and may be plucked by handfuls with quick but gentle jerks. They should be pulled while the flesh is still warm, or they will stick and tear the skin.

Tripe as a poultry feed is a new idea, but it remained for a wide-awake poultry-keeper to discover it. He roughly washes the tripe, boils it in a wash boiler, grainds it in a meat-cutter and feeds, two or three times a day, to the frantic delight of his hens. His egg yield is tremendous and he says that the pepsin of the cows' stomachs (tripe) stimulates the appetites of his hens to such an extent that it accounts in a large measure for the size and number of eggs he gets.

WANTED POULTRY, EGGS and FEATHERS
Highest Prices Paid
Prompt Returns—No Commission
P. POULIN & CO.
29 Bonsecours Market - Montreal

WANTED POULTRY
of all kinds.
Better quality preferred.
Write for prices.
STANFORD'S, Limited
128 Mansfield St. - Montreal

Raw Furs I will pay highest market prices for
RAW FURS and GINSENG ROOT
21 years of reliable trading
Reference: Union Bk. of Canada.
N. SILVER
220 St. Paul St. W. Montreal, P.Q.

If You Want the Highest Market Prices
Ship all your
RAW FURS
to us—We pay all express charges.
ABBEY FUR COMPANY
(In business for 30 years)
LOUIS ABINOVITCH, Manager
310 St. Paul St. W. Montreal, P.Q.
Reference, Bank of Hochelaga, St. Henry, Montreal.

Value of a Friend.

Be careful in your friendships, and when you have found a friend, remember there are obligations as well as advantages, there is sacrifice as well as self, there is service as well as sentiment. We appreciate our friends at their proper value, and we shall act correctly toward them when all of us can with genuine sincerity echo the spirit and sentiment of these little lines:

"If I could tell you all that's in my heart,
Or even a fraction of my thought impart
To tell my hopes, my wishes, all your heart desired
Should be fulfilled."

A few chopped dates added to apple sauce makes a very tasty dish.

The entries which have just closed for The Toronto Fat Stock Show, to be held at the Union Stock Yards, December 5th and 6th, indicate a splendid display of finished live stock. This, despite the fact that the management have discontinued the offering of premiums for female cattle in the hope that animals suitable for breeding purposes will be kept on the farm for that purpose. It will be well worth anyone's time to take in this show and also to be present at the Auction Sale of Prize Winners which is attended by buyers from all over America.

The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
DECEMBER 8

Lesson X. Joseph Made Ruler of Egypt—Gen. 41. Golden Text, Luke 16. 10.

Verse 33. Now therefore—Refers to the interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams. Joseph predicted that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Inscriptions have been found which plainly state that the Nile failed to overflow its banks for a number of successive years; vegetation withered, and the land was devoid of crops. Dean Stanley tells us that similar famines occurred in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Look out a man discreet and wise—There is nothing surprising in the readiness of Pharaoh to believe the interpretations given by Joseph. Several instances are known from the inscriptions of the Pharaohs entering upon immportant undertakings in consequence of intimations conveyed to them in dreams.

34. Let him appoint overseers, etc.—These were officials appointed to supervise the collection of the grain. Take up the fifth part of the land—There was a regular grain tax which formed a part of the government revenue. It is supposed that this was ordinarily a tenth, but was increased to one fifth to meet the emergency of the predicted famine.

35. Lay up grain—The granaries were large brick buildings containing narrow rooms. There were openings at the top for pouring in the grain and openings at the level of the ground to take it out. Grain has been found in a storehouse sealed with the seal of one of the Pharaohs. Portions of this grain have been kept in the Cairo Museum. Under the hand—It could only be sold under government supervision. It was a case of primitive food control thirty odd centuries ago. In the cities—"Where the granaries were, in which the produce of the surrounding districts would naturally be stored (verse 48). There were granaries in all the important cities of Egypt, partly for the reception of the corn tax, partly to provide maintenance for soldiers and other public officials; the superintendent of the granaries was one of the highest officers of state, and it was his duty to see that they were properly filled and to report to the king annually on the harvests; if he reported favorably, the Pharaoh might decorate him with a collar of gold." (Driver.)

38. A man in whom the spirit of God is—A man of supernatural wisdom. This is the first time we have the spirit of God referred to in such a connection. The spirit was the source of eminent mental gifts. Pharaoh was impressed by the practical wisdom of Joseph as well as by his supernatural insight into the strange dreams that visited him.

39. There is none so discreet and wise as thou—Pharaoh had called upon the magicians and wise men of Egypt, but they had failed utterly. Joseph had clearly, openly, without incantation or magic, declared the meaning of the dreams and given the glory to God. It was a great triumph, for magic and divination were highly organized and profoundly venerated cults in ancient Egypt.

42. Pharaoh took off his signet ring, etc.—The signet ring is used in sealing documents and given as a token of authority. It carried the authority of the sovereign. He was a lord indeed. No one might dispute his word. The dreams of boyhood have begun to find ample fulfillment.

The Food Board Says

Canada's War Exports.

In the twelve months ending September, 1918, Canada exported $163,488,362 worth of animal products and $440,742,440 worth of agricultural products, a total of $604,230,792. In addition to her farm products she exported over $83,000,000 worth of fish. In the first 47 months of the war Canada exported $1,874,701,900 worth of foodstuffs. This effort has helped to maintain the Allies and it has helped Canada maintain her war efforts. The call to Canada is still for production and by increased production Canada can easily pay her billion dollar war debt and maintain Canadian prosperity.

Feeding milling wheat to live stock or poultry is forbidden by the Canada Food Board.

Municipalities have now the power to appoint Fair Price Committees in publishing lists of food commodities in their municipality and also for fuel, clothing, boots and shoes, and other items of common household expenditure.

The Minister of Agriculture in Quebec advises farmers of that province that only hogs weighing at least 150 pounds and not more than 250 pounds be marketed and only oxen weighing 500 pounds.

Peace does not alter the food demands upon Canada and the United States, but in fact increases the load and the demand for economy.

"What time to eat?
Time to do well,
Time to live better
Give up that grudge,
Answer that letter,
Speak the kind word to sweeten a sorrow,
Do that kind deed you would leave till to-morrow."

FREE TO GIRLS
Big Doll and Doll Carriage

This Big Doll is 15 inches tall, has jointed legs and arms and natural head, hands and feet. The Doll Carriage has steel frame and wheels, and the seat, back and hood are made of leatherette. It is 24 inches high and is just the right size for the Big Doll.

Just send us your name and address and we will send you 30 Packages of lovely embossed Xmas Post Cards to sell at 10 cents a package. When they are sold send us the money and we will send you the Big Doll, with all charges prepaid, and we will also send you the Doll Carriage without any charge if you will show your Doll to your friends and get just three of them to sell our cards and earn prizes too. Send us your name and address to-day so you can get your Doll and Doll Carriage quickly.

Address
KOMER-WARREN COMPANY
Dept. 199, Toronto

Bedtime Stories

Weather Forecast.

My daddy looks into the paper to see
What kind of a day it is going to be.
My mother goes out and looks up at the sky,
And wonders if all of the clothes will get dry.

Now why should they look at the paper and sky?
I've a much better way on which I rely;
And if you'll believe me I'll tell it to you—
I've tried it and know that it always comes true!

I tell by my pussy! (You know he's so clean—
The tidiest kitty that ever you've seen!)
When he washes his face and his and eyes and his nose,
I watch his paw closely; and why—do you s'pose—
If he washes in front but not back of his ear,
That day is just sure to be pleasant and clear,
But if he cleans front of his ear and behind,
You'll see the rain soon! Pussies know, as you'll find.

Keeping Roots in Pits Over The Winter.

If roots are to keep satisfactorily in pits outside, it is of primary importance that, when steady cold weather sets in, they are in such a condition that they can stand being covered heavily and tightly and yet not heat. In other words, the roots should be given every chance to sweat thoroughly before the pits are covered over permanently.

In view of this, it is not as a rule advisable to cover the pit completely immediately after the roots have been piled up. A layer of coarse and perfectly dry straw to a thickness of from four to six inches may be put all over the pit, but the following layer of earth, amounting to about six inches, should at first not be put over the top of the pit itself. In fact, it is essential that the top of the pit be left open as long as this can possibly be done without exposing the roots to danger of freezing, so that as much as possible of the moisture caused by the sweating of the roots be let out before it is necessary to cover up the pit permanently.

In case of wet weather, the open top of the pit should be protected so as to prevent rain from soaking down through the roots. This can be done, for instance, by placing along the top two boards nailed together in the form of a "V".

When the weather begins to get so cold that there is danger of the roots freezing, the top of the pit should be covered like the rest of it. Later on, when steady cold weather sets in, it may be necessary to put on another cover of straw, and on top of that a second layer of earth. The thickness of these two covers will depend entirely on local conditions it should be so chosen that the roots are protected against frost.

In order to enable adequate regulation of the temperature during the winter when the pit is all closed in, some sort of ventilation system should be installed when the pit is being built. Perhaps one of the best systems is one using vertical shafts, reaching from the bottom to the top of the last cover of the pit, and placed at intervals of anywhere from six to ten feet. These shafts may be plugged at the top in case very severe cold makes it necessary.

The advantages of using vertical ventilating shafts are several. One of the most obvious is that the temperature in the pit can be taken at any time, thereby of course making it possible to ascertain whether the temperature is suitable. The temperature should not be allowed to drop below 32 degrees, nor should it be allowed to rise over 40 degrees. In case the temperature in the pit shows a tendency to go too low, more cover should promptly be put on, and in case the temperature rises too high the pit should equally promptly be opened for a short while so as to allow it to cool off.

OVER-WORK IS UNDER-PLAY

During This Winter We Must Balance Hard Work With Enough Equally Hearty Play.

By Florence Longley Fosbroke.

There is hardly one of us who has not heard, from physician or family or friends, a great deal about the danger of over-work.

To-day, when we are all trying to do more work and harder work than ever before, the danger bulks very large and close at hand. But—I honestly believe that there is not one-half the danger in over-work that there is in under-play.

Under-play is something about which we have heard very little. Has it ever once occurred to us, for instance, that the woman who one day dropped her pots and pans and fled out into

"A vagrant's morning wide and blue,
In the early fall, when the wind walks too,"

was doing a virtuous thing! Why, no, indeed! she was leaving her work undone, her day's plans all awry. What of her beds unmade and her twelve o'clock dinner to cook?

"Efficiency" is the modern cry. Efficiency is an excellent thing in my kitchen but it must leave some room for my soul to grow. A schedule of duties is an excellent thing, in my day, if it be elastic enough to include other values than those of immaculate floors and carefully prepared food. We are all of us too apt—and this applies especially to the most conscientious of us—to postpone the things we should like to do until the things we think we ought to do are done. And that time seems never to come.

We plan for cooking and cleaning; for washing and ironing; for canning and preserving and sewing and mending; for special duties of winter and spring and summer and fall. Do we plan as carefully for reading, for pleasure, for outings or pleasant home afternoons and evenings? And—let us put this question,—even when we do claim for ourselves, either deliberately or on sudden impulse, a little leisure for enjoyment or diversion, do we include the family—all of the family—in our pleasure and rest plans?

To be a Home Mother is the biggest and most beautiful part of being a Housekeeper.

The human relationship is the most valuable thing, as well as the most mysterious and beautiful thing, in the family and in the world. The woman who is merely a mechanic as far as life is concerned, getting work "done" and losing soul-contact with the workers, is cheating herself of the charm that is her birthright and of the love that is her due. You and I simply cannot afford to get along without the intangible possessions of life, which, after all, are the only real. The state of being a real mother or a real daughter or a real friend, is the only real estate which does not change value or suffer loss! I shall never tire of the story told in verse, of the woman who, having only two loaves,

"Sold one, and with the dole
Bought hyacinths to feed her soul."

Inevitably, as she enriched her own life, she enriched those about her. I can admire even more that woman who, not daring to sell the one loaf which must feed her children, should presently take those children with her out to the fields where daisies grow. To my mind, one of the most wonderful individuals I have known is a washerwoman living in a large city, who, after a hard day's work in another woman's kitchen, takes her two little sons, in the evening, to a free municipal concert to "feed her soul" and theirs.

We have never needed to cherish our ideals as we need to cherish them now. And that we may cherish our ideals it is absolutely imperative that we preserve our necessary leisure and fill it full of warm and pleasant thoughts.

Just as the competent housekeeper of to-day plans a balanced ration of food for her family's bodily needs, so the thoughtful Home Mother must satisfy their psychological need, the mind and soul need of good cheer and happiness. To do this, will, I dare to say, call for all she owns of deftness and skill and courage and faith.

It is important for the housewife to conserve meat and sugar and flour. It is even more important for the Home Mother to conserve in her household, a balanced ration of companionship and good cheer.

This is an individual "job" each homemaker must work out in her own home. If she is already on friendly, comradely terms with her family, if she and they know how to play and relax together, then her problem is half solved, her program half planned. She can call a council of war and vote on the particular trend that winter good times shall take.

Some families are bored or indifferent or even sulky in their own circle. They are ill at ease when together. They do not know how to play together. They do not know how to be happy together. In such a case the campaign will need to be carefully planned and patiently followed up before the desired results of good fellowship are achieved. The more the bidding the out-look, the greater the need of propaganda. Children are always open to new suggestions and we may use their enthusiasm as an entering wedge.

Do you believe it possible to manufacture memories in advance for your children? I do, firmly. And when they, grown old, look back to their childhood and youth, I would far rather have them remember a mother (to say nothing of a father) who popped corn and told stories and played games with them, than one who merely kept them beautifully mended, and got them out of bed and off to school in time and kept the house clean and the pantry full.

Relaxation, recreation, sheer fun, has its rightful place and the long winter before us will bear bitter fruit unless we and our families take the salt and sugar of regular good times along with the meat and potatoes of daily work. "Salt licks" are a necessity to the cattle. Children must have sweets. Let's insist on this balanced ration so that none of us suffer from "rickets."

Our "balanced ration" may come through an afternoon or evening taken each week for our pleasure and our neighbors'.

It may come through establishing a nightly "story hour," which, commenced for the little ones, will claim the delighted attention of the grown-ups as well. Reading aloud, too, is an art well worth cultivating as a pleasure asset. And by the way, it is an art, and both book and reader must be carefully chosen if this new entertainment is to have a fair trial in the family court.

It may come through a new collection of songs or a new game or two—but in some sincere, cordial, regular way, we all must this winter establish in our homes a new regime of work balanced by play.

The Dairy

When I wrote to a friend that we had put in a milking machine, he replied, "I don't know but we shall have to come to it," from which I inferred that he had so far looked upon this dairy adjunct in the light of a doubtful piece of mechanism, and now in the pinch in which the country finds itself rather a necessity than a blessing.

So far as we are concerned, however, the milking machine has proved itself worthy of the confidence we had in it at the beginning. I know some farmers have trouble with it; but I am inclined to think this is because they either have not procured teat cups that fit or else they have not learned how to operate the machine. Some care needs to be taken to adapt the cups to the teats of the cows. If too large or too small, the work will not be perfectly done.

But the point I have in mind just now to speak about is, that the milking machine never gets mad, swears or gets up and thumps and pounds the cows; and this I count one of the great things in its favor. I suppose I am getting to be something of a crank on the matter of doing the milking steadily, quietly and without loss of temper, no matter what may happen. But I know the value of this sort of thing now, after a good many years of experience. Nothing is more costly in the dairy than lack of self-control. The hired man or the man who is not hired but is working for himself, that has the habit of sitting down quietly, as a man should, and milking from start to finish as if he knew and understood that he is doing one of the most important jobs of the farm, is a jewel; but he is just about as rare as most precious gems. It is hard to find such a hand.

But the milking machine fills the bill in this respect. I am sure we get more milk than we would if we had to depend on harsh and ill-tempered men. These men cause cows to shrink. That means loss. So I say, "Three cheers for the milking machine, the even-tempered hired man!"

Caledonia Cream.

One-half glass of jelly or jam, one white of egg. Beat until it will hold its shape like whipped cream. This is delicious and makes a welcome change.

"O, such it dis-
So fought, so follow'd, and so fairly won,
Came not, till now, to dignify the times."
—Shakespeare.

Arrange to attend the Ninth Annual
TORONTO
FAT STOCK SHOW
Union Stock Yards, Toronto.
Judging 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5th
Auction Sale of Prize Winners 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 6th.
Everybody Welcome. Admission Free.

SHOULD HE MOVE TO TOWN?

No greater mistake could be made under ordinary circumstances than for an over-middle-age man to change his manner of living or occupation. Such a farmer, the proud owner of fertile fields, was the boy of yesterday. Father and mother have passed away; the old home has changed, but there are memories so sacred that money can not pay for them. Here the children were born; here they grew to manhood and womanhood; here their lot was withal a happy one; here the middle-age man has the respect of all the neighbors; here he is authority on national and provincial politics; here the latch-strong is always out and he delights in gatherings of friends for miles around.

"Home sweet home"—what has the town or city to give the farmer in exchange for it? Should he move to town his nearest neighbor might take time enough to notice that some one was moving into the vacant house next door. In a week or two the middle-age man has things pretty well settled in his rented or newly purchased city home. He could not think of leaving old Bess, the family cow, on the farm, because she is so gentle and would be greatly missed; so the faithful beast is brought to town and tied up in the barn. There is little or no yard room for her. Should she be turned out in a lot the neighbors might enter a complaint, and the poor animal have to be disposed of—her dream of green pastures and running brook would cause even a cow to become homesick.

How about old Tige, the watchdog that brought up the cows every night for years? Should he be brought to town he must be tied or shut up to escape the dog catcher, and is taxed for living.

The once happy man is now surrounded with new environment. He finds the people too busy to hear the things that interest him. He finds few in sympathy with his past life—he is out of his element, becomes restless and thinks perhaps he may engage in business; but if he does he will find that he has many obstacles to overcome in business—business that is entirely new to him. It is a game of the survival of the fittest.

Inexperience and age will tell the story—failure in business in many cases; unhappiness in the place of ease, where so much was hoped for. Nothing makes the average man more miserable than idleness—"As the twig is bent so is the tree inclined." Having lived a busy life, idle time passes slowly.

Saving Money on Machinery.

The junkman takes better care of his old scrap iron than many people do of their farm implements for which they pay several hundred times as much money. Piles of junk awaiting shipment are generally sprayed once a month with kerosene to keep the iron from weathering and rusting. Junkmen have learned that iron decreases in weight and usefulness by rusting, and that a few cents worth of kerosene will save them numerous dollars.

Many farmers leave some of their machinery out part of the time and some leave all their implements out all the time. Such a practice is expensive. A 160-acre farm needs something like $1,000 worth of machinery. The average of a piece of farm machinery when housed is ten years, which means a depreciation of ten per cent. a year. When not housed, the depreciation is twice as rapid, which means $200 a year. For $200 a machine shed can be built that will house all the machinery, cutting the depreciation down to $100 a year. The interest at six per cent. on the $200 for the machine shed would be only $12; hence, saving of $100 less $12, or $88 a year. A machine shed will last at least ten years, making a total saving of $880. Who would not save $880?

A machine shed should not be elaborate nor expensive, to keep down overhead expenses. A single-story building with a shed roof, or a lean-to on one side of the barn, will answer and be cheap. Many pieces of machinery can be stowed away in the barn by removing parts of the machines. For instance, the bull-rakes and rickers can be taken apart and put into a very small space.

A mixture to prevent rusting is made by melting together one part of rosin and three of lard. Add a little lamp black to darken the mixture, if desired. Paint the iron or steel with this preparation, putting it on with a brush.

A gallon of kerosene used in an ordinary spray pump will keep all the implements on an average sized farm from rusting if sprayed once a month. Several live farmers have learned that the lubricating oil taken out of their automobile engines is a good thing to use, as it is worn thin and spreads easily.

Of course all the scouring parts, such as plowshares, planter shoes, cultivator shovels, etc., should be covered with axle grease. This prevents rust, keeps the parts from scouring, so that it helps the implements do better work and consequently is better farming.

Prosperity.

That nation is gradually becoming fixed that prosperity is a bigger chance to work and not merely an opportunity to loaf.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES
TORONTO