

IS HOG GRADING A JOKE?

Farmers Must Stick Together if Protective Regulations Are To Be Worth While

PACKERS' PROFITS?

J. J. Morrison Expresses Himself on a Vital Question

When Ontario farmers have a fight on their hands, they can depend on J. J. Morrison, the genial secretary of the U.F.O. to do his share of the fighting. He does not always act like a fighter, but he makes his bows count just the same.

When the editor of this page approached him last week with a few queries relating to the vexatious hog grading question, he was right on his toes.

Answering the first poser as to what caused the controversy that has adorned the pages of the farm press, and other papers, during recent weeks, Mr. Morrison remarked laconically "Well, the farmer who has marketed good hogs, feels that he has lost something, and he is fighting against the powers that be to get back what he considers to be his own."

"You must remember," continued Mr. Morrison, "that some years ago Canada, and particularly Ontario, enjoyed a vigorous campaign that was destined to show the advantages that would accrue to her farmers if they would only produce a first class bacon hog. Many of our farmers believed in the sound logic of arguments used in that campaign. The result was that in many parts of Ontario the thicker fat type of hog is practically extinct. A few years ago the payment of a premium on this bacon type of hog, known to the trade as 'selects' pleased our farmers very much, and they were inclined to market if possible 'selects' even though they could bring the thicker fatter type to a given weight more economically."

"I do not need to tell you," went on Mr. Morrison, "that Canadian farmers during recent years have paid much attention to co-operative marketing. One essential in co-operative marketing is a proper grading of the produce. In regard to hogs, it was felt that the desired end would be accomplished much more speedily, and to an extent that would be a real asset to Canada's hog industry if grading were made compulsory. Last April at the Dominion Swine Conference held in Ottawa a resolution was passed to the effect that at stock yards and abattoirs, and wherever necessary, hog grading should be compulsory, and that all information regarding grades should be given to the producers. The object was, of course, to make it certain that premiums on 'select' hogs would really reach the pockets of the men who raised the pigs."

"Imagine the surprise of our best hog producers when they learned that new regulations, drafted by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, omitted to provide for compulsory grading, and failed to provide for any reward to the producer. Then on top of this came a change in the basis of paying premiums on 'selects' which left the grower very little for the pains he took in trying to improve the grade in Canadian bacon. The farmers were disgusted—they felt that they had been led into a trap. They had adopted the breeding types that were not really economically raised, as compared with the type they produced years ago. They had done this in the hope that Canada would become famous for her bacon type pigs, and also with an eye on the extra price they could get for this particular type. They do not want to do anything that will degrade the quality of Canadian bacon, and make it take a lower place than it has had during recent years—On the contrary, most of them would like to see it improved. That was why they asked for compulsory grading. They had a vision of Canada being rated at the top of the pork producing areas of the world, as far as quality is concerned."

"But," remarked Mr. Morrison, in a tone that showed his interest in the farmer, and a disappointment at the new development, "these regulations could not be accepted as anything but a rebuff. The honest hog men of good intentions felt that once more they had been played for 'suckers.' No one dares to deny that the old regulations with a premium on selects improved the type of Canadian hogs in many districts, and also resulted in the production of a class of bacon that was ap-

preciated not only in Great Britain, but also in the United States. As long as the regulations were lived up to, the farmers were satisfied. With compulsory grading and compulsory reporting of details to producers, all would have been well with the bacon industry."

"There are, however," said the U.F.O. secretary significantly, "others connected with the hog industry who are not producers. They do not care to be compelled to give definite reports on 'selects.' I think it is not unfair to say that they are more interested in the getting of profits than they are in improving the quality of Canadian bacon. At all events, they found a way of circumventing the regulations. The result has been that few hogs are being sold on a graded basis, and the regulations are fast becoming a farce."

Farm Notes

World's Records in Egg Laying.

The Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Agassiz, B.C. (Mr. E. H. Hicks, B.S.A.) claims several world's records for egg laying at the farm. In order that these claims may be exactly understood the official report for the year 1926 is here almost verbatim. After saying that previously 215 eggs per bird was regarded as high as could reasonably be looked for, the report continues: "The contest just completed finishes up with an average of 231 eggs per bird, that is 106,226 eggs from 460 birds, which is considered to be a world's record. Apart from this several other world's records were made both as to pen production (ten birds to a pen) and from individual birds. The pen that won the contest with a score of 3,057.5 points established a world's record. The pen which scored highest for egg production with a total of 2,946 eggs or an average of 394 eggs per bird made a world's record for number of eggs. The Barred Rock that finished in the lead with a total of 409 points with 326 eggs also made a world's record for points, all breeds. The outstanding record of all, however, goes to a S. C. White Leghorn belonging to the University of British Columbia, namely 351 eggs in 364 days."

Points are awarded on the following basis: one point for each egg averaging 24 ounces to the dozen; one-tenth of a point deducted for each ounce that averages less than 24 to the dozen; bonus of one-tenth of a point for each ounce of eggs that average more than 24 to the dozen. Eggs averaging more than 27 ounces to the dozen are regarded as just averaging that number. Eggs averaging less than 20 ounces to the dozen, exceedingly badly shaped eggs, and soft-shell eggs are not credited.

Skim-Milk for Laying Hens.

Results of a series of tests carried on continuously since 1922 at the Nappan, Nova Scotia, Experimental Farm, should prove valuable, particularly to the dairy farmer, since they indicate conclusively that skim-milk may be marketed through the egg at very remunerative prices. The details of the tests are given in the latest report of the superintendent of the farm, which may be obtained from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. The birds were fed with grain in the litter and mash in the hoppers. The grain mixture was made up of 100 pounds of wheat, 100 pounds corn and 50 pounds oats, while the mash mixture consisted of 100 pounds bran, 100 pounds shorts, 100 pounds corn meal, 100 pounds crushed oats, 25 pounds oilcake and 10 pounds charcoal. Two pens of birds were used in the experiment. One pen was given skim-milk as an extra and for the other pen beef scrap was added to the mash. During the five years in which the experiment was carried on the skim-milk fed hens showed an annual average profit of 23 cents per hen more than those fed beef scrap. It is only fair to assume that the increase is due to the value of skim-milk as a food for hens.

"Perhaps it is not too late yet," continued Mr. Morrison, encouragingly. "If farmers who produce hogs, and are anxious to keep Canadian bacon up to a high standard, thereby developing a sure and steady demand, will only stick together, and fight hard enough, the proposals made last April at Ottawa will yet be accepted, and the bacon hog will command a proper premium. Not only that, but stock yard buyers, and abattoir men will be forced to turn these premiums over to the men who raise the hogs. I still have confidence in the fighting qualities of our swine men, and they know that they have the backing of the Live Stock Commission Department, of the farmers company and of the U.F.O."

Gordon, seven years old, was playing bandit, and for some time had been staggering around as if badly wounded, without actually toppling over as a victim of the imaginary bullets of his playmates. A neighbor watching the game called to him: "Gordon, why don't you fall down?" "I can't," answered the boy crossly. "I'm not allowed to. If I had on my old pants I'd have been dead long ago."

Care Necessary in Picking Apples. In the marketing of apples the harvesting of the crop is an operation which often receives too little attention. In many instances, the poor and damaged appearance of graded and packed apples as seen on the markets can be traced to rough handling in the course of picking, although the damage may not have been noticeable at the time. Injury may result from lack of supervision, the employment of careless pickers, or from the use of unsuitable receptacles.

A bulletin on "Packing Apples in Barrels and Boxes," distributed by the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, stresses the necessity of instructing the pickers in the correct method of picking in order to avoid finger bruising and the pulling of the apples with the spur adhering to the stem, the latter being a frequent cause of skin punctures. Apples should be pulled by using the full hand and giving a combined twist and upward motion to separate from the spur with the stem intact. The regulation picking basket should be properly padded to avoid bruising and should be carried in front of the picker at all times. If unlined wicker baskets, or rough-sided boxes are used, the fruit may be damaged. A sharp blow, or even a skin puncture due to one fruit knocking against the stalk of another, may result in the testing up of rot which will seriously deprecate the value of the fruit and make it useless for storage. Cloth bags are not to be recommended as they crush against the ladder, causing the fruit to be bruised.

Feeding Market Hogs.

A large proportion of pigs marketed fall in one or more respects to comply with the standard required by either the pork butcher or the bacon curer, a frequent fault being over-fatness. Often this is due to unsuitable breeds and breeding, but live stock men all admit that feeding, whether it be bad or good, has a very distinct influence on the quality of the finished market animal. In fact some feeders go so far as to claim that proper feeding methods are of equal importance to correct breeding. In order that hog raisers may have easily available information on proper methods of feeding the Dominion Animal Husbandman has issued a pamphlet on Breeding and Feeding the Market Hog, which may be obtained from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Ill-balanced rations, injurious substitutes, deficient rations, over and under feeding, lack of intelligent understanding of nutritional requirements generally, all exert a particularly powerful influence during the early growing period as affecting later development. For instance, the demand of the bacon curer is for small well finished, fine-boned carcasses, with a good proportion of lean and a low proportion of offal. To obtain these the feeding must be correctly carried out all through the development of the animal. The use of inferior feeding stuffs, or the misuse of suitable foods, will cause otherwise excellent carcasses to turn out practically worthless or to be reduced seriously in value.

When two egotists meet, it is a case of an I for an I.

Sunday School Lesson

September 12. Lesson XII.—The Kingdom of David.—1 Kings 12: 1-23. Golden Text.—Pride goeth before destruction. And a haughty spirit before a fall.—Prov. 16: 18.

ANALYSIS.

I. EVIL COUNSEL, 1-11.

II. THE DISRUPTION, 12-20.

III. A PEACEMAKER, 21-24.

INTRODUCTION. Solomon began well, but ended badly. His great wealth was his temptation and his ruin. He gave himself over to a life of luxury, his people were heavily taxed to maintain an expensive court, and "his wives turned away his heart after other gods" (11:4). So troubles multiplied for him in his later years. Adversaries appeared both on the north and on the south of his kingdom, and he lost territory which his father had conquered. There was discontent and incipient rebellion in Israel, and prophets denounced his folly, predicting the division of the kingdom. (See ch. 11.)

I. EVIL COUNSEL, 1-11.

Rehoboam went to Shechem. David had been chosen king in Hebron by the men of Judah, 2 Sam. 2:3, 4, and after seven years by all Israel, 2 Sam. 5:1-3. Solomon had been proclaimed in Jerusalem, ch. 1:32-40. This assembly at Shechem, an ancient and important city in the hill country of Ephraim, must have been due to the discontent of the northern tribes with the rule of Solomon, and with the growing influence and importance of the tribe of Judah. It is quite evident that the spirit of independence and freedom was still strong in the men of the north. No king's authority could be imposed upon them, but they themselves would choose their king. At Shechem, Judah would have no more influence in the matter than any other tribe.

Jeroboam was an Ephraimite, who had been a servant of Solomon, and had been employed by him as an overseer or director of the labor which he required of the people in his great building enterprises, ch. 11:26-28. He had been incited to revolt by a prophet who was displeased with the favor shown by Solomon to the worship of foreign deities brought into Jerusalem by his foreign wives. His disaffection having been discovered he was obliged to flee into Egypt, from which he now returns at the call of his northern friends.

His father made our yoke grievous. This was the people's chief complaint. Solomon's expensive court, his many officers and servants, his army, and his building of palaces, fortresses and temples, had put a heavy burden upon them. They had to bear the cost, for while Solomon did add to this treasury some gains from foreign trade, he did not, like David, have in his later years the spoil and tribute of conquered countries. (See ch. 4:7, 26-28; 5:10-11, 13-18; 6:1, 36; 7:1-3; 9:10-23.)

The old man, that stood before Solomon, gave good advice. Rehoboam himself was forty years of age and should have gained some wisdom. He was undone by the evil counsel of the younger men, a fact which, of course, does not prove that old men are always wise, or that young men are necessarily foolish. But foolish temper and evil counsel prevailed.

II. THE DISRUPTION, 12-20.

The rough words with which Rehoboam answered the people's deputations are, of course, figurative; but to a proud and high-spirited people they must have been peculiarly offensive. The scorpions (vs. 11 and 14) are described by an ancient Syrian writer as long bags of leather stuffed with sand and armed with spikes. The Romans gave a similar name to a whip the lash of which was loaded with sharp-edged bits of metal.

The prophecy of Abijah (v. 15) will be found in Ch. 11:29-39. The outbreak of the people was immediate and decisive. They would be ruled no longer by the house of David. The old feud between Judah and the other tribes was revived, Judah alone remaining faithful to the grandson of David. The pious historian sees in all this the hand of God fulfilling the word of the prophet.

The folly of sending Adoram who was over the tribute, or levy of forced labor, was of a piece with the other acts of the king and his mad counselors. His fate at the hands of the enraged men of Israel might have been anticipated. The king sought safety in flight.

III. A PEACEMAKER, 21-24.

The tribe of Benjamin, whose territory lay just to the north of Judah and bordered upon Jerusalem, seems

to have adhered in part to Judah. But it must be remembered that in several passages it is distinctly said that the tribe only remained with Rehoboam. (See for example, Ch. 11: 13, 22, 24, and 12:16.) Another difficulty lies in the almost incredible large number of men said to have been gathered for war with Israel, v. 21. The number may have been overstated in the king's records.

Shemaiah the man of God appears at the opportune moment as a peacemaker. To shall not go up nor fight against your brethren, he said, declaring to the king and people the word of God. Shemaiah appears several times in the story of Rehoboam's reign in 2 Chron. 11:1 to 12:16.



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Grocer—"My son—the one that used to help me in the shop here—has gone in for boxing. Won a championship, too!" Customer—"Aye, I remember him. I suppose he'll have won the light-weight championship?"

It had just struck eleven o'clock and conversation in the drawing room where Isabel entertained Ivor, was beginning to have its flat spots. "A penny for your thoughts," remarked Isabel suddenly. "I was thinking it's about time I toddled away home," replied the youth. "Give him a bob, Isabel," called her father from the hall. "It's a bargain."

Better Business Letters and How to Write Them

Marion W. Wesson outlines the fundamental principles of business letter writing in an article on that subject appearing in The Outlook.

"First of all," writes Mr. Wesson, "the correspondent who is to be successful must have a definite purpose and must be thoroughly conscious of that purpose. He who aims at nothing is pretty sure to hit it. This truth applies with special force to letter writing."

"In order to accomplish his purpose, the correspondent must know his subject, and he must know it thoroughly. He cannot collect an overdone account or make an adjustment, or handle a request for an extension of credit, unless he knows the general principles underlying these problems, the general policy of his firm in dealing with them, and the circumstances of the particular case that is before him."

"Information about the person to be addressed is almost as important as knowledge of the subject itself. The successful correspondent must be a serious student of human nature and of human psychology. He needs to know, in the first place, the characteristics that are common to all men. And, in addition, he should acquire the information about the individual whom he is addressing, his circumstances, his vocation, his needs, and his desires."

"Promptness in correspondence is one of the best of credit and business builders." In this slogan the National Association of Credit Men has given recognition to another fundamental principle of business-letter writing. Many firms require that all letters must be acknowledged on the day they are received, whether or not final answer can be made at that time. This requirement is based on an understanding of a fact of human nature, namely, that every person likes to receive immediate attention. Delay is, of course, preferable to hastily constructed letters which fail to accomplish their purpose and endanger the future welfare of the business. On the other hand, even a good letter will fall short if the person addressed has become enraged through long waiting for a reply. It is well for the correspondent to remember that what seems a mere matter of routine to him often seems much more important to the other man.

"If he is to do a thorough job of letter writing, the correspondent must have before him all of the required data before he begins to construct his letter. He should be sure that his information consists of genuine facts, and if any points are in the least doubtful he should verify them. If there has been previous correspondence on the same matter, he should have this before him. He should analyze this correspondence carefully and should understand clearly what has already been done, what is the present status of the case, and what remains to be accomplished. He should then do the job before him so completely and so thoroughly that it will be done for good."

"Make your letter long enough to cover your subject thoroughly and to insure that it will be clear to your reader, and no longer. Remember that it is as possible to waste the reader's time by being incomplete as by including extraneous matter. The undue brevity which leads to the necessity of writing several letters when one should have sufficed is uneconomical for all concerned."

"The effective letter is cordial and courteous. It provides in words and in tone the equivalent of the genial hand-clasp and the hearty greeting of personal contact."

The simplest method of settling an argument is to hold your tongue.

A harassed-looking old gentleman was rushing hither and thither round the big store. He dashed into the lift and shot off upwards; next he was seen descending the stairs leading to the bargain basement three at a time. Once more he reappeared. This time it was on the second floor. He was very short of breath, his tie was disarranged, his hat had disappeared and his hair stood on end. A floor-walker approached him, and in that 'sauve-manner for which all floor-walkers are known, inquired: "Are you looking for something in men's clothing?" "No, no," roared the harassed one: "In women's clothing! I've lost my wife."

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.

