

on barley-meal, or corn-meal, and finish off on whole pease and water for at least three weeks. Hardly necessary to add that fresh air and exercise are indispensable for bacon-hogs, from weaning time to putting up to fatten.

*Mast*, the general term for the various kinds of nuts, etc., pigs pick up in the bush, entered largely into the food of those animals in the noble woods of Kent, in our younger days. The beech-mast produced a soft, oily pork, unless the pigs that had run in the beech-groves—chiefly met with on the chalk-hills—were kept for a considerable time on other food before being killed. But the acorn, marvellously plentiful in the Wealds of Kent and Sussex, was quite a different thing. Not that even acorn-fed hogs should be slaughtered when fresh from the bush. An interval of say three weeks should intervene, during which time pease, again, should be their food, and then the feeder may expect to find his bacon as firm and as finely flavoured as the taste of man can desire.

We used to turn out from 30 to 40 pigs in October, every *acorn-year*, and they returned in about 6 or 7 weeks in fine condition. But now, thanks to the mania for preserving pheasants for *battue*-shooting, that can no longer be done in England; for the pig, possessing a very discriminating palate, refused to content himself with the food nature offered him, and attacked with delighted ardour the stacks of barley put up by the gamekeepers for the delectation of the game. Consequently the pigs but too often went a-missing, and the practice of turning them out *acorning* had to be abandoned.

*Weight of sheep.*—We see, by an exchange, that the average weight of sheep at Chicago market, throughout the year, was, in 1898, 86 lbs.; live-weight, we suppose. Surely there must be some mistake here, for a sheep of that weight would not probably give more than, at most, 48 lbs. of carcase. Any day at the autumn-fairs, where the large flock-masters of the South of England sell off their wether-lambs, plenty of "tegs," as they are locally termed, may be seen that will give ten stone, 80 lbs., of dead weight. But then, these are Hampshire-downs, and their precocity is known to most of our readers.

By the bye, we should be very grateful if Mr. James Cochrane would let us know if he has had much demand for his Hampshire-down rams this fall. We are vain enough to think that our persistent enlogy of the breed may have had at least some slight influence on his purchasing of his small flock, and we hope most sincerely that it has answered his expectations.

*Clover-hay*, we see, is quoted, in the Montreal market, at six dollars a ton of 2,000 lbs., equal to about the same for the London *load* of 2,016 lbs. What does pressing and baling cost a ton? Surely, there must be a margin, a considerable margin, one would think, between the above price here and the £5.00 good clover-hay is worth a *load* in London. There must be some farmers here who know how to deal with clover properly, and can keep the leaf on the stem, one would think! Some good clover-hay would have been made this year in the Ste-Anne district, but unfortunately, owing to the cows having been allowed to gnaw-down the plant last fall, there was but little hay of any kind, and positively no clover at all. It cannot be right, in a country with such winters and springs as we have here, to allow the cows to stray over the whole farm, making a clean sweep of every blade of grass that, allowed to grow, might possibly act as a detainer of the snow and thereby protect the plant of seeds from being drawn out by the frost; but that is exactly what cows were allowed to do at Ste-Anne last year and the year before.

The following are the prices quoted for meadow-hay, and clover-hay, by the load of 36 trusses of 56 lbs. each, in the great London markets, on the 8th of October last.

London, Cumberland, Thursday.—Best hay, 75s. to 84s.; good, 70s. to 75s.; inferior, 50s. to 65s.; prime clover, 80s. to 97s. 6d.; good, 70s. to 75s.; inferior, 60s. to 65s.; straw, 28s. to 33s. per load.—Dumbelton and Sons. (1)

London, (Whitechapel), Saturday.—Superior picked hay, 82s. to 85s.; good has to 80s.; inferior, 50s. to 65s.; best clover, 95s. to 100s.; good clover, 84s. to 90s.; inferior, 60s. to 75s.; straw, 28s. to 36s.—Gingell, Son, and Foskett, Ltd.

Our readers will observe that even medium qualities of clover-hay are noted as being worth

(1) Straw is sold by the load of 36 trusses of 36 lbs. each. Ed.