

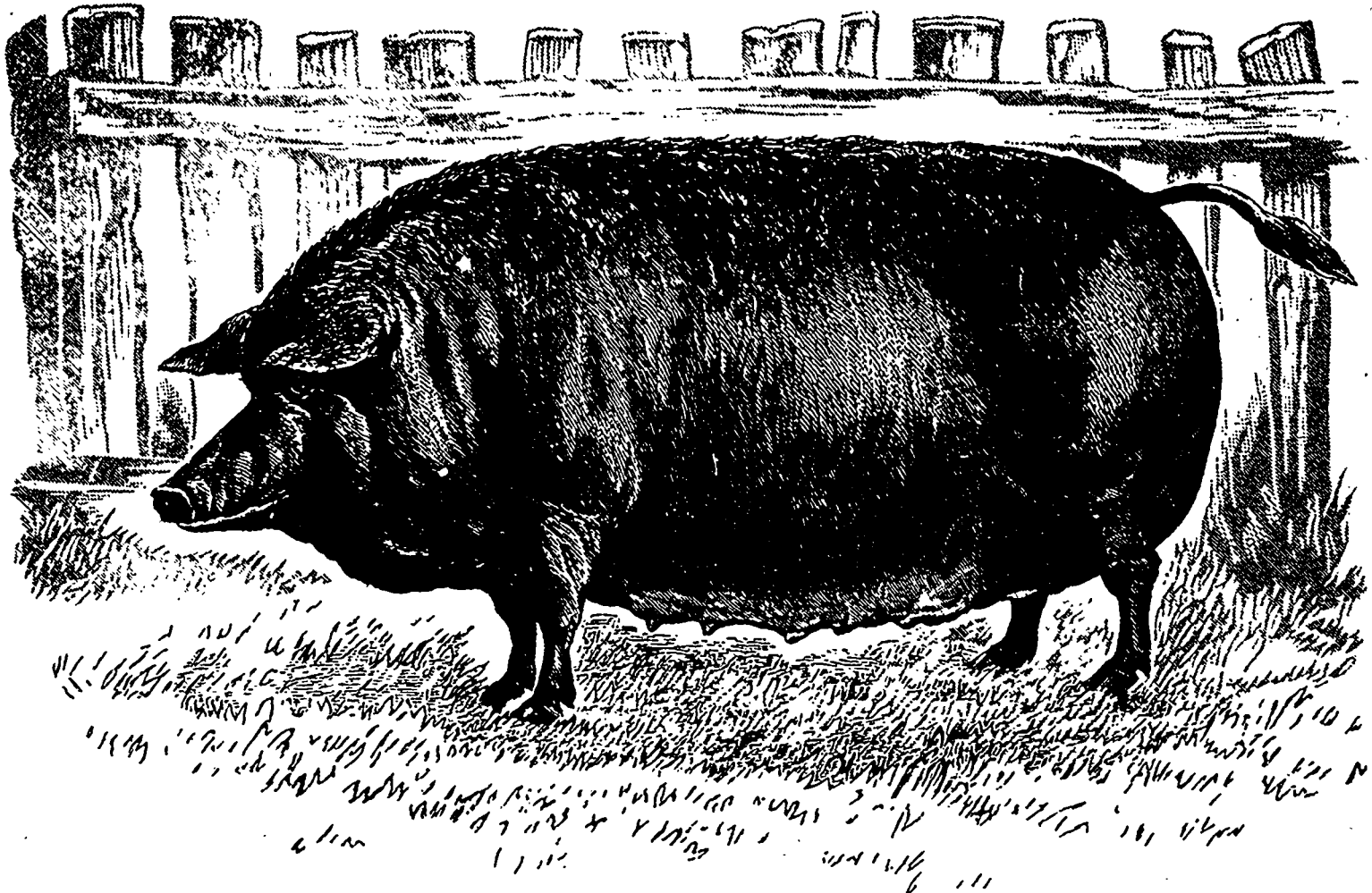
THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL

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[WHOLE No. 82



MR. W. H. MITCHELL'S TAMWORTH SOW. "SYLVIA II."

Our Illustration.

We have this month the pleasure of presenting to our readers an engraving of a famous Tamworth pig specially prepared for us by an English artist from a painting by E. B. Herbert, Esq. Sylvia II. was bred by Mr. W. H. Mitchell, of Elmdene, Kenilworth, England, one of the foremost breeders of Tamworths, and she has gained a splendid fame through the numerous prizes she has captured for her owner at the leading exhibitions of Great Britain. She has won no less than six first prizes and one second, including first at Birmingham in '84, first at the Royal at Newcastle '87, and first at the Windsor meeting of the Royal last year. She has won over £50 in prize money, and may be said to be by far the most successful sow of her breed. She is stated to be of great length and depth, measuring 6 ft. 6 inches from the tip of her nose to her stern, and the same around her girth, while her live weight is given to be about 1000 lbs.

Mr. Mitchell has made a specialty of breeding Tamworths since 1883, and the result of his work is a

flattering testimonial to his skill, as may be noted from the fact that his herd has taken prizes at the Royal Shows five years in succession, including first prizes for boars and sows at Windsor last year, and upwards of fifty prizes at other prominent shows. Beginning at Birmingham in 1884, Mr. Mitchell showed his first pen there in a class for five breeding pigs under six months old, and had the high honor of capturing the first prize with a pen 5 mos., 2 weeks and 3 days old, that tipped the scale beam at sixty score, or 240 lbs. per pig.

A word as to the qualities of the Tamworths may not be amiss. For years they have been extensively bred and in great demand in the Midland counties, especially in North Warwickshire and the near neighborhood of Tamworth (South Staffordshire), from whence they derive their name. For decades back the Birmingham Fat Stock Show has had classes for the Tamworth pigs, the honors usually being captured by local farmers. Mr. Mitchell gives as his reasons for investing in Tamworths, that he found the public demanded bacon with a larger proportion of lean than the market supplied, and that he felt that a pig of

greater length and depth, not so heavy in the jowls and shoulders as the fashionable pigs of the day, would be in the greatest demand, and as the Tamworth approached nearest to these requirements he selected them. The Tamworth has long been celebrated for certain well defined and excellent qualities, chief amongst which may be mentioned the fact that they are good prolific mothers, quick growers, and produce a larger proportion of lean meat than any other breed. They are red or bright chestnut in colour, which darkens with age. Originally they had black spots, but these breeders are endeavoring to eliminate. They are rather long in the snout, with great length and depth of body. It is only within a few years that they have been given classes at the leading shows, and breeders have been further hampered through the prejudices of judges, especially against the long snouts common to members of this breed; but the snouts are being gradually shortened, and the good qualities of the Tamworths as a breed are being rapidly recognized, and they have, in recent years, become very popular in the United Kingdom, and now their classes at the leading shows are amongst the largest.