

pork, although we may never be able to grow it so cheaply.

This disadvantage, however, is likely to be equalized by the better price which our pork will bring. We feel that we are safe in stating that one of our leading pork-dealers in Toronto has stated that good Canadian fed pork is worth to him a cent a pound more than the American-fed. This represents quite a difference, and will allow for feeding food from 15 to 20 per cent. dearer.

We can readily believe that there will be as much difference as what we have stated in the relative values of pork fed on corn and on a mixed diet of a suitable nature. Food not only influences the taste of the meat but also the manner in which it is put on. When therefore corn, which is essentially a carbonaceous food, is fed alone, the fat and lean are not well mixed, nor has the meat that tender relish which characterizes meat nicely intermixed, and produced from a mixed diet that is largely nitrogenous in its nature.

Ours then is essentially a land for the production of good pork. We can grow peas, which are good fat formers, oats rich in albuminoids, roots in abundance, and as long as our country is noted for wheat production we will have large quantities of wheat middlings. With such food factors along with any amount of clover, we can always grow a fine quality of pork.

The style of hog wanted now is one long in body, that it may be able to give a large amount of side meat, that will make good use of the food given to it, that will mature early, and not given to lay on fat in masses; for habit in this particular determines the character of the meat, though not to the same extent as food.

The Improved Yorkshire has been frequently mentioned as very suitable for this purpose, and we earnestly hope that the expectations regarding them may be more than realized. But in all things, and generally at all times, a prudent haste is in order. We would like to know two things regarding them: just what exactly is meant by Improved Yorkshires, and second, has it been determined that this breed will make a better use of the food fed to it than some other breeds of a different conformation, and now numerous in the country? By the first question we do not mean for a moment to raise the question of purity of breed, but ask it historically, as the works written on live stock do not show this point very clear, owing in part to its comparatively recent origin. There are small, medium, and large Yorkshires, then there is a mixed breed called the Cumberland Yorkshires, and now the Improved Yorkshires. We know it is generally believed that the Improved Yorkshires are the large Yorkshires refined, but what are the facts? Those who have imported them will doubtless know, and we hope they will take an early opportunity to remove the haze that surrounds the knowledge possessed by the people of this country regarding their early history, by giving the same in the columns of the JOURNAL.

It is possible that the Improved Yorkshires may make a better use of the food given them than other breeds; we hope they will, for if they do not, this fact cannot be known too soon. Here again is good work for the Ontario Agricultural College. No better work could be undertaken by this institution. We need scarcely add that we think very favorably of the Improved Yorkshires, but when the tide is coming in bearing high upon its bosom the fortunes of any breed, we do well to find out all we can about its adaptability.

The rations that are best adapted to feeding young pigs of autumn litters may be various. They cannot, of course, get the green clover of summer so helpful

to their growth, but field roots will make up very largely for the lack.

When they are first weaned they should, if possible, get skim milk and wheat middlings, with some peameal, but not very much at first. Where skim milk is not to be had a mixture of two parts wheat middlings, two parts ground oats, and one part ground peas steamed, will give good results; some roots may be added. As the season advances the proportion of peas should increase. This ration is but one of a number that might be named. The nature of the ration will be largely determined by the kinds of food on hand. Those grown on the farm should usually be fed, the skill of the feeder coming out in a proper blending of the foods.

Many may not have facilities for cooking or steaming the food; there is all the more reason for them to keep the pigs warm. If this is done, and the food properly blended, the results will be satisfactory. The bedding is to be changed frequently; the colder the weather the oftener this is to be done, owing to the dampness which it draws at such times in the form of condensed vapor. In attention to this matter, the feeding of carbonaceous foods and the lack of exercise, are the principal causes of that incipient paralysis which has so often rendered winter-pork making unprofitable. When the pigs may root about a part of the day in the barnyard in fair weather, they seldom suffer from this cause.

It is important in winter as in summer feeding that they are kept pushing well ahead. A stagnation period in winter is even more hurtful than in summer, as winter feeding is always more expensive. The proper feeding of October litters will bring out nice young pigs of 150 to 175 pounds, for the brisk March and April markets.

### The English Rubies.

#### A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY AND QUALITIES OF DEVON CATTLE.

Whatever honor a breed may claim for being so long, long established that their history carries them back to the earliest days and shrouds their origin in mystery, this the Devon may justly command. Our well-known and acknowledged authority, Youatt, considers the Devon one of the best existing representatives of the original British cattle, and in doing this he testifies to the fact that through many decades they have been bred without an infusion of foreign blood, which in itself would account mainly for their strong prepotency and stability of type. Dickson writes in 1822 that "the red cattle of North Devon and Somerset may be considered as one of our original breeds, and one which has possessed most of its primitive form." The antiquity of this breed is one of the many features they possess that command our respect and excite our interest, and deeming that their history and qualities would be of some interest to our readers, as well as to our correspondent who asks for information regarding them on another page, we present this article.

There is abundant testimony for believing that the Devon has been kept pure in blood and fixed in type by careful breeders for more than a thousand years. It is not infrequent to find even now in the mother country that, on some farms in the districts in which they flourish best, herds have descended from father to son, and have been wisely bred and prudently managed for over 200 years. Their stronghold always has been the county of Devon, and part of Somerset, Cornwall, Dorset, and Hants. There would be types—that of the North Devon and the Somerset Devon, but

these are now so nearly alike, and are becoming more and more blended each year, that they may practically be considered as one. Special attention may be said to have been given to this breed since 1827, but it was not until 1851 that a Devon herd-book was established by the late Col. T. Davy, who published a series of eight volumes, containing the pedigrees of 1671 bulls and 3739 cows and heifers. In 1884 the Devon Cattle Breeders' Society was established, and the herd-book passed into its hands. The American Devon herd-book was established in 1880, necessitated on account of the rapid spread of Devons in America.

The Devons possess many distinctive attributes, and to fully understand these it is necessary to know at least something of their habits. The country of North Devonshire is most mountainous, moorish, and hilly, and supports an herbage far from luxuriant in growth. A fact also to be noted is that the Devon characteristics were fixed long before the questions of improved grasses and pasture lands had occupied the attention of the English agriculturist. To these two facts the Devons of to-day are debtors for their great activity, their strong muscular development, their vigorous constitution, the inherent prepotency on the part of the bulls, and the remarkable fecundity of the cows. As an indication of the latter, it is only necessary to glance through their herd-book, when it will be found that it is not unusual for cows 19 or 20 years old to be still breeding, though they may already have fifteen or sixteen calves to their credit. The impressiveness of the bulls is noticeable at once in their grades, and their well-developed muscles and other like qualities, indicative of robust constitutions, at once catch the eye as soon as it is turned on a true specimen of this useful breed. The activity and docility of the Devons are features that stood well by them in the days of early pioneering, for these qualities, which they possess to a great degree, make them grades invaluable as oxen. The writer remembers well taking a spry four-year-old bull of this breed out for exercise with a rope snapped into the nose-ring (a seeming indiscretion permitted of by their kindness of disposition), and impression is yet vivid that leads us to say forcibly that the Devons are a breed of rare activity and wonderful powers of draught. In color the Devon is a solid, deep red, though, if we may judge from historical data, they were a few decades back somewhat lighter in color. A patch of white on any part of the body, omitting the udder, is a sign of impurity of blood. In form, though the typical Devon may be said to appear very small, yet, in common with the best type of the "doddie," they possess the feature of rotundity. Their barrels are round, instead of filling an apparent parallelogram as the Shorthorn does, and less successfully, the Hereford. Bulls will be frequently found to girth from 7 ft. to 7 ft. 8 in.; and the running of the tape around some of those thought small would surprise many a critic. They are comparatively short, but are thick and compact, close to the ground, and very cylindrical. The head is ornamented with a pair of yellow, waxy horns, rather long to suit most ideas, and with a couple of clear, prominent eyes, usually surrounded with a yellowish ring. The neck is short and full, the shoulder upright, and the chest prominent and wide. The body is snug, compact, and round, while the loin and quarter is capable of carrying a wealth of flesh. The legs are short and the bones fine. The skin is covered with that mossy and fine curly hair that causes the eyes of the Hereford admirer to glisten, and there is present that mellowness of touch that pronounces them to be just what they are, rapid fatteners; while its bright orange tinge, wherever it may be seen, around the eye or in the ear, is equally a surety for their butter-giving qualities. They are capital pas-