

me a Briton's privilege of making them in my own defence.

Truly yours,

THOS. SHAW.

The only response to this appeal, which was surely a reasonable one, was the following :

London, Ont., May 20th, 1887.

THOS. SHAW ESQ., Hamilton, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—Your favor of the 16th is received. We should be real sorry to do you any injustice, but we think you are wandering from the point at issue. You have already said in our columns that the Government had nothing to do with your paper read before the Huntingdon Dairy Convention; also that you would not be ashamed of being styled a confederate of the Government. If you are in sympathy with the agricultural policy of the Government, you should certainly confederate with it in the carrying out of its plans. We struck nothing out of your article which was material to the issue. We shall certainly not advertise your papers, or any other part of the Government literature, because we are not in sympathy with it, believing it to contain a lot of unreliable and useless information. But in justice to you we have written to "Subscriber," asking him to send for a copy of the report containing your article on "Robbing the Land." You know very well that letters come into all newspaper offices without headings, or with inappropriate headings. It was quite consistent with Subscriber's article to say that you "preached false doctrines," and we will give you a fair hearing so long as you state your case in unmistakable language, and use no words except those required to prove your arguments. The question of your being a "Confederate" of the Government does not belong to this present issue, and can be settled hereafter. You have made a challenge, make your vaunting true, and minor matters may be dealt with afterwards. We wait your reply.

Yours respectfully,

W. WELD.

On May 24th we replied to this letter as below :

W. WELD, Esq.,

Ed. and prop'r *Farmer's Advocate*, London, Ont

DEAR SIR,—Yours of 20th instant came to hand in my absence, and I reply first opportunity. You say (1) you think I am "wandering from the point at issue." Pray, sir, how can that be, as in both my letters to the *Advocate* I first take the first point at issue—the charge that I, myself, have been and am a "confederate" of the government, which charge was repeated by you when commenting on my first letter. (2) "We struck nothing out of your article material to the issue," and yet you struck out the most vital point relating to it, a paragraph that would have told all your readers where to get my paper, when they, including the "Subscriber," could judge for themselves as to its contents. (3) "In justice to you we have written to subscriber, asking him to send for a copy of the report containing your article on 'Robbing the Land.'" If you do this in justice to me, in the line of your own reasoning, is it not justice due me that you should so inform every reader of the *Advocate* whom "Subscriber" has so misled? And this is the very thing you failed to do in your issue publishing my first letter, and which now you refuse to do. (4) "The question of your being a 'confederate' of the government does not belong to the present issue, and can be settled hereafter; you have made a challenge, make your vaunting true." I hold this is the first of the two vital questions, and so held in both my letters, a charge brought by yourself which I deny, and again challenge and defy you to prove it true, which you know you can not. Publish first what I have written, and I will then have a guarantee that may convince me of the honesty of your desire to publish what I would then write in reference to the remaining points at issue in the order in which you, yourself, have placed them. In justice to one attacked without any provocation in the columns of your paper, I appeal to your sense of honor as an editor to give me a fair chance to defend myself. Have not I at least an equal right with you to judge as to what is important in that defence?

Unless my correspondence already sent you is published all further correspondence on the subject is only a waste of time.

Truly yours,

THOS. SHAW, Hamilton.

The only response to this appeal was an editorial in the June issue of the *Advocate*, p. 162, of a whole column, pouring out abuse on a man whose defence

they were afraid to publish, and two columns from the so-called "Subscriber," page 168, who occupies a front room in the office of the *Advocate*, third flat, combatting the arguments of one who was first attacked and then denied the privilege of reply. What a valiant man the writer of the papers just referred to must be! How bravely he can fight when he knows that his antagonist is not in a position to use his weapons!

We have published every word thus far save the two articles in the June number of the *Advocate* just referred to, and in all calmness we ask the readers of the *JOURNAL*, is not the editor of the *Advocate* a fair-minded (!) man, and is he not exceedingly anxious to do to another as he would have another do to him?

### The Breeding and Management of Swine.

BY W. H. M'NISH, LYN, ONT.

This paper was read at the county of Wentworth Farmers' Institute last winter, and is very cheerfully accorded a place in the *JOURNAL*. It is a valuable contribution on the subject of which it treats :

It is, indeed, a matter of great satisfaction to those who take a deep interest in the live stock interests of this province, that such a marked improvement in the management of stock has taken place within the past few years. Antiquated and wasteful methods of breeding and feeding are slowly being discarded, and more economical and intelligent management is taking the place of treatment, which, though thought wise by our fathers, we must regard as positively cruel.

But while such a marked change for the better is to be noted, there is much still to be done by the average farmer of Ontario, and there is probably no department on the farm in which there is more scope for the adoption of correct methods of treatment than in the management of swine. They are undoubtedly better treated than formerly. I know that in the majority of cases they are no longer as they once were—the vagrants of the farm, wandering about without any visible means of support, with scarcely a spot they could lay claim to as their own; driven by necessity to dishonest means of gaining a precarious livelihood by pillage and plunder, the daily trial of the good housewife, whose kitchen garden too often bore marks of their visits, and many times daily emphatically warned that he was trespassing, by a shower of brick-bats of all descriptions.

No animal on the farm has better claims for good treatment. The development of the great American West and Canadian North-west into such an enormous grain raising territory has so lowered the price of grain that we are being driven from that branch of farming and are being compelled to adopt stock raising and dairying as a means of increasing the fertility of our farms and swelling the size of our bank account. Dairying and swine rearing go hand in hand. There are large quantities of food on the dairy farm which, if not fed to swine, is wasted, and the importance of the dairy interests of this province, which are increasing every year, demand that all the products of the dairy be utilized in such a way as to bring the largest profit to the farmer.

It is the purpose of this paper to briefly outline what several years of experience and observation warrant us to consider as the proper treatment of this domestic animal. Like anything else the most important point is a proper beginning, and that is "the selection of a suitable pair from which to breed." If the farmer has the means, his best plan is to select a pair out of one of the many desirable pure breeds. I will not here attempt to compare the merits of the different breeds. They all possess many desirable points. If, however, his means will not allow him to at once procure pure breeds, I would advise him to select the best sow within reach and breed her to a pure bred boar. The sow should be selected carefully. Let her be compactly built, with small bones, a straight, broad back, hams wide and deep, and above all things possessing a contented disposition and a good appetite. Avoid one with a rambling, discontented disposition; they almost invariably make poor mothers.

I wish specially to direct attention to the importance

of breeding to a pure bred boar only. It is the only way to bring native or grade stock to a high degree of excellence, and if the farmer faithfully follows this for several years he will be able to produce animals of which he may be proud, and that alligator breed, which we so often see adorning the roadside, would rapidly disappear—that breed whose strong points are a large head, lop ears, long legs, large bones, cat hams, razor back, slab sides and an unceasing squeal. Do not make the common mistake of breeding to scrub or even grade animals. I know that in speaking so strongly on this point, I oppose the views and teaching of one of our self-constituted authorities on live stock—the editor of one of our agricultural journals. I am willing to pin my faith to improved breeds of stock of any kind. I contend that the nearer to pure bred your stock is, the better it is; that every judicious infusion of pure blood into a herd adds to its value, and it passes my comprehension how any journal, professing to be burning with zeal for the interests of the Canadian farmer, can consistently advocate such a suicidal step as to abandon the rearing of pure bred stock and return to the common stock of our fathers. We might as well be asked to cast aside the self-binding reaper and again grasp the hand sickle of our grandfathers.

I would like to sound a note of warning against breeding the sow to the boar when too young. It is apt to ruin the constitution of the sow, and the pigs frequently are small. It will be found that a year old is about the proper age, so that at farrowing time she will have reached maturity and be fully developed.

Do not accept as true, what seems to be an almost universal belief among farmers, that a sow in farrow in order to produce the healthiest pigs, should be kept on a low diet. I feel certain that in the majority of cases, where sows have produced weak and flabby pigs, the cause arose not from high feeding—that bugbear of so many minds—but from too close confinement in unhealthy quarters. The average farmer of this province very seldom errs on the side of over-feeding. I would, therefore, advise a liberal diet, consisting in winter of equal parts of ground oats, bran and shorts, thoroughly cooked, varied by dry peas or corn and a few mangolds or other roots. In summer a grass run may take the place of roots, and the sour milk and whey from the dairy, together with a little grain, will be found a sufficient feed.

As farrowing time approaches the sow should be removed to suitable quarters. If the weather be cold the room should be warm, and great care should be taken to prevent the young pigs from getting chilled. To guard against this I have found it to be an excellent plan to have in readiness a barrel filled with clean, dry straw. In this place the young pigs as soon as they are farrowed, and throw over the top a thick woolen blanket. The heat generated by the pigs and retained by the blanket, will keep them perfectly warm. After the sow has finished farrowing, the pigs can be removed from the barrel and placed where they may suckle the dam. While farrowing the sow should have the closest attention. If she has been kindly treated and is accustomed to being handled, she will not in the least be disturbed by one's presence. Should she attempt to devour her offspring, remove them out of her reach, and when her labor pains are over place them again with her, and in the majority of cases she will treat them kindly. Her irritation, in most cases, is caused by her fevered condition and does not mean that she has a fierce disposition. If, however, in spite of this precaution she persists in devouring them, she is worthless as a breeder. Fatten her at once for the market. It is so very difficult to break a sow from this vicious habit that the experiment is not worth trying.

For a week or ten days after farrowing the sow should be fed exclusively on warm feed, consisting of bran and a little milk. She should also have a supply of pure cold water always within her reach. This latter attention is too often neglected. She is in so fevered a condition that her thirst is incessant, and it is positively cruel to neglect this simple attention. As the pigs grow older her diet should be more liberal, and should consist of shorts and ground oats, thoroughly cooked. When the pigs are three weeks old the male animals of the litter should be castrated, and when they have reached the age of six weeks the litter should be weaned. If properly done, their growth need not be stopped in the least by weaning. They should be taught when three or four weeks old to eat by placing in the pen, out of the dam's reach, a little sweet milk in a shallow vessel. In a short time they will drink quite readily, and by weaning time