

PURE-BRED STOCK

NOTES AND NEWS FROM THE BREEDERS

These columns are set apart exclusively for the use of breeders of pure-bred stock and poultry. Any information as to importations made, the sale and purchase of stock and the condition of herds and flocks that is not in the nature of an advertisement will be welcomed. Our desire is to make this the medium for conveying information as to the transfer of pure-bred animals and the condition of live stock throughout the country. The co-operation of all breeders is earnestly solicited in making this department as useful and as interesting as possible. The Editor reserves the right to eliminate any matter that he may consider better suited to our advertising columns.

Farming World Man on the Wing

Summerhill Farm, famous as the home of Messrs. D. C. Platt & Son, and inseparable from the history of the Yorkshire bacon hog in America, is situated about five miles from the city of Hamilton, Ont. The farm consists of three hundred acres of slightly rolling sandy loam, fertile, well drained and cultivated. While enterprising and progressive breeding in other lines, Mr. Platt is methodical to a degree in the management of his farm. A crop rotation which has borne consecutive crops of cereals is followed by seeding down with clover and timothy, and this by a crop of roots or corn is found satisfactory. Mr. Platt is a firm believer in the manure as food for swine as well as dairy cattle, and his preference is the Giant Yellow Intermediate variety, which are sown early in order that the work of thinning may not interfere with having operations. Last year an experimental plot of three acres was seeded down with alfalfa, which so pleased the Messrs. Platt, as hog pasture, that this year they contemplate adding another field of fifteen acres for the same purpose.

In the large, roomy barns of Summerhill farm are about 25 head of Holstein grade cows, and at the present time about 70 imported Yorkshire breeding sows beside the choice Canadian-bred ones of their own breeding. As this season is farrowing time for a large number, they require constant attention, and youngsters are arriving daily.

The order book of a firm like that of Messrs. Platt & Son shows many items of interest. At the time of the visit of The Farming World Man on the Wing, a carload of young breeding sows was being shipped to W. H. Miner & Co., of New York, U.S.A. The Miner firm, who are well-known as proprietors of the Waldorf Astoria, the leading hotel of New York City, propose to produce on their magnificent farm in New York state, the bacon with which to supply their hotel table.

In the conduct of such a business as that of the Messrs. Platt, every year adds experience, valuable to the firm and to their patrons alike. The strains which are bred to the most real value, best suited in all respects to Canadian conditions, and the best way to get the most out of them, are questions which solve themselves only through time and experience. About 100 head of youngsters now on the farm are sired by the young boar, Champion—20101—, silver medal boar

of Toronto, 1907. He is a splendid grown animal of extreme smoothness and quality, a model in character as he is choice in breeding. 'Mr. Platt might well be proud of him,' was the recent remark of one of Ontario's leading hog breeders. Beside him are the two champion sows, Walton Nell, champion of 1907, and in nice condition, weighing easily 200 pounds, and Lady Frost, champion of 1906, scaling 1,000 lbs. The latter is an animal of magnificent type, a model in conformation, in smoothness, shape of head, depth and length, and with good bone under her. The progeny of these sows should represent the bluest blood in Yorkshiredom, and herd headers of their breeding a treasure to every herd of pure-bred Yorkshire swine. One pair of Lady Frost sows, now nine months old and will scale 450 pounds each, are samples of the value of this blood. The grand old boar, Duke of York, three times champion at Toronto, is still in service at Summerhill, as well as Summerhill Chester, imported in dam, and whose dam was the Toronto champion of 1905 and whose sire was the famous Park Royal, first-prize winner at the Royal Show in England. As early maturity characterizes the modern hog, so the Messrs. Platt have made it their special care as a few of the weights already mentioned will bear testimony.

In the matter of feeding and caring for swine, they seem very much inclined to the opinion that outside of ordinary care and intelligence, there is usually more difference in the kind

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