

it stated in Prof. Long's book, already referred to, that by judicious feeding Mr. Fisher made choice pigs weigh up to 490 pounds at twelve months old, while March litters would easily weigh 280 to 336 pounds by Christmas.

Following in the footsteps of Messrs. Wainman and Fisher came such breeders as the late James Howard, M.P., the Earl of Ellesmere, Mr. Sanders Spencer, Mr. F. Walker Jones, Mr. C. Duckering, the late Peter Eden, Messrs. Barron and Strickland, the two last named, together with Mr. Spencer, being still among the leading breeders in England.

Although Yorkshires had existed for many years in Canada previous to 1886, they were of a more or less unimproved type, and lacked the quality and early-maturing proclivities of the Improved Large White. In that year an importation of a boar and two sows from the herd of Mr. Sanders Spencer was made by Mr. J. Y. Ormsby, of Oakville, Ont., and this was followed by another from the same herd the following year. It did not take the Large Whites long to make friends for themselves, and soon the demand for young breeding pigs was far in excess of the supply, and, accordingly, further importations were made by Messrs. Ormsby & Chapman, Messrs. Green Bros. and Brethour, Mr. Joseph Featherston, Mr. R. Gibson, Mr. John G. Mair, and others.

In 1887 a record for Improved Yorkshires was commenced by the Agriculture and Arts Association, with Mr. Henry Wade as editor. Soon after this the breed was given a separate class at all the leading shows, and to-day the exhibits of these pigs are fully equal to those of any other breed.

In our next issue we shall give a scale of points for Large Whites, together with the opinions of some leading breeders.

(To be continued.)

Turning Pigs into Gold.

By SANDERS SPENCER.

Various opinions are held as to the best time at which to begin to mate breeding pigs. We believe in early maturity and this shows itself in the ability of certain strains to reproduce their species early in life; a well-kept boar, or yelt, should be fit to be mated at eight months old, so that the first litter may arrive when the dam is about a year old. It is a good plan, if the litter is large and the sow a heavy milker, to allow the pigs to remain on her till they are ten weeks old, feeding the sow well the whole time, or, if it be more convenient to wean the pigs, to allow the first

period to pass; this will usually be observable three or four days after weaning. It is a good plan to wean gradually by allowing the sow to stay away from her pigs a longer time each day. The milk will gradually become less, and the pigs will not miss the sow at all when finally weaned. Some persons advise the taking away of one or two of the pigs at a time, but this is troublesome, and sometimes leads to injury of the sow's udder, as the milk in the teats not sucked is liable to cause garget. If the pigs are being gradually weaned, the sow will sometimes receive the boar whilst the pigs are still sucking her; she may be mated, and, if successfully, the mil. will speedily dry up. Some sows evince a desire for the boar when the pigs are not more than three or four weeks old, but it is not then advisable to have her mated, as should she become in pig the little pigs will suffer from a restriction and early cessation of the flow of milk; besides this, nothing is gained from working the sow so hard—the pigs come weakly, and the sow will soon be worn out. For suckling sows, during the first five or six weeks, nothing is better than shorts and broad bran, in the proportion of about five to one. It is the practice with some breeders to give the sows, after farrowing, a good deal of physic, stout treacle, etc. If the sow be properly fed, the less of these nostrums the better; nature has ordered that the sow be so constituted that the arrival of the family is attended with little risk.

As soon as the pigs have arrived, it is desirable to give the sow about a gallon of thin slop, in which is mixed one ounce of sulphur, and one-sixth of an ounce of nitre. In cold weather this should be given warm, and, if the sow appears exhausted or weakened, a little milk stirred in the slop will often tempt her appetite. The sow should be walked about when she has farrowed twelve hours, and kept gently moving until she has relieved both the bowels and the bladder; this natural motion is far better than if it is the result of medicine. Sometimes the teeth of the newly-dropped pigs are abnormally long; this is generally the case when the pigs are carried over the usual period of sixteen weeks; it is then advisable to break off the teeth with pincers; if the sow is excited by the squealing of the little pigs, place them in a hamper and carry them out of hearing. One person can easily break off the teeth. The pig is tucked under the left arm, its mouth opened with the left hand, and the teeth broken off with the pincers held in the right. There will then be no danger of the sow's teats being bitten, nor of the little pigs biting each other in the fight for their own particular teat.

(To be continued.)