

the brighter sons are to be forever sent away, give the less bright a chance. Their lack of the most commanding ability is their strongest plea for getting an even chance in the race. Give the boys of the farm a chance by allowing them a course in the Ont. Ag. College, the one institution in all the Dominion which can thoroughly ground them on the scientific side of that wonderful pursuit which shall still be in its infancy when the seventh millennial period shall have been ushered in.

Swine Rearing in Canada.

That this industry will continue to grow with the increase of dairying cannot be questioned, and that dairying in Canada will continue to grow is the opinion of those best informed on the subject. That swine rearing will ever occupy that important place in Canada that it does in the United States is not at all likely, not even in our vast north-western prairies, for there the climate is too cold for corn. Yet it may be greatly extended in each of the provinces, and a better quality produced.

There is much food for thought in the statement of Mr. Wm. Davies, of Toronto, in that admirable little work on swine-rearing by Mr. James Cheesman, of the same place, when he says that out of 63,457 hogs slaughtered by his firm in 1887, no less than 33,113 of these, or more than half the number, came from the United States, and that their cost laid down averaged \$5.19 per hundred pounds, while the 26,244 prime hogs purchased in Canada averaged \$5.25 per hundred pounds. This means that under present conditions Americans are rearing hogs and forwarding them to Canada for slaughter at a less price than the Canadian producer receives. The American producer will always have the advantage in raising corn-fed pork, but in one respect the Canadian is more favorably situated, and always will be—he can produce a better *quality* of pork; by that we mean a grade better adapted to the wants of consumers. He can grow nitrogeous foods to better advantage than can the American farmers of the prairie, and so, if supplied with the right styles and breed of hog, can distance American competitors. As it is, however, the Americans produce the most suitable pork for the merchant to handle, accounted for in part by the fact that they have been necessitated to study the wants of the buyer, and thus to shape the breeding and feeding accordingly.

The style of pig wanted now is thus described: The weight is about 160 lbs. It must possess long, deep sides, and have plenty of hair and large bone, the two latter points indicating the capacity to carry a fair proportion of lean. If properly fed, two litters can be reared in a year, as a hog of the stamp described above can be made to reach the weight desired in six months. Yet it should be remembered that in this country the autumn litter cannot be reared with a profit equal to that of one coming in the spring. We feel that we cannot impress with too much earnestness upon our farmers, the wisdom of trying to produce what the *market* calls for.

During the year's purchases of 1887 the firm of Mr. Davies paid on an average for outside weights and inferior of those bought in Canada, no less than 54½ cents per hundred pounds, or 87½ cents less on each hog weighing 160 lbs.; that is, instead of getting \$8.40, the price received was \$7.52½ cents.

There is another statement in Mr. Davies' letter of much moment. It is this: "The time taken to produce a marketable pig governs the *profit* of pig-feeding." It has been customary for many farmers to keep pigs till about one year old and market them

at a weight of about 250 to 300 lbs. Now, there can be no doubt that a pound of pork is made at a cost considerably less in feeding a pig under six months than after that age has been reached. Let breeders govern themselves accordingly. If the young pigs come to hand about first of April they will be ready to market from October to December.

We do not affirm that all retail dealers in Canada would choose just the style of pork that we have indicated, but the current of taste on the part of the consumer has set in this direction, and the counter desires of the producer can no more arrest its flow than they can dam the waters of the St. Lawrence. The ocean tide of the taste of pork consuming nationalities moves in this direction, and producers who are wise will shape their course accordingly. The pork merchant must provide the class of meat public taste calls for, and he is compelled to get it where he can. If his own country will not furnish it he must go abroad. We can grow leguminous crops more readily than the inhabitants of the prairie. Our country can grow roots in abundance, an important factor in producing winter-fed pork. No country is ahead of Ontario for pea-production. All southern Canada is very suitable for dairying. With such facilities for pig rearing, why cannot we hold our own against American producers in providing the consuming public with any amount of pork in consonance with the requirements of to-day?

Soiling—The Great Resource of the Farmers of Canada.

In the years that are gone the attention of the farmers of Canada was concentrated mainly in providing supplies of food for winter. The reason was that grain-growing being the principal business, relatively a considerably less proportion of stock was kept. With the development of the export meat trade and of dairying the number of animals kept upon our farms has so largely increased that it is coming to be felt a greater difficulty to keep them in summer than in winter. The importance of having meadows go ungrazed is beginning to be recognized, but not a moment too soon. The increase of weeds has led to the happily growing practice of ploughing stubble fields as soon as possible after harvest. The clover of Ontario at least is engaged in deadly conflict with the midge, backed up by the severity of recent winters, all of which curtails the area of lands that were usually cropped closely in former times, and hence the area available for autumn pastures is very small indeed. After the first of July the cream of our pastures is gone, and unless we provide some supplement our dairy cows will rapidly dry up, and even our store cattle will fail to hold their own.

If there were no remedy it would be calamitous indeed, but happily such is not the case. It rests mainly with the farmer whether his stock shall fare quite as well in the months of August, September and October, as in those of May and June, unless in years that are exceptionally dry in the early months. Happily large supplies of supplemental food may usually be grown, only limited by the industry and management of the farmer.

But it is not enough to have a supplemental crop grown. It is very important that it shall be a good one, full of vigor and nutriment. We have seen crops of corn in some localities this present year higher than one could reach, and on precisely similar soils in the same localities not higher than our waist. There need be no doubt as to the comparative value of the two crops for feeding purposes. In the one case the land had been starved and the land sown broadcast; in the

other case well fed, sown in drills and properly cultivated. One acre of the latter, cut at the right stage, was certainly worth from two to three of the former. Of the three soiling crops—rye; oats, peas and vetches, and corn—the latter is unquestionably the main reliance, owing to the enormous quantities that can be produced on a given piece of land; but that the second food factor indicated will grow in popular favor is our unhesitating prediction. It has been discovered by our dairymen that a much larger per cent. of fat in the milk is produced by feeding oats, peas and vetches. They may be also sown early in the season, and are sure to grow, and are more pleasant to handle than corn. When a large amount is wanted per day a mower may be kept in the field, and a strip cut off one side or around the plot as may be desired. By sowing quite early and then at intervals while there is moisture, or until the middle of May or later, this crop might be made to do service for at least six weeks.

But if vetches are to be used, and doubtless they form a valuable factor, the price of the seed must come down. We paid the seedsman \$2 per bushel last spring, which we deem too large a sum when peas can be got for say 75 cents, and oats from 30 to 40 cents per bushel. The proportions to be sown are two parts oats, one peas and one vetches, and the quantity about three bushels to the acre.

Let it be borne in mind that the time to prepare for a soiling crop for 1889 is *now*. Unless the soil is rich it should be well manured and deeply ploughed this fall; and just as soon as it is dry enough to sow in the spring, a portion of the seed should be put in on a finely and deeply pulverized surface.

The ground intended for corn may be worked altogether in the spring, and the manure applied then also, but it there is time it also may be ploughed deeply in the fall with much advantage.

No consideration should allow the farmers of Canada to fail to make provision for sowing these crops in the spring of 1889. Their abundant growth means abundance of milk, butter, cheese and beef, and their absence means a shortage of these, and the after benefits reaped are increasing fertility and the increased crops that follow.

We can conceive it of less importance to many to fail to grow a crop of wheat than not to grow a soiling crop, for bread can be bought cheaply, while at such a season pasturage, or its equivalent, cannot be obtained.

The only real objections that can be advanced to the adoption of the soiling system are the additional labor it entails at a busy season, and the laboriousness of that labor. These should not prove a serious barrier any where. The object of all labor on the farm is to produce the best results, and where timely effort has been made to provide this labor, or where its necessity has been properly recognized, it will come to be looked upon as a part of the regular routine, rather than as something additional and burdensome. The sons of men who subdued the obstacles of the wilderness, and thus provided space for the growth of crops, will surely not complain in the handling of these after a beneficent Providence has made them to grow luxuriantly.

"I am well pleased with the JOURNAL, and hope to have one dollar to pay for it every year."—Peter Toles, Mt. Bridges, Ont.

"I have been a reader of your JOURNAL from its first number and would not be without it, though not a farmer any more."—A. Martin, Jordan Station, Ont.

"I like your paper very much and gain much useful information from it."—E. B. Carver, Colpo's Bay, Ont.