

## Building a Cheap Piggery.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I shall be obliged if you can give me some advice as to building a cheap piggery.

I have no difficulty in obtaining plans and particulars for all farm buildings to be constructed of lumber, but lumber here costs about thirty dollars a thousand feet, which is far beyond the means of most people in a new district. Would you advise making a place with outside walls five feet deep by digging into the ground three feet and banking up two feet above the ground surface? I thought of making the place about thirty feet by twenty-four feet, running north and south, with the door to the north and a window in the south end.

A. J. W.

[The plan outlined by our correspondent could not be endorsed unreservedly, especially as it appears that his land slopes to the north. Such a pen would likely be comfortable, but would in all possibility be damp. It certainly would be dark and not easily kept clean. We should much rather advise setting up a frame of poles and covering it with straw. In such a pen plenty of light could be admitted; it would be dry, easily cleaned, and all things considered, the cheapest style of pen one could provide. Such pens are in quite common use, and because of the absorbing power of the straw are the driest pens that can be built, and this is what pigs require, dry air. Such pens may not turn the frost, but when the air is dry hogs can stand very low temperatures.—Ed.]

## Tamworths Lead.

Our attention has been called by Mr. Banting, whose address is the same name, to the exceptionally good showing made by the Tamworth grades in the competition reported in our January 16th issue. In the tests there reported Mr. Banting considers it significant that two of the lots in which there was Tamworth blood made the most economical gains, and that lot 10 which was strongly Tamworth, made by far the cheapest pork in the whole test. Of course all the credit of the gains these hogs made cannot be set down to their breeding, as is pointed out in the comments upon the work, but there is sufficient in it to give Tamworth breeders considerable ground for jubilation.

## Stone Walls for Stables.

D. R. M. D. writing from Saskatchewan asks: "Please let me know through the columns of your valuable paper the best method of building a stone stable to keep out frost. We should like to build a solid wall. Is there any known method or non-conductor of cold which could be applied or used either on the inside or outside of the walls, which would be a success?"

[About the only charge that can be brought against stone walls in stables, not taking into consideration the cost, is that moisture sometimes collects upon the inside of them in cold weather. This difficulty is avoided in different ways. Some people plaster on the inside with a coat of cement, rough finished; others line up on the inside with lumber; while others claim to be able to keep the walls dry by ventilation. These methods have objections on the score of expense and low temperatures. Some builders, however, claim, and with considerable justification, that if the wall be properly built it is as dry as any other style of wall. A properly built wall is described as one not less than twenty inches thick, with no one stone extending from the outside to the inside surface, thus forming a continuous conductor. Such a wall of course might be thicker than necessary to carry the superstructure but it has its undoubted advantage in keeping dry. If a wall of this kind be found to be too expensive, as good or better results would be secured by building a hollow concrete wall. This is done by setting inch boards on edge in the middle of the wall space with a thin key between them; then when the wall has set, the key is taken out and the boards raised up. At the ends of the boards or every twelve feet the wall can be tied by building solid, and these solid parts can be made to alternate in the wall. This method will give a dry, warm wall and one probably cheaper than a stone one so thick as would be required to be dry. Such a concrete wall need not be more than ten inches thick, and the number of bindings would of course depend upon the weight of the superstructure.—Ed.]

## Why Bacon Hogs?

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I see by your issue of January 16th that John Maurer has taken up the cudgels in behalf of the thick red hog; i.e. Duroc Jerseys. Now with your permission, I would also like to add a few words and also ask you a few pertinent questions. I, like neighbor Maurer, am from the States, but originally from England, but I put in eighteen years in Nebraska, which is close to Missouri, so, therefore, have to be shown why the thick hog won't do as much for the Northwest as it did for the Western States.

I have tried feeding the barley that we raise so much of out here, black and white barley mixed, and as far as I have gone it is putting on pound for pound as much fat as any corn I have ever fed, and that barley is selling at twenty-two cents at shipping points. Live hogs are selling for \$5.40 per cwt., and no discrimination; in fact a nice thick hog will bring more than a slab-sided bacon hog. Now what do your experimental stations say in regard to feeding? Can they put on pound for pound as much meat on a bacon pig as on a lard hog? I can make, and do make right along, a six months old Duroc or Poland China pig weigh 200 pounds, and that looks like good easy money to me, with hogs five cents or better.

Now I see your paper advocates bacon hogs, first, last and always. Now tell me why. Is it because you have a market in England and a reputation for Canadian bacon? If so, Mr. Editor, how much more per pound does the Canadian bacon bring on the British market than U. S. bacon? And again, a point I am rather at sea on (as the saying goes) is, do Canadian hams also bring more per pound than U. S. hams? Being an Englishman, I know that the average Britisher prefers his ham and eggs to bacon and liver. Now, Mr. Editor, tell me in cold figures how much more hog products were shipped to foreign parts than were imported into Canada from U. S., for I find nearly all meats and lard used here are U. S. products, and does the Canadian product bring so much more on the English market to warrant this kind of a deal. Now, again, how much lard can you render from a bacon hog? To look at one I should judge about eight or ten pounds from a two hundred pounder. Now with lard selling at sixteen to twenty cents I would prefer the lard hog.

I see by looking over some figures I have here at hand that there were imported in 1906 from U. S., 4,000,000 pounds of bacon and hams alone, without counting lard. Now the question that

keeps cropping up in my mind is, does it pay to export, and keep on ringing up the Canadian reputation on bacon? If I can read the handwriting on the wall by looking at our hog product imports, it looks as though John Canuck must like to put his teeth in some thick hog meat. And again, I don't see why our thick hogs won't do as much for our West as they did for the U. S. West. They paid off more mortgages and built more homes than anything else in the district above mentioned. Now, Mr. Editor, tell me and show me a sign in figures (for figures mean dollars to us farmers, and that is what we are after), wherein your bacon hog leads over our thick hog, and I will become a convert to your slab-sided bacon pig.

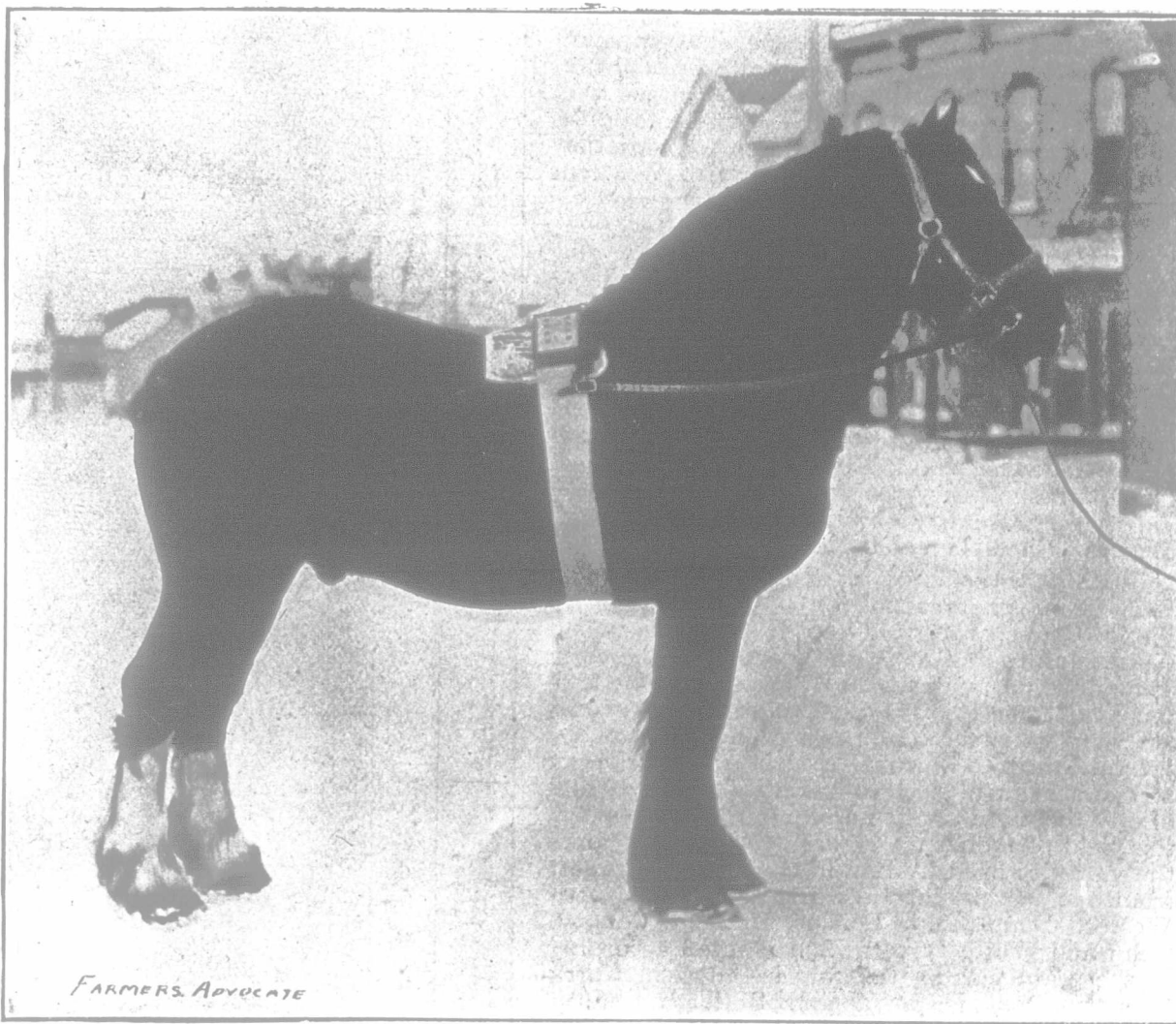
Valley City, Alta.

Thos. S. DAVIDSON.

[The figures given by the trade returns for 1905 with regard to the trade in pork, are; Imports of ham, shoulders and bacon \$4,228,346, pork in the brine \$343,445; exports, bacon, hams and shoulders, \$12,557,588; pork in the brine, \$13,000. In two years Canada's exports decreased by three million dollars' worth, and the imports of 1905 over 1904 showed an increase of three and one half millions, which seems to show that for some reason or other the market for pork products in Canada has in very recent times immensely increased.

With regard to the cost of production, it has been proved several times that the bacon hog as we have him in Canada, not the runt of a herd, makes a pound of pork cheaper than does the average hog of the Poland China, Duroc Jersey or Chester White breeds. Besides, the packers pay drovers more, at least they quote more, for bacon types than they do for fats, and this in turn enables the drover to pay a higher average, although he does not put a direct premium upon bacon types. It is also the experience of Canadians that our bacon types are much more prolific and less subject to disease than are the fat sorts. We are inclined to think that when this question is under discussion, people are prone to take extreme types as examples. The bacon hog should not be slab-sided, lean and hungry, but should be long, with well sprung ribs, heavy hams, smooth shoulders and deep body.

It is gratifying to know that our American cousins can get such good results from Alberta barley, and that the type of hog they raise does not appear to be the extreme type that we usually see fed in the corn belt. We believe the market each man finds for his product should be the guide to production rather than any generally outlined ideal that might apply to the country at large.—Ed.]



SCOTTISH FANCY (IMP.) (13183)  
Sire, Fickle Fashion, dam by Royal Standard, The Leshmalagon Premium Horse for 1906, imported and owned by MacMillan, Colquhoun and Beattie Brandon, Man.