

Fitzerskine, a half-brother to The Granite City, lately owned by Mr. Bell, and a two-year-old stallion colt, got by the famous old stock horse Pride of Perth, his dam being by Prince of Belle-ride. This is a big, strong-boned colt, and promises to make a very heavy horse.

The herd of Tamworth pigs, the first, we believe, in Ontario, is headed by the imported boar Norman's Pride (2207), imported from the well-known herd of John Norman, jr., Cliff House, Tamworth, England, a very lengthy, deep-sided pig, with strong bone and good hams. Among the sows we particularly noticed the old imported sow Sally Ann (3908), a very large, thick sow, also from the Cliff House herd, while in another pen we were shown two young sows from her, and got by Norman's Pride; a very neat pair, smooth and lengthy, with good bone and standing well on their legs.

As these pigs are not very well known in Canada, we might say that they are famous in England for cutting up plenty of lean meat and being good thrivers, and Mr. Bell tells us that he finds them all that they have been represented to be, and that a cross from his imported boar is highly valued by the farmers in his neighborhood as a feeding pig.

Besides Berkshires and Tamworths, Mr. Bell has laid the foundation of a herd of Shorthorns and a flock of Shropshires. His advertisement will be found in another column, and we can confidently recommend him as a reliable breeder.

THE BERKSHIRES OF MR. DELBRIDGE.

Among those who have made a name for themselves at the shows of Western Ontario is the above-named breeder. During the last three years that he has been exhibiting, his herd has taken over 130 prizes out of 160 entries, the above premiums being confined to first and second prizes, which speaks volumes for the class of stock that Mr. Delbridge is breeding. Two boars are in use in the herd, one of which is imported and is proving most satisfactory; another, from imported sire and dam, is a particularly attractive pig, and is also proving a No. 1 sire. Among the sows which we have space to mention is one sired by Premier that has hitherto had an unbeaten show ring career. She is particularly well developed, very smooth and handsome. Another beautiful sow is one by Imp. Briton, which is the sort that delights the eye of a Berkshire breeder. She is of good size, with capital hams and fine length of body and depth of side. Mr. Delbridge has a fine lot of young pigs that will be just suitable for the fall trade. Winchelsea, his post office address, is about six miles east of Exeter and a short distance further from Granton on the main line of the G.T.R.

SHROPSHIRE PARK.

This breeding farm, as its name implies, can be numbered among the headquarters for sheep of this breed. Mr. W. H. Beattie, the proprietor, has been making annual importations for the last five years, and through the increase in the trade which he has enjoyed, has each year required to import in larger numbers to supply his customers. The first lot landed this season consists principally of shearling ewes, twenty-five of which Mr. Beattie selected from the flock of Mr. E. Instone, Salop; fifteen from Mr. Peter Everall, Uffington, and others from the flocks of Mr. Ward, Mountford Bridge; Mr. T. S. Minton, Mountford; Mr. Nock; Mr. Thomas;

Mr. Harding, and Mr. Nevitt, comprising over sixty head. These, in addition to forty ewes wintered at Shropshire Park, and their produce of sixty-seven lambs, counts up a flock of large dimensions. A very handsome shearling ram, bred by Mr. Harding, of Walton, near Salop, is a sheep of fine quality, carrying a capital fleece; he is in fine condition, and is likely to be heard from later. Another we were very much impressed with is a fine shearling ram, bred by Mr. Nevitt, of Harmer Hall; he is not as large as the sheep from Mr. Harding's, but is full of Shropshire character. A three-shear ram of Mr. Jefferson's breeding is a very large, straight, useful sheep that should be wanted to head a choice flock. Mr. Beattie is expecting another lot of shearling ewes shortly from Mr. T. S. Minton. The crop of this season's lambs has not only numbers to attract attention, but they are exceptionally fine, and have not lost any time in making growth. Shropshire Park is four miles south of London, in Westminster township.

The Royal Society's Pigs.

From what one can glean from your valuable journal your countrymen are taking a great deal of interest in the breeding of pigs, and I venture to send you a few notes of the exhibits at the Doncaster Royal where we had collected together a grand lot of pigs from well nigh all the best herds in England. It is now the fashion to have two sets of judges, one set taking the Yorkshires, large, middle and small, and the other awarding the prizes in the classes for Small Blacks, Berkshires and Tamworths.

First on the list comes the class for Large Yorkshire boars under eighteen months. Two splendid pigs from the Holywell Manor herd won first and reserve. The former pig has won six firsts, and the latter two firsts and a reserve. A very large and thick-shouldered boar won second for Mr. Beardsley, the third prize going to a middling boar sent by the Guardians of Prescott Union. The pens of boars were not first rate; there was a want of uniformity and style about them. The Hon. Mrs. Ingram's two sows were of tremendous size and could not have reared any pigs of late. It is time some steps were taken to put a stop to the showing of these over-fattened old dowagers. Mr. Sanders Spencer won first prize for a typical pen of Large White yelts, and was reserved for a second lot much younger and quite as good. A very nice pen won third prize for Mr. Boddington. In middle white boars Mr. Spencer sent a beautiful young boar to win the first prize. This nice young boar was successfully shown at Oxford, Bath and West and Essex shows. Three grand pens of boars won first, second and reserve for Mr. Spencer, who also won second and reserve for breeding sows, and second for pens of yelts, thus taking five of the eight prizes awarded for Middle Whites. Small Yorkshires were very few and very fat. Small Blacks fewer and if possible fatter—not entries enough in either section to take all the prizes offered.

Berkshires were very good and numerous. Mr. E. Burbridge won first, and Mr. W. Pinneck won a second for boars and a third for sows with pigs from one litter. Mr. A. Darby won two seconds and a third with pens of three pigs of either sex. Mr. Benjafield was first for sows. Sir Humphrey de Trafford's three boars were first. Mr. W. A. Barnes won a second for sows, and Mr. Burbridge a first for aged boars; this pig won first and cup at the Bath and West.

Tamworths were in great force and were better than we have seen them; they show more breeding now that they are bred of

a lighter color, due to a cross one would think. Mr. R. Boddington, Mr. J. Norman, jr., Mr. D. W. Philip, Lord Auckland, Mr. F. Ibbotson, Mr. W. H. Mitchell, Mr. Thomas Tompson and some others were successful exhibitors. BERKS.

In Defence of the Percheron.

BY AUZIAS-TURENNE, MANAGER, M.S.D.A.D.F.

If the Clyde and the Shire are still on their proof—a proof that can scarcely be completed before the end of the century, as stated by the editor of the Nor-West Farmer—why don't he allow the Percheron as long a trial? Why don't he wait till the end of the century before objecting to such breed, as inferior or unsatisfactory? Has he any right to draw such hasty conclusions before a long experiment? We do not undertake any criticism of other breeds or indulge in comparisons which are proverbially odious, but we simply say: Give our breed a trial! The excellence of the Percheron among the draught breeds, as well as the superiority of the Thoroughbred from England among lighter breeds, we would proclaim, even if we were alone, against a thousand century's old prejudices, even in our Canadian Northwest, where too many men, for the last ten years, have said, "Here are the only breeds fit for our country! We say so, and it is so! No use for any other equine race!"

The population of the United States is formed of all sorts of nationalities of which each one was naturally pledged at first in favor of the horse that came from his fatherland; still, for twenty-five years, they have given a decided preference to Percherons as draught horses. The main zootechnic feature of the Percheron is *swiftness* combined with *strength*. This is the reason why Percherons are sought after by all the nations which are trying to improve their draught horses or to create a breed for themselves. If you want the opinion of a very high British agricultural authority, we will remind you of the following statement of the British Quarterly Journal of Agriculture:—"The Percheron horses are a capital race for hard work and scanty fare. I have never seen such horses at the collar, under the diligence, post carriage or clumsy cabriolet, or for the farm cart. They are enduring and energetic beyond description. With their necks cut to the bone they flinch not. They keep their condition when other horses would die of neglect or hard treatment. A better cross for some of our horses cannot be imagined than those of Normandy."

Since the June issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, we have received over twenty-two letters from the Northwest in defence of Percherons.

For instance, Mr. L. D. Lemieux, Oak Lake, Man., writes us:—"That the best stallion ever imported to Brandon was a Percheron named Black Duck. He left some remarkable colts, but the purchaser never paid the agreed price and he was taken back to the States after two years by his owner. The Percheron stallions bought by the Agricultural Society of Brandon were not fine specimens of their breed. Last year a fine Percheron was ruined at Oak Lake, Man., by mismanagement and too many mares in season time. The result was, in some cases, weak or puny colts."

But such instances as false pedigreed scrubs, much abused stallions (sometimes the best one), or poor specimens happen in every breed. A man or a paper, to be fair, must allow the Percheron a trial as long as the Clyde or the Shire before he gives any unfavorable opinion on such breed. We claim that the Percheron breed is the origin of the Quebec Canadian horse. We have proof of it. Our Canadian Percheron colts will prove it. Give them a fair field.