

Stock Department.

Early Fatted Hogs.

To the Editor.

SIR.—As the time is about at hand for making arrangements for the coming generation of swine, I should like to call the attention of our farmers to some points:—

- 1st. We require a larger number.
- 2nd. We shall require them very early the coming season.
- 3rd. I would very strongly urge on farmers to have a good breed, and this I should think a matter of easy attainment, as

have a hog running round for two years and only weigh 200 when killed, but it does pay to keep good pigs and have them weigh 200 lbs at six months old. The Berkshire are a capital breed: they are healthy and hardy, and are fit for killing at six months old: and if a great weight is desired they will carry it.

Most of the heavy hogs are not only heavy but coarse, the shoulders and hams of which are so heavy as to be almost unsaleable. If there never was a hog over 300 lbs, it would be a good thing. A Berkshire pig of that weight, thoroughly fat, makes as good mutton-pork as can be desired.

W. DAVIES.

Toronto Packing House,
Jan. 11, 1882.

and State fairs of prizes amounting, in the aggregate, to upwards of \$1,500. His calves have also repeatedly gained distinction in the show-ring.

My Experience in Fattening Berkshires on Pea Soup.

Last year I put up five small-breed Berkshires to fat. They were about a year old, and had not been kept well, as we had but little feed. After the stubbles were picked clean, I determined to try pea-soup to fatten them. At that time they were in fair order, though rather small for their age. I dug a hole in a cradle knoll, and placed a potash kettle over it, with just sufficient room to



in every township there is a good boar, Berkshire, Essex, or some improved breed, and it would pay a farmer ten times over to drive twenty miles and pay \$2 for service.

4th. Castrate very early. It is ruinous to the quality when they are allowed to run till they are 5, 6 or 7 months old.

5th. Spay the sows not intended for breeding, for they will fatten twice as quickly.

6th. Be sure not to let them run in the woods; it is ruinous to the meat, and it cannot be profitable to the farmer. I would particularly recommend farmers to grind the food for hogs; they do so much better on it than on whole peas.

Attention to the above will be the means of raising the standard of Canadian pork in the English market. We often hear the remark that it does not pay to fat hogs, and in many cases this is true. It does not pay to

Short-horn Bull "Minister."

In the January number of the CANADA FARMER we gave a portrait of "Sweepstakes," a very successful prize bull belonging to Mr. J. H. Pickersell, of Harristown, Illinois, who lately visited this Province, and made extensive purchases from the best herds in the country. Mr. Pickersell was accompanied in his tour by another enterprising American breeder, Mr. W. R. Duncan, of Toxanda Meadows, Illinois, who has now, partly by judicious purchases, and partly by careful breeding, collected an excellent herd of short-horn cattle. The annexed illustration is a portrait of the fine bull "Minister," at the head of this herd. His colour is red. He was bred by R. A. Alexander, of Kentucky. Since he came into Mr. Duncan's possession, he has been the winner at County

light a fire under it. I filled it about half full of water, and fired up. The water was soon warm, and I went to the barn for some peas, after putting in what I had in the bag, and on my return was rather alarmed at the very noisy demonstration I witnessed. There were no less than five pigs in the kettle, and I by the pigs in the bottom, and as the water was rapidly getting warmer each moment, the place was evidently literally getting too hot to hold them. The sloping bottom prevented their jumping out, and had the water been hot, all would have been scalded. With some difficulty I pulled them out one after another, and great wiggling of tails was the result. They were not much hurt, but I lost no time in fixing a strong cover to the kettle, as I did not think it advisable to scald pigs before killing them. From this time forward I boiled the peas every day and my Berkshires thrive amaz-