

EDITORIAL.

Oak Lodge Yorkshires.

Our plate page for this issue illustrates a trio of Yorkshire swine, the property of Mr. J. E. Brethour.

The prominent position taken by the Oak Lodge Yorkshires at our principal exhibitions has placed Mr. Brethour in the front ranks as a breeder of Yorkshire swine. The care that has been exercised by this gentleman in endeavouring to give satisfaction when filling orders has won for him the confidence of his numerous customers. In looking through the herd, one is struck by the smoothness of finish, the superiority of the individual animals, and the uniformity of type which pervades the entire herd. It has evidently been the aim of the proprietor to meet the requirements of the breeders and feeders, and yet cater to the demands of the export trade as defined by the bacon curers engaged in the export trade.

Mr. Brethour informs us that he used seven boars in his herd last season, two of which were imported. The first male shown us was Kinicroft Hero, imported by and used in the herd of Mr. Wm. Davies, of Markham, Ont. It was his value as a sire which induced Mr. Brethour to purchase him. Kinicroft Hero was bred by Walker Jones, Chester, England, and although now five years old, he still retains the grand characteristics for which the breed is famous. He possesses great length, deep ribs, heavy, clean bone, capital hair and good masculine character. He stands as well on his legs and feet, and in every way is as fresh as a yearling. Many of Mr. Brethour's best sows are got by this boar. All show enough of the desired type and quality to satisfy the most fastidious.

A younger boar of rather different type is Model Duke, which was sired by a Sanders Spencer boar; his dam is of Walker Jones' breeding. This is a pig of good length, standing on short legs.

Mollington Duke is the grand young boar which won second premium at the World's Fair, Chicago, and at Toronto. He was bred at Oak Lodge. His sire and dam were bred by Walker Jones. Several prize-winning sows at the Columbian World's Fair are in pig by this boar.

Oak Lodge Model is a handsome boar of great length. He stands on short straight legs, and has extra good hams, and particularly deep, well-formed ribs.

Dominion 3rd is an imported boar bred by Walker Jones, which Mr. Brethour has used freely through the late mating season. We have yet to see the Yorkshire boar that fills the eye from the breeder's standpoint, and yet retains all that is desirable in the bacon pig, as perfectly as he does. He has wonderfully deep, well-formed ribs, particularly smooth, fleshy back, straight underline, with flanks full and deep. He is long and very even, and stands particularly wide between the fore-legs, showing immense heart girth, his shoulders are remarkably smooth, the hams thick and deep, retaining their thickness and smoothness down to the hock. His head is well set on and of masculine character, his face short. He possesses a coat of hair that denotes a strong constitution and thrifty, easy feeding qualities. He stands straight on his feet and legs—the latter have plenty of flinty bone, a most necessary quality.

Oak Lodge Diamond, the young boar in the illustration, is a grand type of a Yorkshire. He has wonderful length, good ribs and back. In him all the typical points of the breed exist in perfection. He weighed 308 lbs. when ten months old, just previous to the Industrial Exhibition; two sows of the same litter tipped the scales at 404 and 405 lbs. at the same age. One of these won first in the class under twelve months old at Toronto and second at the World's Fair. Oak Lodge Diamond, which was one of a litter of thirteen, won first at Toronto and stood at the head of the first prize herd at the same show. He was again a winner at the Columbian World's Fair, where his dam, imp. Lady Duckering, won first as an aged sow.

Rosebery Belle, the sow portrayed in the right foreground in the illustration, is a sow of beautiful finish, and combines easy feeding qualities with the immense length and depth of side required in a bacon pig. She has exceptionally good hams, great heart girth, and a coat of hair and general appearance that indicate a good constitution. Her sire was bred by Mr. Walker Jones, her dam by Mr. Sanders Spencer. She won third prize in the yearling class at the Columbian World's

Fair, and was one of the sweepstake herd at the same exhibition.

Dominion Belle 2nd, the other sow portrayed in the illustration, is of slightly different type. She does not possess the wonderful length of her companions, but is a remarkably handsome animal. Her head is clean cut, her back well clothed with flesh, hams round, and full heart girth and constitution all that can be desired: she stands well upon short, well-set legs. This sow has the unprecedented record of never having been beaten. At the World's Columbian Exhibition she won first in the yearling class, was one of the sweepstake herd, also won that desirable prize, viz., sweepstakes for the best Yorkshire sow of any age. At the Toronto Industrial she won first in her class as a yearling, made one of the first prize herd, and also carried off the Holywell Challenge Plate, given by Mr. S. Spencer, for the best Yorkshire boar or sow over six months, thus securing a much coveted prize for her owner, which was required to be won twice by the same exhibitor. Mr. Brethour previously won this trophy with imported Mabel—18—, a sister of the famous breeding sow, Marian, which has done so much to distinguish the Oak Lodge herd.

Marian was bred by Walker Jones, Chester, England, and has produced many prize winners. She is very prolific, having already eleven litters to her credit, in all one hundred and twenty-three pigs, and is now sucking a choice brood. So highly does Mr. Brethour think of this strain that he has retained no less than ten breeding sows of this family. Two of his stock boars are grandsons of Marian. The chief characteristics of this sort are their smooth finish, superior feeding qualities and uniformity of type.

Space forbids us to particularize further the good things to be seen at Oak Lodge, but we must mention Princess Isaleigh and two of her daughters—the former is a sister of Rosebery Belle, shown in the engraving. These bid fair to rival the renowned Marian family. All three are due to farrow shortly.

A noticeable feature in the management of the herd is the number of distinct tribes. This, with the wide selection of boars before mentioned, makes it easy to supply the demand of customers who want animals not related.

Among the families are specimens from the following English herds:—F. A. Walker Jones, Sanders Spencer's, C. E. Duckering's, Geo. Char-nock's, and Joseph Ashforth's.

To gain an idea of the volume of business anticipated, it is only necessary to state that no less than fifty pedigreed sows are expected to farrow during the spring of 1894. Already several litters of promising young pigs have arrived. The pens contained a number of choice young sows, but only a few boars, the enormous demand of the past season having nearly exhausted the supply. Two hundred and twenty-three boars and sows have been sold and shipped during the last ten months. Mr. Brethour states that he considers the outlook for future trade even more encouraging. He informs us that advertising in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has paid him exceedingly well.

Experiments in Feeding Steers.

IMPORTANCE OF A BALANCED RATION.

The Maryland Experiment Station has been conducting a series of experiments with the view of showing the value of a balanced ration in feeding steers. In this test eight steers were purchased, and divided into two as even lots as possible. The average weight of the first lot was 988 pounds, and of lot 2, 985; the average cost at the station was \$38.64.

FEED USED

The feeds used were fine crushed corn and cob meal, cottonseed meal, bran, turnips and cut corn fodder. With both lots the fodder was moistened, and the grain mixed with it one feed ahead; the turnips were chopped fine and mixed in just before feeding, and a sprinkling of salt added. The ration fed to lot one was composed as follows: corn and cob meal, 15 parts; cottonseed meal, 4 parts; bran, 2 parts; while lot two received corn and cob meal alone. Both lots in addition received a small quantity of molasses as a condiment.

RESULTS.

The results show in a very striking manner the great advantage to be reaped by giving more attention to the preparation of a balanced ration, the gain in weight being nearly double in the case of the steers fed the balanced ration, for those in lot one gained 1,002 pounds in 90 days, while lot two, which were fed the corn and cob meal alone, gained but 612 pounds. In order to make this extra gain lot one consumed 800 pounds more grain and 246 pounds more fodder than lot two. The total cost of feed consumed and first cost of steers were, in lot one \$221.85, and lot two \$206.23. The amount of money received was, for lot one \$264.21, and for lot two \$217.37, which will leave a net profit of \$39.39 for lot one, and \$11.14 for lot two.

The above figures are calculated without any account being taken of the manure, which the bulletin states was nearly 50 per cent. greater in quantity, and also better in quality as could be readily understood, when the amount of nitrogenous food in the ration fed to lot No. one is considered.

SUMMARY.

The experimenter sums up the bulletin in the following summary.

1. For fattening steers, a well-balanced ration is very much more profitable than a poorly balanced one.
2. Steers fed a balanced ration made an average daily gain of 2.78 pounds, those given a poorly balanced ration made an average daily gain of 1.70 pounds.
3. The increased profits per steer show a difference of \$7.06 in favor of the well-balanced ration.
4. With a well-balanced ration ninety days is ample time in which to prepare an animal for market.
5. Where nitrogenous food is used, it is believed nearly as good daily gains can be made by mixing the grain with cut corn fodder as though hay were used.
6. The use of cut corn fodder instead of hay in feeding cattle may make the difference of a profit instead of a loss.
7. Fifty per cent. more manure was made from the animals receiving the well-balanced ration than those receiving the poorly-balanced one.
8. The manure is also much richer in plant food.

Health of Canadian Cattle.

We are indebted to the Hon. Mr. Angers, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, for a copy of his thorough and painstaking report, which contains accounts of all cases of animal diseases reported to the department, Ottawa, for the years 1880 to 1893, inclusive, during the existence of the cattle quarantine. The information contained in this report is of special interest to all who are engaged either in the shipment or breeding of cattle. That the cattle industry is of such great importance to Canada is shown by the Minister in this report, for he refers to the number of animals in Canada as 4,120,584, and the value of these animals and the products therefrom at \$135,000,000. The export of cheese alone during 1893 was \$13,300,237. These figures show the paramount importance to this country of safeguarding our herds from the inroads of such a fell and insidious disease as contagious pleuropneumonia, which has wrought such widespread ruin in every country in which it has gained a footing. The report also shows the great care which has been exercised in guarding our frontiers from infection by the rigid quarantine of all cattle entering from foreign countries.

The reports from veterinary surgeons in all parts of the country show that there is not at present, nor ever has been, a case of genuine pleuropneumonia in the Dominion of Canada, with the single exception of the outbreak at the quarantine station, where, owing to the thoroughness of the existing regulations, it was effectually stamped out. It is also shown that there was persistent and important conflict of professional opinion among the experts who had charge of the examination as to whether it was contagious pleuropneumonia, so that the name of Canadian lung was given to it to distinguish it from the genuine contagious pleuropneumonia. Prof. McEachran, of McGill University, who was conducting the examination for Canada, points out that "transit pneumonia" would be a more appropriate name by which to define the disease in question than "Canadian lung," seeing that it is not known in Canada, and that it is only found in individual animals carried long distances by railroads or on board steamships; and also seeing that it has never been known to spread in the places where it has been discovered, and where the conditions were in the highest degree favorable to spreading of the disease had it been contagious.

In summing up the evidence, the Minister of Agriculture gives the following conclusive arguments for giving the disease the name of "non-contagious transit pneumonia":—

"(a) The conflict of professional opinion between the veterinary advisers of the Board of Agriculture and those called to assist the High Commissioner for Canada, is irreconcilable. (b) It is not shown that there is any distinct type of contagious pleuropneumonia possessing characteristics different from those which are well-known and accepted as the signs of that disease in the United Kingdom, in the continent of Europe, in Australia and in the United States, where it has been found and diagnosed.

"(c) The conclusion of the veterinary advisers of the Board, relating to the contagiousness of the disease they found, is not sustained by the undoubted facts in respect to the animals the subject of this correspondence. (d) The absence of finding a single case, or even any serious suspicion, of the disease in question, in the Dominion of Canada, is sufficient reason for declaring the fact of its non-existence.

"(e) All the known and undoubted facts in relation to the animals, the subject of this correspondence, as well in respect to the conditions in those parts of the Dominion whence they were taken, as those incident to long railway and steamship transit, with close herding, fully account for and agree with the definitions in the reports of examinations by Prof. McEachran and Adams, and establish the fact of the non-contagiousness of the disease with which they were found to be affected.

"(f) All the reports of the veterinary officers of the board, and the veterinarians consulted by the High Commissioner, together with the known facts connected with all the cases of disease the subject of this correspondence, are consistent with the definition, non-contagious 'transit pneumonia.'"

The president of the English Board of Agriculture has pledged himself to remove the obnoxious regulations against Canadian cattle as soon as the Dominion authorities proved the non-existence of pleuropneumonia in Canada. This has now been done. If the English pledge was given in good faith the restrictions will at once be removed, and Canadian cattle again allowed free access to English markets.