

## HORSES AND CATTLE.

### The Berkshires.

Unquestionably the most popular breed of hogs in this country at the present time is the Berkshire. Mr Snell of Edmonton, Ont., three of whose herd are represented in the accompanying engraving, and who has had many years experience in breeding them, gave the following testimony before the Ontario Agricultural Commission:—

"The only breed of pigs that I have been raising for the last fifteen years is the Berkshire. I had some experience in breeding Suffolks and Yorkshires previous to that time. The Berkshire would be classed with the small breeds, I suppose, but they are larger than the Black Essex, and other small breeds. I would call them a medium-sized hog. The Yorkshire is a large breed, the Suffolk and Essex small. I think a medium sized hog is the most profitable. A small breed will perhaps get fatter at an early age—say at four or five months; but one objection to them is that they get too fat—that there is more fat than lean in them—that their meat is not marbled. At a year old the Berkshire will beat the Suffolk by nearly 100 pounds, and his meat will be more marbled—there will be a larger proportion of lean than fat.

"The Berkshires mature much earlier than the large

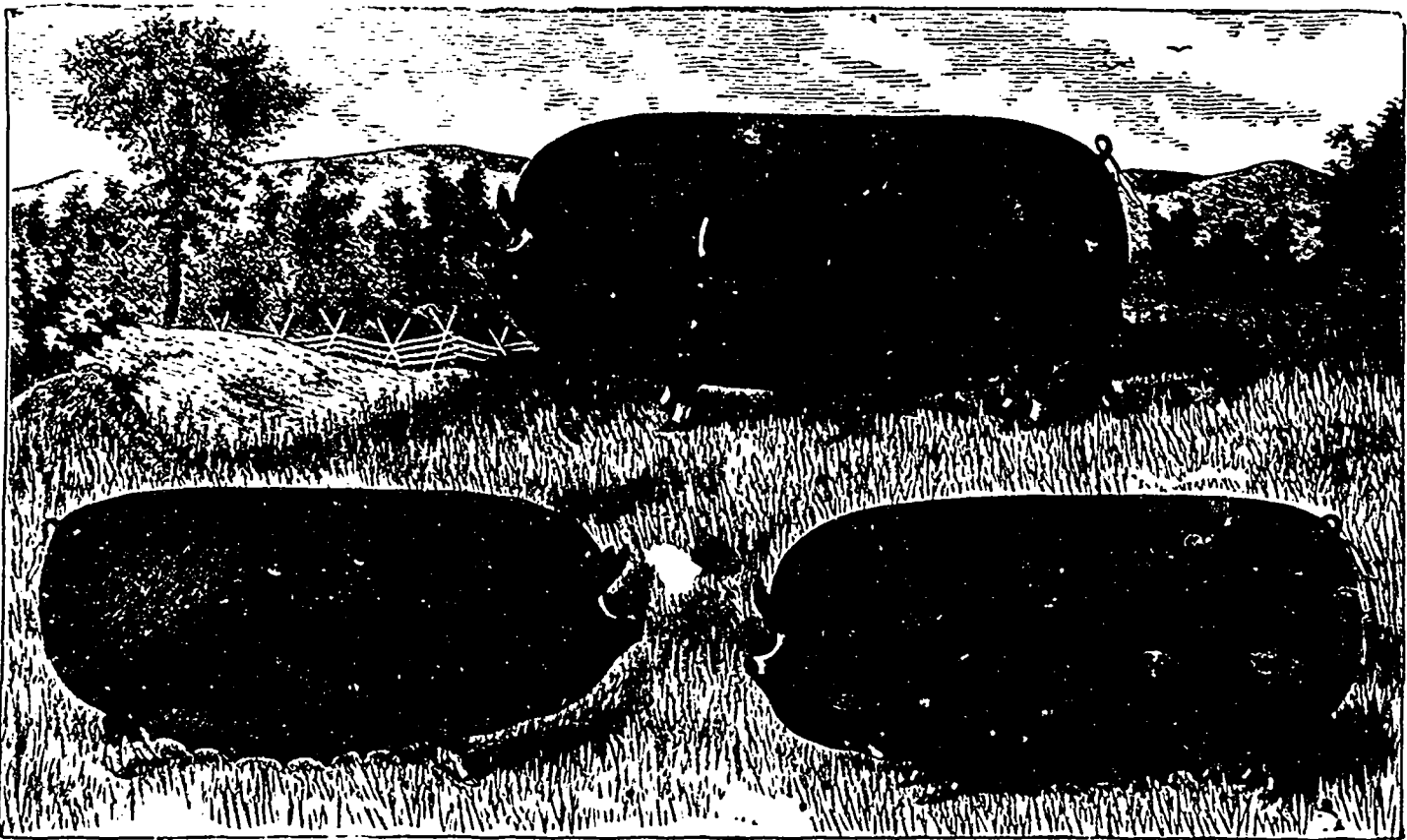
It will grow more remunerative as it is gone into more extensively, for the richer the land becomes by manuring the more stock per acre it will carry. On several points in stock feeding the majority of our farmers are slack, and need stirring up. There are breeds that feed faster than others, make a larger bulk, and are consequently always in demand. Conspicuous among these are the Shorthorn, Hereford, Galloway, and other polled varieties. The first cross on the native cow from these pure-breeds makes a valuable stall animal. It is a dictate of common-sense, therefore, to put away all inferior bulls and use only the best males. Where is the wisdom of saving one dollar on the service of a bull and losing five dollars on the price got for his progeny? Another point of importance is to feed the calf well from the first. An early stunt is never overcome. No need of pampering, but keep up a steady growth. The meal-bag is a profitable institution for calves as well as older cattle. Early maturity should be aimed at. If with good feeding an animal can be of the same bulk at two

### Cow Feed.

All keepers and feeders of cows should bear this in mind, that a cow cannot make cud when fed on shorts or meal alone. These must be mixed with longer feed, either in the manger or in the animal's stomach. It is not necessary to mix these substances before feeding, as the motion of the stomach will mix them sufficiently to form a cud.

### Indigestion in Horses.

When a horse is uneasy and suffers, and turns around his nose to his flanks, he is troubled with indigestion, and this also affects the kidneys. When a horse is not working, good hay is sufficient without corn, and too much corn will then be apt to cause trouble. The remedy for such trouble is to lessen the grain if he is in good condition, give a pint of linseed oil and repeat the next day. Then give a dram each of ground ginger and carbonate of soda twice a day, in some bran and cut hay wetted, or in a bran mash.



BERKSHIRES.

breeds, and they can be fattened at almost any age. I think it is more profitable to fatten a Berkshire pig at eight months old than to keep it over the winter. At eight months old we can bring them to 200 or 225 lbs.

"I have been breeding, not to supply the general market, but to sell hogs for breeding purposes. At the prices we get here for pork I do not think there is much profit in raising pigs for pork, and we cannot at all compete with the Western States in producing pork profitably.

"In my opinion the best time to have pigs drooped is in March or April.

"Young pigs should be fed with milk, slops, and shorts. When you want to fatten them I think peas are the best feed for that purpose. In the winter season we let the breeding sows run out, and we feed them on peas. I think peas are better for breeding sows than slops. After they have pigs, we prefer to feed them slop feed, swill, and shorts. When the dam is fed on strong feed like peas, the young suckling pig is likely to have its blood heated and its legs crippled. I think it is best to have a yard or a clover or grass field for pigs to run upon in the summer time."

### Stock Feeding.

There can be little doubt that henceforward meat equally with grain is to rank among the products of this country for the foreign market. It is well that this is so, for manure is the great want of our agriculture, and according to the old agricultural proverb, "no stock, no manure; no manure, no crops." Low as is the price, comparatively speaking, of fat stock in Canada, it has been abundantly demonstrated that with careful breeding and feeding it can be produced at a paying profit.

years old, as with scant feeding at three, is it not good policy to save a year's board and trouble of attendance? And yet again, a thoroughly thrifty farmer will not sell his cattle in lean, store condition, but will fat them himself. A lean steer will not bring more than three and a half or four cents per pound. Fat him and he will bring, say, six cents. Suppose the lean steer to weigh 1,000 pounds and to be worth four cents per pound. Feed him and thereby add 300 or 400 pounds to his weight. What is the result? Why the whole carcass becomes worth six cents per pound, so that there is a profit of two cents per pound made on his lean weight. Every farm should fatten a few animals each season. Sell a lean steer, and somebody else gets the profit out of him. Fat him yourself and you pocket the gain. Bring sound, common-sense principles to bear on this matter, and every farmer will be, in a small way, a stock feeder. Better prices will be got, and the farm as well as the farmer will be benefited. There will be a good pile of manure to spread on the land, and bigger grain crops will be reaped.

JOSIAH ALLEN's wife says: "We, too, are posterity, though mebbly we don't realize it as we ort to."

### Grain for Dairy Cows.

"Which is the best kind of grain to feed dairy cows: corn meal, cotton-seed meal, or wheat bran?" is a question asked by a correspondent. We should reply that, under ordinary circumstances—as where the other feed is simply short but of good quality, as in a dry pasture—that a mixture of the three kinds of grain, in equal parts, would be likely to give best results. The same would be true if good hay is dear and grain is grown to make the hay hold out. But if the other fodder is poor, like ripe straw or bog hay from wet meadows, we should feed pretty largely of cotton-seed meal, giving, perhaps, a little of each of the other kinds of grain.

The writer complains that the question has never yet been settled, so that farmers can all know just what to feed and just how much each kind of grain is worth for feeding. We fear that these questions will long remain unsettled—so long, probably, as cows and breeds of cows differ in their powers of digestion and in their other general characteristics. A cow inclining to fat would do better at the pail if fed bran and cotton-seed meal, in place of corn meal, while the reverse would be true of one that "run to milk" at the expense of her flesh.