

Princess Dagmer 7th, very little inferior, being placed next her at Hamilton last fall. Vacuna 5th, though nine years old and thin in flesh, is of good quality, and, we were informed, a great milker. Her four last calves have been Provincial prize winners. The present crop of calves, seventeen in number, they consider the best they have ever bred.

Feeding and Marketing Hogs.

BY WILLIAM DAVIES.

A large farmer west of Stratford paid us a visit by appointment, recently, to talk about hogs, and he said that we might have truthfully said that a good brood sow would be more profitable than two ordinary cows. And this man shows his faith by his works, for he built, two years ago, a pig-pen of brick, with hollow walls, frost proof, costing \$1,500, where he feeds two or three hundred at a time.

We should like to say a word or two about breeding. We find that many have an idea that to make a success of hog raising and feeding, they must be pure-bred. This is a mistake; and our advice to the ordinary farmer is to get a big, strong, long sow and breed her to a pure-bred, and for all practical purposes her progeny will be as good for feeding as a Simon Pure. And now for the promised opinions on feeding and marketing.

1.—Feeding; and we include in this, general care and housing; and the last two are of as great importance as the first.

One of the best feeders of live stock we know has often said to us: "If you want a critter to thrive you must make it comfortable." This is so self-evident a proposition, that we need not attempt to prove it. But what do we find in the larger part of the pig-pens?—the creatures lying in their own filth, and the pens only cleaned out every few weeks or months; the pen itself open to all the winds of heaven. And then many of these farmers say it is all nonsense feeding hogs. "I have tried it, and it does not pay." Then they are fed irregularly, like Paddy's pig, to make streaky bacon; fed one day and starved the next, so as to have a streak of lean and a streak of fat. Unfortunately, the class we have described do not subscribe for farm papers; they don't believe in book farming, and, besides, they can't afford it, though we have noticed they can afford to go to "hoss" trots and smoke cigars and often drink whisky.

Regarding feeding, we would say, keep the young pigs thriving and growing on skim-milk and butter-milk, with shorts and bran, and in winter, clover hay, cut up and steeped in hot water, and in summer, green clover; and when they are four months old and weighing about 75 lbs., then shut them up and feed them a mixture of boiled potatoes and barley, oat and pea-meal. By this means you will have prime hogs at six to eight months old, weighing 140 to 175, or even 200 lbs., alive.

To clinch this nail, we must again quote a "wise saw" from our old friend referred to above: "If it does not pay to feed, it does not pay to starve;" and it has been proved by frequent and careful experiment, that pigs lay on more flesh for the food fed at the ages named above, than older, and by this plan the farmer can have quick returns; and all business men know the nimble ninpence is better than the slow shilling.

Marketing.—From the experience of thirty years, acquired in the pork-packing business, if

we were fattening hogs for sale, we should aim to have them ready in two lots, from first to middle of April, and again in August or September. The average farmer has all his live stock, poultry, mutton, pigs, and a few cattle that he calls fat, but really stockers, all for sale at once, and when everyone else has,—consequently, he has to take the lowest price; but the shrewd, keen, observant yeoman knows better. Another illustration of the inspired proverb: "The prudent foreseeth the evil and hideth himself, but the simple pass on and are punished." So much for time of marketing; and now for the mode.

Except in very exceptional circumstances, it will always be best for the farmer to market his hogs alive. The reasons for this are obvious: In the first place, everything goes and realizes something; whereas, when killed on the farm, a large part of the inwards is totally lost. In a well-appointed packing house, nothing is wasted; and it may surprise many to be informed that our average profits per hog do not exceed the value of what is usually buried or burned where hogs are dressed on the farm. It therefore follows that in the long run the farmer will do better not to kill his hogs, but to sell them to drovers, whose name is legion; or, where the number he has to dispose of warrants it, to deal direct with a respectable pork packer, of which there are several in Ontario. Where this is not practicable it may often be made so by two or three neighbors joining their forces and chartering a car between them. Generally speaking, the number of hands through which a dressed hog passes, between the farmer and manufacturer, is much greater than when live hogs are dealt in, and as each dealer requires a profit, it follows that the farmer having hogs to sell can generally realize most by disposing of them on their feet. In the Western States, the greatest hog-producing country in the world, and where the business is better understood in many respects than anywhere else, such a thing as killing on the farm is never thought of. We know prejudice is strong, and time will be needed to overcome it, but we have no hesitation in saying that the absurd habit of marketing hogs dressed is of itself, unless corrected, sufficient to retard this branch of Canadian industry, so that it will never rank where it ought to, and where it must, if Ontario farms and farmers are to take their proper place among agricultural communities. It stands to reason that the cured product of hogs dressed on the farm during the winter or spring months, knocked from pillar to post, and alternately frozen and thawed, cannot be equal in any respect to that which is produced from those killed, cut and cured in an establishment where every necessary or desirable device is at hand, and where the whole operation takes less time than it takes dressed hogs generally to pass from the farmer to the packer. The natural result in the latter case is that the improved quality of the products induces consumption, and this redounds to the benefit of all concerned, from the man who grows the pigs to the man who cuts up the product on his counter. So convinced are we of the truth of the assertions we have made, that for years we have set our faces against buying anything but live hogs; and the result is we handle more than any house in Canada, and our product stands without a rival, either in this country or in England, where four-fifths of it finds a market. With your permission, we will continue to ventilate this subject, and hope in our next to have something to say about the hog in Sweden, Denmark and perhaps Ireland.

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY.

Soiling Cattle, Partial Soiling or Grazing.

BY R. GIBSON, DELAWARE, ONT.

SOILING CATTLE.—Total soiling in Ontario we may dismiss in a few words. It may be advisable and profitable in the vicinity of large towns, where land is too valuable for grazing purposes, where dairy products command the best prices, and where the dairyman deals directly with the consumer, saving freight, commission, &c. However, but few of us are so happily situated; hence arises the question, will it pay on ordinary dairy and stock farms, which comparatively speaking, may be classed as cheap lands—where labor is high and often scarce, and where the product possibly passes through two or three hands before it reaches the consumer? While I can most emphatically say yes; that total soiling in certain locations is the only profitable way of managing; I can with equal emphasis say, yes; it will pay, and pay a very high percentage upon the extra cost and labor entailed on the cheap lands above mentioned, and I believe it will be very difficult to point out a man who has adopted the system, with ordinary forethought and intelligence, that has discarded it and gone back to old principles. And I am further of the opinion that the difference often between a profitable season and an unprofitable one may be traced to the growth and use of soiling crops—or to state more plainly: they who provide soiling crops may so tide over a dry summer that they may realize a handsome profit; whereas those who have neglected so doing meet with loss that is hard to estimate. Take last season, for instance: fortunately such an one does not often visit us—still we are liable to have them; and the man provident enough to sow lucerne, or corn, &c., in anticipation, will not have cause to regret.

I do not intend arguing the point pro and con—it is so self-evident; and the arguments advanced for years by our best farmers, our best writers, are so forcible, and have been so well put, often and often, that I know nothing that I can write would induce a shiftless, careless man to adopt the system. I will mention a few of the points advanced as in its favor, and then give my experience in raising crops for soiling purposes.

1st. The saving of land. This is variously estimated by writers, the lowest that I have seen is, one acre will keep as much stock as three will if grazed; the highest as much as seven acres. I am satisfied that after the plan has become systematised and all manure saved, and only such crops grown as are most suitable and best adapted to the soil, &c., of the district, that there is not a farm in Ontario but that its stock-carrying capacity might be trebled. An arithmetical conundrum might be put here:—A has 100 acres upon which he keeps 30 cows. Finding himself circumscribed, and wishing to double his dairy—the question is, whether would it be better to buy an adjoining 100 acres, for \$7,000, or try to double the output of his present farm by soiling?

2nd. Saving of fencing.
3rd. Economizing of food.
4th. Better condition and greater comforts of the cattle.

5th. The greater product of milk.
6th. The attainment of manure.

I don't think it necessary to advance argument in favor of above propositions. Those who have