

pigs, 2 pigs in each lot, was \$6.48. Were farmers to expect only such a return there would be little encouragement for pig-feeding. For interest of outlay, labor, and risk incurred, the compensation, according to this table of the result, is insufficient.

Let us look to the items in the table:—Raw pease in feeding have left a profit—the greatest profit had from any of the five pens; boiled pease entailed a loss; steeped pease a profit, though only 3 cents; corn when steeped paid less profit than when raw; and it is asserted that “by evidence indisputable” (the evidence of the result of these experiments), “that for fast and cheap productions of pork, raw pease are 50 per cent. better than cooked pease, or Indian corn in any shape.” The difference between raw and steeped corn is also in favor of the former. So that raw corn as well as raw pease is more profitable for feeding than when cooked.

Let us turn to other authorities on pig-feeding. First, an English writer, Editor of *Cyclopaedia of Agriculture*, no mean authority in these matters, says:—

“The most profitable method of converting corn of any kind into food for hogs, is to grind it into meal and mix this with water in cisterns, in the proportion of five bushels of meal to 100 gallons of water; stir it well several times daily for three weeks in cold weather, or for a fortnight in a warm season, by which time it will have fermented well and become acid, till which time it is not in the best state for being served to the hogs. It should be stirred immediately before feeding. Two or three cisterns should be kept fermenting in succession that no necessity may occur of giving it not duly prepared. The difference in feeding in this manner and giving the grain whole or only ground is so great that whoever tries it once will not be apt to change it for the common method.”

A. H. Proctor writing to the *Ohio Farmer*, says: “Mr. T. Middleton, of Union Co., Ohio, a breeder of fine hogs, testifies that two-thirds of the corn cooked, is very much better than the whole fed raw in the usual way; particularly for old and young hogs. Mr. T. J. Edge of Indiana, made the following experiment:—First, shelled and fed whole; second, ground and made into slop, with cold water; and third, ground and thoroughly cooked. After a fair test with a litter of five pigs, feeding an equal length of time, giving each the same time and test, I found that five bushels of whole corn made 47½ pounds of pork; five bushels less toll of corn, ground and made into thick slop with cold water, made 54½ pounds of pork; the same amount of meal well cooked and fed cold made 83½ pounds. The second experiment was with new corn in two forms, viz.: on the ear and shelled and ground before boiling. Ten bushels on the cob made 29½ pounds of pork, fed in the usual way, on the ground. The same amount shelled, ground and cooked, made 65 pounds.”

The feeding of pigs does pay, and pay better than any other ordinary stock. Farmers who have habitually fed pigs need not be told this; but there are some who, having little practical knowledge of the subject, may be led to think otherwise; but they are to be fed in a different manner from that treated of in the experiment referred to. The object of the experiment was not to ascertain if the feeding of pigs be profitable. Pigs in their earlier stage may be fed at comparatively little cost, as the writer always fed his growing pigs in the summer months on clover and vegetables, in the autumn the same, with a run on the stubbles, and cabbages and other vegetables added; later still, the same, with potatoes, mangolds, &c.; and during the last weeks of thus feeding, an addition of coarse grain; throughout the feeding as much milk to be given as could be spared. Thus in every stage the animals had the food most suitable, whether in their growing or fattening, and no little feed of comparative little value was made into good, wholesome pork.

The Best Farm in England.

Such is the announcement in our exchanges. One farm is not among the best, but it is the best, and that one is kept by a woman. It contains 400 acres; not too large to be profitably cultivated—“A little farm well tilled.” We hope the rest of the stanza is applicable. Only four horses are kept; a low horse-power we think. We could before now find good employment for a span of good farm horses on every hundred acres; but this lady farmer manages so well that four are found sufficient for the farm. We are not told what the rotation is, but that one-half of the farm is under grain crops we may presume, as there are 70 acres of wheat and 70 acres of barley, besides some acres of oats and some of beans. There are also sold annually off the farm 30 three-year-old steers and 200 fat sheep, besides pork, wool, butter and cheese. We see that the average yield of her wheat was thirty-five and five-sevenths bushels per acre, and of barley forty-four and two-sevenths bushels. This beats our farming on this side of the Atlantic. On the Model Farm even, they fell far short of that produce. The yield on that farm was, of wheat, 10 bushels per acre, and of barley, 30. If we are to judge by the yield of wheat and barley given, we cannot think, however, that the farm said to be the best in England is so in reality. It may be one of the most economically managed, and pay well for the expenditure, but the quantity of produce is not at all great. A farm of the same extent farmed thoroughly, though at much greater expense, and working and feeding more horses, would bring in a much larger income, and if well managed pay a better profit, even with the entries on the debit side of the farm ledger much greater. It is not curtailing the expenditure as much as possible that will entitle any one to take rank among good farmers, but rather the expenditure of means without stint, and at the same time so judiciously that the land may produce the greatest amount of food that it can bear, and at the same time leave the farmer a fair profit. This should be the aim of every farmer, and with this only should he be satisfied.

Bait the Hook Again.

“I remember in my younger days having felt a great fish at the end of my rod, which I drew up almost on the ground, but it dropped in.” So wrote a great man in his declining years to a friend. So near success, and then—a failure. Aye—there’s the rub! How many of us in the most important business have felt success almost within our grasp, and then disappointment, to be remembered as Swift looked back to that hour when standing on the brink of the beautiful river in Old England, the fish that he had drawn up almost on the ground passed from him. To all classes this teaches a useful lesson, and to the young farmer especially. Let us not stand repining, counting over what might have been, and wasting time over opportunities lost, but let us persevere despite of reverses. The fish may seem close at hand, and then dropped out of our reach. Let us bait the hook again. Our labor for the season may have been for nought; the harvest may have brought us not wheat, but chaff; the fly and the weevil, or the rust and smut may have prevented us from filling our wheat, but let us plow and sow, hoping for a more abundant season; let us bait the hook again. The horse that carried us in safety for a year may have broken his leg, or perhaps his neck; cattle disease may have ravaged our pastures. Still persevere; after the darkness of night there will certainly arise the golden morning.

Many are easily disheartened. The fields they have been tilling and that their fathers have tilled,

do not come up to their expectations, or there is a failure in something. This is a fast age, and making money in Canada is, they think, so slow. The fish they thought just at hand has slipped from the hook they had baited; and they will not bait the hook again. So our young farmers leave their father’s farms; some for the towns and some for foreign lands, while there is an independence to be made on our Canadian farms by the persevering. The successful angler never throws down the rod disheartened by an unsuccessful cast of the line. He will bait the hook again.

Rye for Soiling.

We have had several enquiries as to rye as a crop for soiling, and in reply we say, that it is a most valuable crop for that purpose. It is said by some to possess less nutritive properties than clover, or some other plants, but all the cereal plants are very valuable for forage, and rye not less than others. It is the more valuable from its being earlier than others, as it bears the rigour of our winter better than other plants we use for soiling. In order to have it fit to cut early, when there is the greatest need for it, it should be sown in September. The growth of grass in our cold climate is very slow till the soil has acquired the needed warmth, but rye sown before the cold has set in has its wide-spreading roots fixed deep and far, and continues strong, holding its ground and even making some growth, and as soon as the change in the temperature has come it grows rapidly. It draws its food largely from the soil and atmosphere, and supplies very large quantities of nutritious forage. It will bear cutting as early as the month of May, and if the soil be rich may give a successive cutting in three weeks; so it will supply food till the second soiling crop is fit to take its place. It yields abundantly on soil considered too light for wheat, producing heavy crops on light, sandy, or gravelly land, and on muck or peat. It may be sown broadcast as other grain, but it is better to put it in with the drill, even for forage, in order that it may receive the greater benefit from the light and heat, both necessary for healthful growth. Sown with the drill, two bushels of seed to the acre is sufficient for seed. If cut before the head forms, the second cutting is sure to yield well, and as the clover will be then advanced sufficiently for cutting, they will be the better food by being mixed. Red clover improves the rye, and the rye adds to the clover a greater value for stock. All the animals on the farm are partial to it. We have fed cows, horses and pigs on clover and rye.

Drainage Works.

We turn with interest to that part of the report of the Commissioner of Public Works that tells of the drainage works of the Province. It is the expenditure of money on works that will, if judiciously expended, bring in a large return. Lands that had been lying waste, bearing only a scanty coat of worthless sedge, may become one of the most productive lands in Ontario by carrying out a well devised system of drainage. The reports on the drainage works tell of a good work going on in our country for years, adding greatly to its productive capacity and agricultural wealth. And the drainage does even more than this. It will undoubtedly be a means of adding to the salubrity of localities that have been ravaged for years with those low fevers that invariably infest swamps and marshes.

We read in the report that drainage works had been completed in the following townships, viz.:—Russell, in the county of Russell; Mosa, Ekfrid, Caradoc, Medcaif, West Nissouri and Delaware, in the county of Middlesex; Dunwick, in the county