

THE CANADIAN BREEDER

AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

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For our illustration this week we are indebted to the *English Live Stock Journal*.

PIGS ON THE FARM.

It is somewhat surprising that Canadian farmers of moderate means do not pay more attention to pig raising. There are pigs to be found on every farm to be sure, but they appear to be kept rather as scavengers—necessary evils—than for their own sake as a source of profit. They are kept for what they will consume rather than for what they can be made to produce. When pigs are kept in this way they cannot be profitable. They are fed on refuse from the house, the barn, and the dairy, but when these sources of sustenance fail to produce up to the average the pigs are too often allowed to go hungry. "Fattening" and "growing" pigs on the farm is pretty sure to be profitable, if conducted on business principles, but when the pigs cease to either grow or fatten the farmer is simply throwing away time and feed upon them. As mere "boarders" pigs are neither profitable, companionable, nor in any way eligible. From the time they are littered till killing time arrives pigs should be kept increasing in weight (except of course those reserved for breeding purposes), and in order to keep up this progress the farmer must at times supplement the refuse they receive with coarse

grains properly prepared for them. But it is not in the matter of feeding alone that the pig requires rational common sense treatment. He should have a thoroughly clean, well lighted, and well ventilated pen in which to live when confined for fattening, and when this is not in use he should have a good rich clover pasture in which to run. Clean, pure water and plenty of it should always be within reach of the pigs, especially when they are being fattened, as the large quantity of food they are then consuming has a tendency to render them very thirsty.

Every farmer should keep pigs enough to consume not only all his waste from stable, dairy, and granary, but all his surplus coarse grains and roots as well. If he can grow coarse grains and roots to be fed to his hogs in addition to any surplus he may have after feeding his horses, dairy, and fattening cattle, so much the better, he will be sure to find the investment a paying one. But the great lesson we would impress upon farmers in this connection is the same that we have always striven to impart to cattle feeders and breeders. "Keep your stock growing all the time." Pig "boarders" are in all respects undesirable. They must be kept progressing or the profit on his training wholly disappears, while the feed expended in keeping the pig alive produces nothing in the shape of returns. In order to keep his pigs progressing the farmer must be prepared to grow coarse grains especially for their benefit, and never let them want for food merely because the refuse of the dairy, the granary, or the kitchen happens to be temporarily exhausted. They will manufacture the "raw material" in the way of farm products into meat and manure just as profitably as the bullocks and heifers will, while they have the advantage of manufacturing into such necessary and always desirable commodities a large amount of farm refuse that could not otherwise be made to serve any useful purpose.

SHADE TREES ON THE FARM.

Travellers in passing through a majority of our Canadian towns, cities, and villages are impressed with the idea that the inhabitants of these localities vastly over-rate the value of their land. They are driven to this conclusion on seeing the houses open directly upon the street or into little seven-by-nine spaces that hardly deserve the name of "door-yard." Streets are usually much narrower than they should be, and those streets and premises ornamented with shrubbery or shade trees are the exception rather than the rule. This, of course, does not apply so pronouncedly to our large cities, where property is really valuable, as to the smaller towns and villages, where space for shrubbery and shade trees is only a matter of a few dollars. On the contrary, strange as it may seem, one sees more of the costly territory of our large cities than of the inexpensive land in towns and villages devoted to such purposes. There can be no doubt that the want of taste thus exhibited materially detracts from the value of prop-

erty in our villages and country towns. While in the neighboring republic nearly every prettily located village is of more or less value as a summer resort, comparatively few of our Canadian villages are more than barely habitable in the dog days, and this is because the houses are crowded together into an absurdly narrow space and because the streets are comparatively bare of trees and shrubbery of every kind.

What is true of our villages and country towns is unfortunately true of our farms. In their struggles with the dense forests of Ontario, the early settlers appear to have contracted an unquenchable hatred of what was then the greatest enemy to their progress and prosperity, which has even descended to their children and children's children. When once the Canadian settler has mastered the forest and cleared his fields he is not inclined to limit his triumph to a degree that is merely utilitarian, but he must destroy for the time at least every individual of the hated fraternity that has cost him so much time and labor. This is, of course, very foolish and unprofitable, and the farmer who indulges this propensity is sure to rue it sooner or later.

We do not believe in allowing grain fields to be filled with trees which shall keep the crop from the sunshine and at the same absorb the wealth of the soil which should contribute to its growth. But because grain fields should be nearly or quite free from trees it does not prove that the farm should be denuded of every tree and shrub. Permanent pastures would be greatly the better of shade trees, while land must indeed be very costly where it does not pay to grow trees in the borders of the fields. These not only serve to moderate the force of the winds, but they furnish a most desirable shade for any stock that happens to be turned into the field after the crop is out or in case of its being used temporarily for pasture.

At present it might be difficult to convince most farmers that anything but barbed wire will make a suitable fence, but as stock-raising increases in favor with our farmers (as it is sure to do), it is not improbable that wire may decline in favor. That numerous accidents must be constantly arising from its use is only too evident, and even now the strongest argument to be urged in its favor is that in many localities it is the cheapest material available that can be made to serve the purpose of fencing satisfactorily. This being the case, what will be the value a few years hence of a farm whose fields are all properly enclosed with handsome well-kept hedges? The farmer who is now spending a little time and trouble in the growing of windbreaks, shade trees, and hedges is performing a work that will in a few years bring him rich and satisfactory returns.

THE CANADIAN BREEDER AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW circulates through the entire Dominion, and has a large and increasing circulation in the United States and Great Britain.