

sows with a Yorkshire boar, and I also urge and advise them to raise and feed twice as many as they ever have done. The demand for mild cured lean meat increases every day, and whatever else is a drug on the farmer's hands prime small hogs are and will be in active demand.

Berkshires vs. Yorkshires.

I rejoiced to see in your estimable magazine for July a letter from Mr. N. Benjafield which is said to have been written because he saw in your April number "one of my productions." The said productions appear to have so irritating effect on Mr. B. that he does not permit himself to give a direct reply to them, but vents his spleen on the devoted head of Mr. William Davies, whom he most unfairly charges with "misrepresentation of Berkshires," and more strangely still with "bitterness of style." I was innocent enough to think that if two estimable points were more particularly noticeable in Mr. Davies' letters than any others these were his fairness and his courtesy. It is true that Mr. Davies had, in giving his experience of Berkshires, to give facts not in favor of these pigs, and he also had to reply to or to suffer from attacks on his bona fides or his disinterestedness.

Mr. Benjafield writes that "he wishes to flatly contradict the statements of your various correspondents that Berkshires are short in the back, too fat, too coarse in the shoulders, too light in the hams, overdone with offal, merely fit to raise stock suitable for mess pork whose destination is the pine woods, where lumbermen can eat blubber, that the best curers have quite thrust them aside as totally unfit for the bacon trade, &c." Well, for my part, he is perfectly welcome to flatly contradict many of the so-called statements when your correspondents are silly enough to make them. It is scarcely necessary to repeat what has been written on the failings of the present style of Berkshire, but Mr. Benjafield will mislead no one but himself when he puts into others' mouths stupid statements to which they have not given utterance, nor will he do his cause much good in the attempt.

Mr. Benjafield says "that Berkshires will thrive where white pigs would almost starve." Will he give us proof of this assertion, the truth of which I have not experienced, and I have done a little pig breeding during the last thirty years? My reasons for giving up the Berkshires were that they reared too few pigs, grow too slowly up to six months old, were not good pigs for bacon curers, and that when the boars and yelts were old enough to sell for breeding purposes no one wanted them. My experience with Improved Yorkshires is exactly of the opposite kind, as I have this year already sold three hundred and forty-five boars and yelts, besides winning seventy-nine prizes worth £296 in eight days, or at shows all held on one or more of the eight days at one time, so that the same pigs could not be shown at the other shows held the same week. I might add that this is the largest number of prizes and of the highest value ever won in England by one exhibitor, and what is of more importance everyone of the pigs I showed was bred by myself, not, as is so common in England, bought at high prices all over the country.

Mr. Benjafield says that the best bacon curers in this country do not object to Berkshires.

What does he call the Harrises, of Calne? Does not this firm occupy, and has it not for years occupied, one of if not the very highest positions in this country? Why did they commence a crusade against the fashionable Berkshire and declare it totally unsuited for the curers purpose, and why did they recommend the Improved Yorkshire? What is the use of quoting the views of one or two curers who are in a district where comparatively few good Yorkshires have been found, but where numbers will soon be bred. On the 26th ult. I received a letter from one of the largest salesmen of bacon in London in which was this paragraph:—"Yesterday I was at the ——— Bacon Factory. I recommended them to introduce your pigs to their farmers." This first-rate man of business had learned from handling some thousands of sides of bacon each week the breed of pigs which made the best baconers, and he knew also whose herd has for years supplied the right kind of pigs to command the highest price when converted into bacon. It is a curious circumstance but the very Mr. Richley, of Corbridge-on-Tyne, whom Mr. Benjafield brings forward as a witness in favor of the Berkshires, has for the last two years been building up a herd of Improved Yorkshires mainly of my strain; the last sow I sent to him, Holywell First Choice (2308), was only farrowed on April 26th, 1889. Of what use is the evidence of the pork salesmen in the London Central Meat Market where the highest price is made of small porkers of about 70 to 80 lbs.? Again, why do foreign curers from all countries buy Improved Yorkshire boars to distribute? On the 26th ult. I had a letter from a Norwegian gentleman who had just returned from his country asking me if I could supply him with 20 to 30 boars such as the manager of a curing establishment being started at Christiania saw at Holywell when he was here, and yesterday I had a telegram to forward the first nine of the consignment. On the same day I had a letter from Mr. Magnus Kjar, about the oldest bacon-curer in Denmark, asking for 30 young boars such as he had two years since from here; and today I have a letter from a Danish gentleman who wishes me to send 10 boars to him for distribution.

Facts such as these are of infinite value as compared with the assertions of Mr. Benjafield, who cannot produce evidence of seventy boars being sold from all the English herds during the last seven years to foreign bacon-curers, whereas I obtained orders for seventy of my Improved Yorkshires within a week. It is mere childishness to bring forward the fact that one or two prizes offered in a district where comparatively no good Yorkshires are kept, or where, as Mr. B. asserts, "quite 75 per cent. of the pigs are Berkshires," and, I might add, 20 per cent. black pigs of other strains are kept, that these few prizes were won by Berkshires. If I were to give instances where similar prizes have been carried off in other districts by pigs usually kept in those districts it would prove nothing of value. The question to be solved is, which breed of pigs pays the rearer and feeder the most profit and which breed makes the most money. Nearly all the civilized world declares the really Improved Yorkshire to be that pig.

SANDERS SPENCER.

In the month of June Great Britain imported of cheese 169,369 cwt., against 118,251 cwt. a year ago, including 81,047 cwt. from the United States (Atlantic ports), against 62,207 cwt., and 52,685 cwt. from Canada, against 47,965 cwt.

"The Haras National."

The stable of La Compagnie Du Haras National are situated at Outremont, about two and a-half miles north of Montreal, where may be seen many splendid specimens of Percherons and French Coach horses.

The Haras National Company is composed of French-Canadians and American capitalists, represented in Canada by the Hon. Louis Beaubien, Montreal, and in France by the Baron E. DeMandat-Grancey, in Perche, whose farm is one of the best known breeding establishments in the land of superb horses. At Fremont, Nebraska, the Percheron and Arabian Importing Horse Co. have an extensive sale station where many powerful horses are annually sold to the enterprising western farmers. Near Buffalo Gap, South Dakota, ranging over 40,000 acres, the company own nearly 900 head of horses, including Percherons, Arabians and trotting bred stock.

The Montreal establishment, fourth in order of founding, is becoming the most important point in the business.

The stables of Outremont cost \$21,000; they are 155 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 60 feet high, being three stories, splendidly furnished inside, and provided with large, roomy and well-lighted box stalls. Among over 40 stallions, all thoroughly acclimated, we will speak more particularly of the three which appear in the illustration.

The first, a beautiful black Percheron, July 15168, standing fully 17 hands high, weighs 2,000 pounds; imported in May, 1888, and got by Myrama (15166), dam Garotte (15167); he has gained a most enviable reputation as a prize winner and a sure foal getter, showing to an eminent degree those prized attributes of the Percheron as a breed. He won diplomas and first prizes when two and three years old at Ottawa, Sherbrooke and Hochelaga, P. Q., and is now four years old.

Roi De Bignon (1499), dapple grey, 16 hands high, weighing about 1,600 pounds, got by Coco, dam Fanchette, is a Breton Stallion (Stud Book of the Agriculteurs de France). He has a splendid neck and a beautiful head; he shows grand action and is full of quality. He is six years old and won at Hochelaga two first prizes as the best heavy draft horse of any breed.

The Marquis De Puisaye is a grand French Coach horse. He is a beautiful bay, 16½ hands high; his fine finish and quality is a proof of his excellent breeding, which is here given:—

Marquis de Puisaye won at Toronto as carriage stallion, three years old (no special class for French Coachers), 3rd prize, 1889; at La Prairie, 1889, 1st prize as French Coach, any size; at Sherbrooke, 1889, as three-year-old French Coach, 1st prize. Bay, 16 hands; weight, 1,500 pounds; foaled March 12, 1886; bred by M. Mauny, of La Cocherie, Department Orne, France; got by the Government stallion Tigris, dam Enterpe; chestnut, foaled 1879; by Jactator, dam daughter of Tonnerre Des Indes; imported June, 1889, by the Haras National.

The Percherons have for many years been in great favor in Quebec Province and the sister Provinces have of late shown such interest in them that this Company anticipate disposing of a large portion of their importations in western districts. They intend to assist in the formation of local joint stock associations for the purpose of enabling farmers and others to purchase a stallion for their district, a system that has so far been very successful. Besides, the Company insure against death for a small annual charge, any horse sold. It is the only company in Canada which is willing to take this risk. The particulars of this plan, together with much information respecting French horses, is published in a catalogue issued, free of charge, on application at the company's office. In this catalogue they write as follows:—

"Both stallions and mares of extraordinary excellence are now to be seen in the stables of the