

all that is going on in the Hereford world "at home," he should take the *Live-Stock Journal*, London, Vinton & Co., 9 New Bridge Street, Ludgate Circus, London, E. C. The editors of this journal are preparing a history of the breed, which should also be bespoken by breeders, for no better men could be found to produce a more perfect work than they. Besides, they have secured the co-operation of all the united Hereford authorities. (This work has, since this was written, appeared, and has been eagerly secured by all "live" Hereford men.) A very useful history of the the Herefords, I believe, has appeared in the pages of the *National Live-Stock Journal*, by "Sigma." The mere mention of such a *nom de plume* is sufficient guarantee of its value.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

The Breeding and Management of the Hog.

BY W. H. McNISH, LYN, ONT.
(Continued from October.)

For sows farrowing, suitable accommodation should be provided beforehand. Should the weather be cold the dam should be placed in warm quarters and great care should be taken that the young pigs do not get chilled. It is an excellent plan to accustom your sow to be handled before she litters. When she is farrowing she should have some attention, and if she is accustomed to your presence she can be worked around without being disturbed. Occasionally, while farrowing, a sow will snap at and endeavor to eat her offspring. In the majority of cases this is caused merely by irritation on account of her fevered condition. If the pigs are taken out of her reach as soon as they are dropped, and after her labor-pains are over are again placed with her, in the majority of cases she will make a kind and excellent mother to them. But if she is left to herself she will undoubtedly devour them. A valuable litter of pigs will thus be lost, and in all probability the sow, which, with this little attention, would have made a good mother, will turn out to be worthless as a breeder. If, however, in spite of this precaution, she persists in eating her litter, no second attempt should be made to breed her, and she had better be fattened for market. It is difficult to break a sow of the vicious habit of devouring her offspring, and the experiment is not worth trying.

If the weather is very cold and there is great danger of the young pigs getting chilled, I have found it to be an excellent plan to have in readiness a barrel full of clean dry straw. In this place the young pigs as they are farrowed, and throw over the top a thick blanket. The heat generated by the pigs and retained by the blanket will keep them perfectly warm. After the sow has finished farrowing, the pigs can be removed from the barrel and placed where they can suckle the mother.

After farrowing, the sow, for a week or ten days, should be fed exclusively on warm food, consisting of bran and a little milk. She should have free access to pure cold water for a few days. This is very necessary. When the young pigs get to such an age that they draw heavily on the mother, a more liberal diet, consisting of shorts and ground oats, thoroughly cooked, should be given.

When the young pigs are about three weeks old the male animals in the litter should be castrated. No pig should be weaned before it is six weeks old. They should, however, be taught when three or four weeks old to eat a little. This can be done by placing a little sweet milk in a vessel put in a part of the road out of the mother's reach. In a short time they

will learn to drink quite readily, and when weaning time comes they will be quite able to care for themselves. For young pigs there is no better feed than milk (sweet if possible) and shorts, of which they should have a bountiful supply. Too great care cannot be exercised in feeding young pigs at this age. It is the most critical stage of the pig's existence, and it is just here that many farmers make a fatal mistake. They are often placed on coarse, sour feed, which their young stomachs cannot digest. Scours and other ailments follow; their growth is stopped; they become stunted, and no good attention afterwards can repair the damage done to their constitutions. This is a great loss, when the young animal ceases growing, you are simply throwing feed away.

After the pigs are weaned the sow, if she is to be retained as a breeder, can be bred to the boar at once, so as to produce another litter in the fall. If a sow has proved a good breeder she should be kept for that purpose as long as she lives, as such an animal is invaluable on the farm.

During summer the young pigs should have free access to a grass lot, and should have a supply of fresh water within reach. Our largest feeders agree that it is most profitable to keep stock in a thrifty condition from the moment it is dropped and dispose of it at an early age. I believe that this is particularly the case in regard to the hog. I am confident that the farmer will find it most profitable to have his sows farrow, early—in March, if possible. Push the growth of the pigs as much as possible and fatten and dispose of them in the fall. He is then saved the expense of carrying this stock through the winter—in this country a heavy item of expense. Therefore about the first of October preparations should be made for finishing the pigs for market. Dry corn or peas should be added to the diet already mentioned. As colder and wetter weather comes on, care should be taken that they should have dry and comfortable quarters.

Pigs farrowed in March and treated in the manner I have described, can be disposed of with the greatest profit when from eight to ten months old. They will then yield to their owner a large quantity of pork of such superior quality as will command the highest price in the market, and instead of being a source of annoyance and loss will return as handsome a profit as any animal on the farm.

Another point which may be mentioned in connection with the profits of the raising of hogs is the value of the manure which they produce. The farmer who allows it to go to waste makes a great mistake. There is no more powerful fertilizer, and it is worth at least four times the quantity of any other barnyard manure. Thousands of dollars are annually spent by the farmers of Ontario on commercial fertilizers. This sum might as well be saved. A fertilizer of far more value than any commercial fertilizer can ever be, annually goes to waste in their barnyards for the lack of a little care.

I have frequently been asked what breed of hogs I considered the most valuable. They all possess many valuable points, but, after experimenting with several breeds I have concluded that the Berkshire is the most profitable. They approach nearer to my idea of a model hog than any other breed.

There are many details connected with the successful management of the hog which my limited space will not allow me to touch upon. Volumes might be written on the subject and it still would not be exhausted. I will close this paper with the hope that the few hints I have thrown out may be of some service to my brother farmers.

Our Scotch Letter.

The farmers here are busy with harvest work. Looking at the crops in June and July one would have predicted that they would be late in ripening, but fine weather in the end of August and first of September wrought a great change upon them, and after all, the harvest, when completed, will not be much later than the average of recent years. There is a very profitable crop of oats and barley in the northern counties of Scotland, the proportion of grain being unusually large. The turnip crop, too, is one of the best that we have had for a number of years, but the price of cattle and grain is so small, and the rents are so proportionably high, that farmers do not expect to derive very much advantage from the abundance that prevails. About one fourth of the cereal crop has not yet been secured, and it has been a good deal damaged by recent rains and high winds, while in the Highland glens the frosts have spoiled a good deal of the crops; but taking everything into account this will be one of the best years our farmers have experienced for a long time past. Cattle fit for slaughter are selling at Aberdeen just now at about 60s. per cwt., and it is expected by those engaged in the cattle trade that prices will be lower still when the "stores" now in hand are ready for the market, there being a very large number of cattle in preparation as one of the results of the fine turnip crop.

The health of the stock in several of the northern counties, including Aberdeen, Banff, Nairn, Kincardine and Forfar, is not by any means satisfactory, that insidious malady known as pleuro-pneumonia having spread to an alarming extent in the course of the past year. There is no doubt of the origin of the disease. It came with a lot of calves imported from Ireland, about this time last year. The local authorities attempted to combat it, and made great efforts to rid the country of it before the cattle went to grass, but they totally failed. Another year has come round and the prospect is rather worse than better, for in the course of this month Irish-bred calves will be pouring in upon us bringing with them, there is much reason to fear, the seeds of further outbreaks. It is difficult to even attempt to estimate the loss which the country sustains in this way by its dependence on Ireland for store or lean cattle. The loss, I fear, is not fully appreciated; but there is too much reason to fear that unless means be taken to get the disease stamped out, pure stock breeding will ultimately have to go to the wall. So far the disease has been confined to commercial cattle, with a few exceptions, for two Shorthorn herds in Aberdeenshire, fortunately not the most important ones, have been attacked. Farmers are justly indignant that year after year they have to submit to all the losses, risks and inconvenience attending this disease, and that these Irish cattle should be permitted to be landed on our shores before Ireland is able to show a clean bill of health. There will be no immunity from pleuro-pneumonia in England and Scotland until the authorities in Ireland really take the matter in hand and show that they are in earnest. The opinion here is, that no proper system prevails in Ireland, and that the authorities could, as they ought to do, strenuously insist on all animals which have come in contact with those suffering from disease, being slaughtered. However vigilant the inspection be at the ports of landing, it would be no sufficient protection against the spread of the disease, as cases are known where it has lain latent for a period of six months or more, and for this reason inoculation, as a practical remedy, is generally admitted to be a failure.

One of the results of the disease has been the closing of your ports to our pure-bred cattle, a result which I have reason to know has caused great inconvenience and prevented several important transactions being completed. One case in point may be mentioned. Mr. C. Fothergill, of Burlington, Ontario, was here a short time ago, and bought some cattle in Scotland and England. He visited the valuable herd of Mr. Wm. Duthie, Collynie, Aberdeenshire, and bought the twenty-one months old bull, Cupbearer, which was first-prize-winner among two-year-olds, and reserve number for the challenge cup to Mr. Duthie's Field Marshall at the Aberdeen show this year. Got by the 400 gns. bull Rob Roy (45484), and out of a noted Cup cow Countess 4th by Gladstone (31253), a bull that went to Australia from the Uppermill herd at 150 gns. Cupbearer was by good judges considered to be the best Scotch bull of his age this year. His breeding is undeniable, his granddam being the famous Heir of Englishman (24127)