

its vitality, though nearly all of the starch that is meant to feed it till it can support itself until it grows out of the earth is destroyed. But our climate and soil are very stimulating, and for one year, or even more, frosted seed makes a wonderful show. If finely run, I think that the product from this year's frosted seed of low grade will go below that from the very best, but the test will come in from the Indian Head farm within the next month for this point also.

The farmers who got out their fall beef early did very much better than those who held on until this month. The first market proved the best, and the dealers who bought here on these advices got scorched. It would be difficult to make much more than two cents on foot in our country towns for average beef, with lower quotations for poorer beasts. This is not much encouragement for those who expected to get over their wheat shortage by selling fat steers for good prices.

The swampy lands to the north of us are proving this year of immense advantage to stockholders. Store cattle can be wintered on straw if not let down in the fall before sharp winter sets in, but this year's straw seems to lack nutriment to some extent. Hay costs from \$4 to \$8 a ton, according to quality and location, and bran \$13 a ton; but a full-sized beast can be wintered out north on capital hay for \$6 a ton till grass comes again. There is therefore no necessity, as the misinformed New York press despatches to England declare, for giving away our cattle for want of food, either here or on our western ranches. Perhaps they do not mean to lie, but are only a little "off" in their geography. The *St. Paul Globe*, on the authority of J. J. Hill, says the coming winter will be terribly hard on stockmen in northern Dakota and western Montana, and adds, "there is not a blade of grass on most of those ranches, and the cattle will have to be fed on hay and oats at enormous expense. All the way down to New Mexico the same state of things prevails, with local exceptions, and south-west of Denver thousands of fat cattle and sheep, besides a few cowboys and herders, have perished in snowdrifts." It is generally believed here that all these places can be found in the United States; they are certainly not between this and the north pole. We would be awfully glad of a good blizzard here just now, and a foot of snow along with it. Fine weather will do us more harm than all the blizzards could do. The weather prophets promise us a big lot of snow this winter, and I fervently hope they may prove reliable.

Improved Pigs and Their Management.

By SANDERS SPENCER, Holywell Manor, St. Ives, Hunts, Eng.

In no single thing has there been so great a change in the public taste as in that for bacon and other hog products, and one might even go further, and say that in no article of agricultural produce has there been such an increased demand, which is partially owing to the improvement in the common pig, due to crossing with improved pedigree boars, but in a far greater degree to the marvellously improved system of manufacture of bacon. There is not the slightest doubt that two of the greatest benefits to any locality are the establishment of a bacon factory and the introduction of a really serviceable kind of pure-bred pigs. There will be but little difficulty in proving that it is possible to find a breed of pig that will at once provide the farmer with an animal that will leave a handsome profit and also furnish the curer with a carcase of pork which he can convert into bacon that will command the highest price on any market in the world.

If we look closely into the subject we shall find that the wants of the farmer and the curer, instead of being, as some persons assert, antagonistic, are in reality identically the same; both require an animal of quick growth and of early maturity. To the farmer this means quick returns. Again, pigs light in the bone and offals are desired by both; by the farmer, as bone costs so much more to grow compared with flesh, and by the curer, as the carcase with the finest bone and the least offal makes much the higher price when converted into sides of bacon, than does the coarse-boned pig, with a great proportion of offal. The curer finds that the best style of pig for his trade is one long and deep in the body, light in the neck and shoulders, and wide and square in the hind-quarters; and the farmer finds that the pig which is most healthy, most prolific, and comes to a given weight the quickest is that pig which most nearly answers to this description. Anyone who has not had any experience with pigs having the points mentioned would scarcely believe how great a difference exists between the cost of fattening one of them and one of those heavy-shouldered, coarse-boned, and rest less brutes; so that not only in the much higher value of the carcase of an improved pig, but in the lessened cost of its production, does the pig keeper reap a benefit. This is not the opinion of pig-breeders or farmers and bacon curers in one particular part of the world, but correspondents and customers of mine in England, Ireland, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, etc., all state that the Large White Yorkshire pigs have invariably cost less to fatten, and have made the very best bacon and hams. Some curers and bacon merchants go so far as to assert that a pig with a black skin will only produce second-class bacon. This may be due to two causes first, the nicer appearance of a side of bacon made from a white pig, and the difficulty of finding a black skinned pig to furnish a high quality carcase of pork.

There is no domesticated animal which is better able to take care of itself, nor one which requires less attention, except during the very young stage, than does a well-bred pig. The pig comes into the world without any assistance, it lives entirely on its mother for about a month, then it begins to feed out of the same trough as its mother, who thrives and milks best on wheat offals, or ground oats and rye. In summer the little pigs may remain on the sow for six weeks, and in the colder months about two months. Those pigs not required for breeding purposes should be operated upon when they are about six weeks old. If care be taken to have this operation performed when the little pigs have been kept from food at least twelve hours, there is little or no risk, whilst the meat of a pig which has been attended to is of far greater value, and not only that, but the castrated pig will fatten very much faster. A pig from two to five months should not be allowed to lose condition, but should be supplied with a fair amount of wheat refuse, oat, rye, or barley meal, and in the summer with clover, lucern, or clover hay; and in the winter with but kohl rabi or clover hay, cut into chaff, and boiling water poured over it. In summer the young pigs should be allowed to run about on a pasture and in winter in an open yard. After they are about five months old they should be kept in a confined place, and fed on meal made from one-seventh wheat, and two-sevenths each of barley, oats, and rye. This should be ground as fine as possible, and the best return will be obtained from it if it is fed to the pigs dry, another trough being

put in the sty, in which is always to be found a supply of clean water or dairy refuse either in the form of skim-milk, outter-milk, or whey. By the time the pig is seven months old it ought to weigh 150 to 170 lbs., when it will command the highest price in the market, and will leave behind it a good profit for the breeder, the feeder, and the bacon-curer. The breeding sow will require but little attention except at the time when she is suckling. A few peas, beans, or maize, or house brewery, or dairy refuse mixed with a little meal will keep a well-bred sow in prime condition until within about a fortnight of the time when she is due to farrow. Then it is better to shut her up at night in the place where it is intended that she should pig, and to give her slightly more nutritious food.

The American Horse Show at Chicago.

(By our own Correspondent.)

Our cousins on the other side have long been noted for their large undertakings, but in the Horse Show, which was held at Chicago during the first week of last month, they have certainly surpassed themselves. One thousand two hundred and seven entries appear in the catalogue, and although many of these are the same horses, yet it is said that the number of horses which were entered after the publication of the catalogue brought up the number to 1,400. A lot could be written about this show, but as a majority of the horses would be unknown to a large proportion of our readers it would be tedious to particularize, and we shall, therefore, confine ourselves principally to generalities, and only briefly refer to some of the more important classes. The show was held in the Exposition building at the corner of Adam Street and Michigan Avenue, close to the lake front. The building is oblong in shape, the centre being occupied by an arena 88 feet wide and 300 feet long, being the longest indoor course in America; an amphitheatre encircles the arena with a seating capacity of 6,000, this during the evenings was crowded to overflowing and presented a sea of faces; the remainder of the building being occupied with stalls, either box or single. As is unavoidable in cases where entries are accepted after the date of closing, the number of stalls were insufficient, and several horses were compelled to seek stabling outside until stalls could be built for their reception; another defect was the ventilation, which was conspicuous by its absence, the air was consequently bad and heavy, colds were prevalent both in the human and equine race, and men and horses suffered accordingly. The judging department was another weak point, and the results can hardly be said to be satisfactory; the judges were Messrs. John Hope, Brantford; R. Gibson, Delaware; J. Gibson, Minnesota; R. Miller, Brougham; R. Graham, Claremont; W. S. Frazer, Ill.; and M. W. Mitchell, Chicago, all good men on their respective breeds, but when they were required to decide on all breeds from a French Coach horse to a Belgian Draught it is not to be wondered at that, in some cases, it was not only unpleasant to the judges themselves, but also somewhat hard on the exhibitors. With these exceptions the management was excellent, and at no show have exhibitors enjoyed more privileges or had their wants more quickly attended to. Clydesdales were well represented, and a good lot they were. The class for aged stallions contained several horses that figured in last year's show, and this year the contest was renewed with, if possible, greater vigor. Ten entries competed and, after much consideration, a short list of 4 were drawn, composed of the well-known McQueen, a