

Chester Whites as Bacon Hogs.

BY R. H. HARDING, THORNDALE, ONTARIO.

Many readers of the agricultural journals of Canada are perhaps not very well posted on the different breeds of swine, and having read the able articles written by parties interested in Yorkshires, Tamworths, etc., would naturally suppose that the above-mentioned breeds were the only suitable sorts to fill the present demand as bacon hogs. Let me say, in my opinion there are breeds just as suitable for this purpose that will return fully as large if not larger profits to the producer. One of these breeds is the Improved Chester Whites. I admit there are poor specimens of this breed, as among other kinds, but I do say the worst specimen of a hog I ever saw was at the last Industrial, and he was not a Chester White. The pig that will produce the largest amount of meat and lard of the best quality at the least cost, at from six to eight months old, is the most profitable pig, regardless of breed. Although I did not hear the following direct, I have it from a party not interested in any breed, that the foreman in a well-known packing house said a few months ago that the best bacon hog they could get was the Chester-Berkshire grade. He said they had plenty of side and better hams than grades of other breeds. The ideal hog must of necessity have a strong constitution and a vigorous appetite. If he will not feed he is of no use. The more a pig will eat and digest in proportion to its size, the more profitable it will be. He must also be of a quiet disposition; the more discontent and unnecessary motion the greater the demand on the stomach, consequently more food will be required merely to sustain the body. The best specimens may be described as long and deep in the carcass, straight on the back, short in the legs, full in the ham, light in the shoulder, head small in proportion to the body, nose not too long, face slightly dished, broad between the eyes, and especially a heavy coat of fine silky hair to protect him from cold in winter and the scorching sun in summer. The latter will blister a thin-haired pig, and in consequence it will not thrive so well. Add to the above quiet habits and an easy taking on of flesh, so as to admit of being slaughtered at almost any age, and we have what is considered a typical Chester White. I might also say that this sort seldom call their feeders before a reasonable time in the morning, as some other breeds were in the habit of doing at the time of the last Industrial Exhibition. While it is necessary for a pig to have a good appetite in order to thrive well, yet it is not necessary that they squeal themselves hungry.

Mr. Caswell, Manager of the Canadian Packing Company, when addressing the Western Dairymen's Convention at London, Ont., when asked by some gentleman if the Chesters were not a suitable hog, said they were too fat when fully matured, and consequently were only fit for mess pork. I would like to have asked him (but time would not permit any discussion) if he considers the breeds he was recommending as suitable for singed bacon fully matured at from 180 to 220 pounds, the weights most in demand. If so, they should certainly be classed as small breeds instead of large, but it is well-known this is not the case. I believe it is a mistake to crack up any special breed as the only suitable breed for A I bacon. The race we are all competing in is, "Who can produce the ideal bacon hog at the greatest profit?" A little swine feeding goes a long way if there are no profits in connection therewith. A better way would be to pay extra prices for the hog most suitable, or reject the ones that are not suitable, and let the producer decide what breed or breeds crossed will make the desired hog at the greatest profit to himself. The extra price paid for the best class will be of sufficient interest to the farmer to arouse him in this matter. Now, if the Improved Chester or Chester grades will produce, as they undoubtedly will, a hog at from six to eight months old, weighing from 180 to 240 pounds, with long, deep sides and especially good hams, well mixed with lean of a fine quality, what more does the packer want? or, is it a fact that some of the packers are also importers and breeders of other breeds? If so, they certainly have a two-fold object in view—first, to keep their own breeds to the front, so as to sell their stock at good prices; and second, to manufacture the offspring into bacon, thereby making double profit instead of single, also giving all the credit to the Yorkshire, because the grades are mostly white, never considering that they are largely produced by Chesters. While it is necessary that we cater to the packers' wants, yet the first thing necessary is the profits on food consumed. At present prices of pork, any breed can be fed at a reasonable profit, but when prices are away down the profits are of necessity very small. Then the producer will naturally ask himself the question, Can I furnish the required quality of pork any cheaper from one breed than another? In answer to this, I might say the grazing hog of the most contented disposition, with light offals, all other points being equal, is in my opinion the most profitable pig to raise at the present time, and a good Chester White meets these requirements perhaps as nearly as any other breed. The sows are especially good mothers, being both careful and good sucklers, and as to their prolificacy the most I have had farrowed at one litter was seventeen healthy living pigs, but I read the other day of a Chester sow farrowing forty-two living pigs, one litter. Notwithstanding the fact that there are frequently able articles written in favor of other breeds, Chester Whites are still in good demand, although

they are seldom mentioned, except in the advertising columns of agricultural journals. I felt it was both a duty and a privilege, as a breeder of Chesters, to say a word or two in their favor, as I know they are well deserving of a better place in public esteem than they hold in Canada. This is what prompted me to write this article.

Duroc-Jersey Swine.

BY TAPE BROS.

The origin of the Duroc-Jerseys cannot be positively traced, and was evidently unknown to the earliest historian of the hog; they have been traced back over half a century, but earlier than that little is known of them. Joseph B. Lyman has the credit of first calling them Jersey Reds. He was agricultural editor of the New York Tribune at the time and resided in New Jersey. In discussing the merits of the red hog of New Jersey, he called them "Jersey Reds." Previous to this, they had been simply called red hogs. Mr. Lippencott, of New Jersey, was the first man to advertise the hogs as Jersey Reds. Clark Petit's history of Jersey Reds states that in 1832 there was a pair of red hogs shipped to Salem, N. J., but does not state who was the exporter or importer.

Durocs was undoubtedly the name given them by Isaac Fink, a prominent farmer living near Saratoga, N. Y. He named them after a noted stallion owned by Mr. Kelsley, who had a red sow with a litter of pigs. He said he had imported the sire and dam. Mr. Fink bought a pair of the pigs, and called them Durocs.

Hon. James B. Clay is said to have imported a pair of red pigs from Spain during his residence as Minister of the United States at Lisbon in 1850. No doubt some of this stock reached Kentucky and other Southern States. Hon. Henry Clay is said to have imported four red hogs in 1837, and to have been so well pleased with them that he bred them on his farm at Ashland for a number of years. They were probably the source from whence the family of southern-bred red hogs descended.

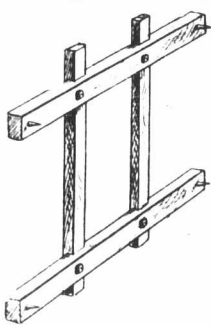
In all descriptions of hogs of the older countries of Europe—England, France or Spain—no others were known except those claimed to be brought from the east coast of Guinea during the slave trade era.

Coburn tells us that the Duroc-Jerseys are of African breed and imported from the Guinea coast. He says:—"I have been unable to find any domestic red hog in any country where the slave trade did not extend, and in almost every country where the captured Guinea slaves were landed, there we find this valuable red hog, but only in the United States are we able to find positive proof that it was brought directly from Guinea. It is, therefore, a fair conclusion, from the circumstances and the evidence showing the introduction into our country, that the red hog of the several slave-trading countries had one common origin."

Duroc-Jersey sows have large litters; young sows from eight to eleven, and old sows from ten to eighteen. Twelve and fourteen strong pigs at one litter is not at all uncommon. No breed has stronger pigs at birth. No help is required when pigging, either for the sows or pigs. The pigs are always strong and active, because the parents are invigorated with strong blood and most excellent constitutions. The little pigs possess so much vigor and the sows are so quiet that the loss of pigs is very little. They are not so subject to thumps as the more inactive sorts with feeble heart action. They are docile and easily confined. As foragers they excel. A strong constitution is the foundation for a strong appetite, and a good appetite is naturally the outgrowth of a good digestion and power of assimilation. These favorable conditions are found in these pigs in a marked degree, which makes them less liable to disease. They can be made to utilize the cheaper and coarser forms of food on the farm. They do wonderfully well on pasture and make a good growth on it.

-To Prevent Cows Sucking Themselves.

Dear Sir, Here is a good plan to stop cows self-sucking, which may be of benefit to your readers. Take



two pieces of good wood one and a-half by two inches, two feet six inches long, and two pieces one and a-half by two, one foot six inches long, and bolt them together (as shown in illustration) to fit close on both sides of the neck just behind the head. Cut a half-inch gain in the upright pieces for the long pieces to fit tight into; a good way to fit the frame to the neck is to bolt the two long pieces on one of the uprights, then place it on the cow's neck, and put the other piece tight in position and mark where holes for bolts are required. It would be advisable to leave the long pieces a little longer than is required, until you have it fitted to the neck; you can cut so as to have the square for the neck in centre. Now put a sharp spike, one inch long, one inch from each end, so that when the cow turns her head to suck, the spike will catch her in the shoulder, and she will soon give up the sucking business. Keep it on for a month or so, until she forgets. Some cows may not require it on for a month, while others may require it longer. This is not inconvenient, and is sure.

GULL LAKE.

Cross-Breeding for Mutton.

BY D. MCRAE.

Sheep breeding for mutton has not had in Canada the attention it deserves. There has been in the past a good deal of haphazard grading and crossing, resulting in many cases in a very nondescript flock of varied quality and type. The bulk of Ontario flocks are still of the long-woolled breeds or of grades, many of which are of Leicester and Cotswold breeding, or a mixture of these. In some parts Shropshires are well represented, but none of the Down breeds have obtained such a footing as to give from our annual clip of wool any large percentage grading a Down quality. Our lambs are annually exported in large numbers to the United States for mutton, and too little attention has been given to the quality of our product. Breeders say that buyers are to blame to a large extent for this, as they will not give a specially good price for a carefully bred lot, but pay the same general average for any lot.

Sheep will pay for good, careful breeding as well as any other kind of live stock, and more attention should be paid to careful cross-breeding. If a flock of young long-woolled ewes be selected from which to breed, the best cross will probably be with one of the Down breeds. Select a pure-bred male of good individual merit and of good pedigree, the length of the pedigree not being of so much importance as the quality of the animals named in it. If a Shropshire ram be selected he should not be used more than two years, and should be followed by an animal of a different breed (say, an Oxford-Down or a South-down). If the ewes are a good, uniform lot, the produce will be a superior lot of lambs. These should all be fed for the market. Give the ewes after lambing plenty of good, nourishing food, and if they come early plenty of roots (either turnips or mangolds). The lambs may get a small ration of oats or oats and bran, and when weaned should have a nice bit of good pasture. These cross-bred lambs are good feeders, and make a superior quality of mutton. They should all be fed for mutton—none kept for breeding. It is objected to this plan that it requires a farmer to buy in his breeding ewes every few years, but this is considered to be a much better plan than that of breeding from cross-bred animals. This latter plan may be used in some cases with success, when another cross is desired for some special purpose. Where very early lambs are wanted for the spring market, it is claimed by some that by crossing a flock of grade Down ewes with a Dorset Horn ram the ewes of the produce will, if crossed with a Leicester ram, give a quick-feeding lamb that will bring a big price early in the season. There would be no special advantage in this plan of breeding, were we able to get grade or purely bred Dorset Horn ewes at an ordinary price. At present this can not be done, and the cross is suggested as giving a lot of breeding ewes at a low cost. The advantage claimed for the Dorset Horn breed is that they will mate at any time in the year, and that therefore the lambs can be dropped at any time desired. If it be, as claimed by some, that this property is inherited by the cross-bred ewes, it is a valuable point in breeding for early spring lamb. There is a large and increasing demand for such early lamb in all the large cities, both of Canada and the United States. At present it is a scarce commodity, and will bring a much higher price per pound than anything else in the line of food products that can be raised by the farmer. The earlier the lambs can be got ready for market the bigger price they will bring. Good, warm buildings are absolutely necessary for this trade, and careful feeding of the ewes and lambs with a variety of succulent food. These are already possessed by many farmers, while the lambs come at a season when there is plenty of time to give them extra care and attention. In both these branches of sheep breeding there is a good prospect of remunerative returns to the breeder and feeder.

The Foal.

Mr. W. Brownlee, of Hemmingford, Que., gives his treatment of young foals as follows: We usually raise from two to six colts each year. If the young foal has no movement of its bowels, we give an injection of strong suds made with castile soap and soft water at blood heat, to which it is well to add a little castor oil. It is much easier to give an injection with a large syringe than a small one. Give one injection after another until successful. Do not be discouraged if you have to spend the whole day doctoring. We have never lost a colt since we began using the above treatment, with the exception of the first one, which was allowed to go too long before anything was done. We never give castor oil inwardly, because we find that it makes the colt sick, and it will not suck and soon dies. For diarrhoea we give Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry with good results, having saved a number in this way, giving a quarter or a third of a bottle at a dose, one to three doses generally effecting a cure, and never leaving any injurious after effects.