

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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grower in \$4.00 hogs at Chicago than in the \$6.00 hogs at Toronto, but the fact remains that our people ought to mend their ways and grow more choice lean bacon hogs. Corn, while being the cheapest feed, is too fattening to make good bacon, and as long as it is used exclusively American bacon will not be able to compete with Canadian bacon in the English markets."

The secret of the more favorable comparison is put in such a delicate way that those unfamiliar with Western methods of feeding may fail to perceive the point when it is said "the United States hog grower can feed cheap corn to his cattle and fatten his hogs on what the cattle do not assimilate. The italics are ours. This will be quite intelligible to the dweller in Hogland who knows that there the signal to meals for the porker is the elevation of the switch of a steer, and the Western hog knows as well as if he had human sense that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it," and our neighbors need not wonder if in these days of easy communication the English people have "got on to the racket" and decline to regale themselves on bacon evolved from previously unassimilated matter, however cheaply provided.

The filthy wholesale methods pursued by Western States farmers, whose big herds of steers, consuming whole corn, are followed closely in the feed lot by hogs, are not wanted in Canada. No later than our June 1st issue of the present year, when the result of a careful investigation by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE into the Essex Co. swine disease was published, we took occasion to warn farmers against the adoption of the Western system. The truth of the matter is that Canadian bacon has attained its present pre-eminent position because of the intelligent attention paid for 20 years back to breeding the proper type of hog, managing and feeding it according to cleanly and rational methods. Big, fat-backed hogs, lower prices, and hog cholera are the penalties the Western States farm-

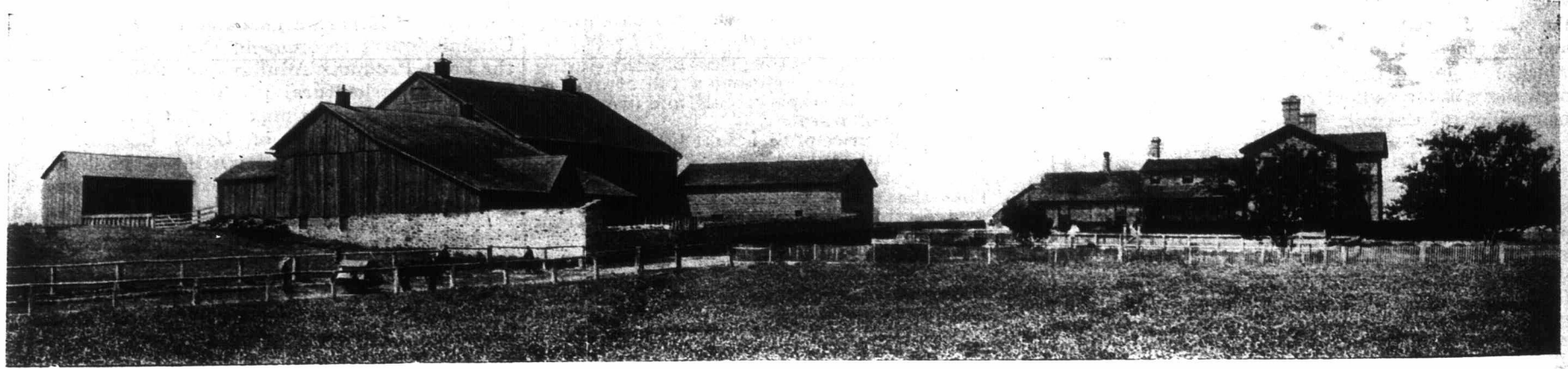
ready for sale about Christmas; other lots are fed in the same way and sold as soon as ready. In this way he fattened 40 head last winter. In the past a few good Shorthorns also have been reared upon this farm.

### Smaller Farms.

BY J. F., PERTH COUNTY, ONTARIO.

It is a common saying that Canadians are such a busy people that they devote very little time to the study of anything outside of the business in which they are engaged. This remark applies to farmers as well as to merchants and manufacturers. It is also true that numbers of those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits give no time whatever to the study of their profession. In many cases the reason for this negligence is attributed to the great amount of work that has to be done on the farm. And many of the difficulties that they have had to contend with during the past few years have been caused by lack of knowledge and mismanagement of the business. Much of this trouble could be avoided if farmers would consider the question of working smaller farms.

Although we have entered upon an era of prosperity, I believe this question is worthy of the consideration of every person interested in the advancement of agriculture. Few men in this country are possessed of sufficient means to carry on business extensively without the aid of borrowed capital. The system of borrowing money, although very useful when judiciously managed, has been the means of ruining hundreds of farmers financially. A great deal of the capital invested in land has not realized the rate of interest that had to be paid for the use of it. This state of affairs has produced unsatisfactory results. The farmers who have been obliged to borrow in this way have not kept as much stock as they would under different circumstances. They have employed less help, and consequently the land has suffered from want of cultivation. Crops began to fail, and one poor crop paved the way for a poorer one the following season. The revenue from the sale of stock decreased yearly, and with it that obtained from the crop. And not only this, but the fertility of the soil diminished, followed by a decrease in the value of the land. Seldom has this happened where it was un-



A VIEW OF THE HOMESTEAD ON THE FINE STOCK FARM OF ROBERT SHORTREED, ESQ., GUELPH, ONT.

### While at the Exhibitions.

During this brisk season of big crops and better prices we want good, energetic agents at every fair, great and small, in Canada and the U. S. to canvass for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. It is so favorably known and so highly spoken of from one end of the country to the other that agents can put on two or three times as many names for it in a day or week than can be done for any other paper. *Handle the best.* It is easy to canvass for a paper that the people read because it gives them progressive, practical, up-to-date matter, worth actual cash to the farmer, for whose interests it stands every time. Write for sample copies and our liberal terms. The present is the opportunity of a lifetime. Do not let it slip.

### Act Immediately.

We desire every one of our subscribers to make an effort to send us one or more new subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. Can you not think of some friend or do you not know some other farmer, breeder or dairyman in your neighborhood who does not get it and who would be interested and benefitted from its reading. Our subscribers often tell us when paying their subscriptions that they consider the \$1 they pay for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE the very best investment they make. However highly our readers may esteem the service the paper is giving them, we may say that it is not yet up to our ideal, but a little assistance in the way of increasing its circulation will help us to reach high-water mark, and all will be benefitted. We propose now to give to new subscribers the remainder of this year and all of 1898 for \$1.00. We do not ask your services for nothing, but will allow you some valuable premium for your trouble. We allow liberal cash commission. Write to-day for sample copy and terms.

er has to pay for the wholesale methods which the *Drovers Journal* thinks enable him to make more money than the Canadian farmer, which we think, however, is not the case.

### Mr. Robert Shortreed's Gold Medal Farm.

Among the illustrations that adorn the present issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, that representing the homestead on the stock farm of Mr. Shortreed is typical of what has been accomplished by progressive Canadian farmers. This farm is one of the gold medal farms of 1889 in the Province of Ontario, receiving that year a gold medal from the Provincial Agriculture and Arts Association; it is situated two miles west of Guelph. One hundred acres of it was first settled in 1834 by the late John Shortreed, but since that time 150 more have been added, and is now owned by his son Robert. The outbuildings comprise one main barn 70 x 84, another 60 x 60, also a hay barn in the rear 26 x 52, and a stone horse stable and driving shed 30 x 60. The dwelling, too, is a commodious and handsome structure.

Mr. Shortreed's method of farming is the growing of coarse grain for feeding, principally oats and peas. He also grows turnips, mangolds, Indian corn, and rape. The land intended for the roots is manured as soon as possible in the spring. If the grass is good through the summer, steers averaging about 1,100 pounds are bought; if not, they are not bought until the rape is ready. As soon as the rape is done the cattle are housed; he is able to stable 54 head. He feeds oats and pea-chop three times per day, mixed with chaff or cut hay and straw. Turnips are also fed three times per day, before the meal, then hay twice per day. The cattle are fed as much of each as they can eat up clean. They are turned out at noon, on a stable at a time, to water at a trough in the yard which is supplied by a windmill to the south of the buildings, or a little to the left of what appears in the engraving. While the cattle are at water the stables are cleaned out with a horse and boat. These cattle would be

necessary to borrow money. There may be cases where men have succeeded on borrowed money; but this article is written for the benefit of those who have met with misfortune.

Agriculture offers scope for almost unlimited improvement. In no calling can skill and knowledge be made more effectual. Small farms well filled and thoughtfully managed give the most satisfactory results. More attention can be given to matters very often considered of minor importance. Less capital is required to purchase such farms. The owner, having no interest to raise for the money-lender, is enabled to purchase nearly everything required for cash. It is easier to plan the work so as to have everything done in proper season on a small farm. And the man who "can make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before" has solved a problem that will ensure him success in his profession.

It is not customary to farm less than one hundred acres in the older provinces, except in the fruit districts. If farms of from twenty-five to fifty acres were more common it would induce the laboring classes in the towns and cities to purchase land. This would avoid a serious question that is at present demanding the attention of people in the large cities of other countries. It is beginning to show itself in Canadian cities, and now is the time to deal with it. As this country increases in population the question of "the unemployed" will be certain to attract attention.

No doubt many will advise those who cannot purchase hundred-acre farms in the older provinces to "go west." This advice will suit those who have a fair knowledge of agriculture. Those who have but a slight idea of the business will do much better on small farms in settled districts. The difficulties with which they have to contend in a new country are very trying even to the men who have been reared in the profession.

I believe that it would be more profitable for the people living on the fertile lands of Manitoba and the Territories to cultivate less land than they are in the habit of doing. It must be very discouraging to intending settlers to see the best land