

General Matter.

ISALEIGH GRANGE.

This farm, which is the property of Mr. G. N. Greenshields, Montreal, is now the seat of one of the largest fine stock breeding establishments in the province of Quebec. It is conveniently situated for railway accommodation, being within two and a half miles of Danville, P. Q., which is on the main line of the G. T. R. between Quebec and Montreal, and near Richmond, the junction between the above line and the Portland branch of G. T. R. The farm contains eight hundred acres of easily worked land, which is very suitable for pasture and growing the crops required in stock feeding, while water in abundance is supplied by the living springs abounding throughout the property, and two never-failing streams conveniently situated for furnishing this essential on a stock farm. Many improvements have already been added since the farm came into the present proprietor's hands, among which are extensive stock and grain barns, sheep, horses, and piggery, all of which are equipped with modern appliances of the most modern character.

Stabling for 100 cattle is provided, and 300 sheep have roomy and convenient quarters, while the piggery is the most perfect of its kind. This building is 100 feet long and 30 feet wide, is built in the most substantial manner, and is heated with steam, so that cold has no effect upon the occupants, let the weather be ever so severe outside. The main barn is 165 feet long by 40 feet wide, contains four threshing floors, with shafting conveniently placed for running the necessary machinery operated in threshing and cleaning the grain, as well as preparing the feed for the stock. A 25-horse engine supplies the power which drives the whole of this machinery, and is also further connected with the milk separator, the circular saw for cutting wood, etc. The engine-house, grain-grinding room, ice-house and dairy, together with a large store room, are situated close to the barn.

Guernseys are the cattle bred at Isaleigh Grange. At the head of this herd is the bull Ontario's Pride 1029, A. G. C. C., which is undoubtedly one of the best bulls of the breed on the continent and pronounced by that astute judge, M. Wm. Crozier, of Long Island to be one of the best dairy bulls of any breed in America.

The cows are also a remarkably fine lot, and, taken as a whole, display capital dairy points. They have large frames, are smoothly finished, and are among the most handsome of the dairy breeds. The cow Eliza C. 2nd, a lemon-colored fawn, with white markings, comes nearly to the perfection in type of what we consider a dairy cow should be; her grandly developed milk vessels, elastic touch, and handsomely turned horns all bespeak high breeding.

The four-year-old cow May Queen 7th is another grand, large cow that claimed our attention, although there were many others equally good here.

The calves were a remarkably good lot, the gem of the whole collection perhaps being a four-month-old bull calf, Isaleigh Choice, by Ontario's Pride, out of Eliza C. 2nd. This is really a marvellous youngster, showing wonderful size for his age, smooth and level all over, a beautiful handler, in fact, to our mind, about the perfection of what a dairy bull should be.

We cannot leave the cattle without paying a tribute to the herdsman, Mr. M. Mansell, a son of the well-known Shropshire breeder, Mr. T. J. Mansell, of Dudmaston, England. Mr. Mansell, who, we might say, has barely reached his twentieth year, deserves the greatest credit for the beautiful form in which he has brought the herd, numbering over eighty head, through the winter.

The Yorkshire herd, founded on stock from the herd lately owned by the manager, Mr. J. Y. Ormsby, has been increased last year by a large importation from the best herds in England, including two grand stock boars from the well-known herd of Mr. Sanders Spencer. One of these, Holywell Manor, winner of first last year at the Royal Show at Warwick, has been pronounced by good judges, both in England and Canada, a faultless type of a bacon pig. His magnificent hams and well sprung ribs, combined with his tremendous length and depth, cannot but please the most critical eye, while his clean, flat bone and excellent coat of hair indicate a grand constitution.

Among the sows, besides a few choice specimens from Holywell, we noticed a capital sow of Lord Ellesmere's breeding, the dam, we were told, of a prize-winning pen of boars at the Royal; and last, but not least, a beautiful yelt (1) from the Metchley herd of Mr. D. Gibson, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England. This sow has never been beaten in England, having won at the Royal and numerous other large shows. She is now carrying a litter of pigs to Holywell Prince, also a winner in the best company in England.

After leaving the main building, a few minutes drive with the manager brought us to the sheep barns, where we found, perhaps, as choice a collection of Shropshires as can be found in the Dominion. It is not necessary, perhaps, to say much about the sheep, as a short description with illustrations appeared in our December (1892) No. We cannot however, pass them over without mentioning a magnificent shearing ram, "The Other One." This sheep, bred by Mr. George Thompson, of Wroxall, Warwickshire, England, was commended at the Royal, and received the reserved number at the Shropshire and West Midland Show at Welshpool, England, being considered one of the best yearlings of the year. While not overly large to the eye, he is a sheep of tremendous scale, showing a grand back and loin, short couplings, good brisket, and a magnificent fleece. The flock, which numbers over 100 head exclusive of this year's lambs, of which there were at the time of our visit nearly 50, gives every evidence of careful and judicious handling without the slightest pampering, all the stock sheep being in strictly breeding condition. Besides the pure-bred Shropshires, a flock of about 120 grade ewes are being lambed down this spring, thus making the total number of sheep wintered at Isaleigh Grange 235, all in charge of an experienced English shepherd, the manifest signs of whose careful management it does not take an experienced eye to detect.

Before closing we might mention that what especially struck us at Isaleigh Grange was the systematic manner in which everything is carried out, the manager Mr. J. Y. Ormsby, whose reputation as a stockman is already known, being seconded in a most efficient manner in their respective departments by the farm foreman, Mr.

(1) i. e. young sow.

M. Lockwood, and the shepherd, Mr. O. Lloyd, as by well as Mr. M. Mansell, to whom we have already referred.

(From the Farmer's Advocate.)

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN FARMING.

THE STOCKMAN AND FARMER says that an American journal has lately been comparing English and American farmers, sometimes making points which are just and fair, and sometimes exaggerating the differences, of course making an exhibit in the main strongly favorable to our own farmer. In replying to this the *English Agricultural Gazette*, as would naturally be expected, shows an opposite bias, and says some pretty curt things. The American journal says, among other things, that when the English farmer learns to take off his coat and get down to solid work he may begin to find that his receipts every year do not fall so far short of his expenditure. To which the *Gazette* comes back in this vigorous fashion: "When the American farmer learns how to farm, when his average yield of wheat becomes half as much as that of England, instead of only a little over one-third, and when elementary agricultural principles, settled here half a century or a century ago, have begun to dawn upon his mind, the American farmer may earn enough from the business to enable him to live as comfortably as an English farm laborer at the present time." There may be something worth thinking about in the Englishman's salty words—oh?

DR. HOSKINS.

Swine.

WHEAT AND RYE FOR HOGS.

Prof. Henry gives the following suggestions, in the *Breeder's Gazette*, in regard to the comparative feeding value of wheat and rye for hogs.

"In all my writings where comparisons are used I wish to be understood as referring to the grains by their actual weight not by bushel measure. The comparison is therefore pound for pound.

"If we are asked to state which was the best food for man—meat, bread, or potatoes—it would be impossible to name any one of the three definitely and without qualification. It is reasonable to suppose that though a man might live upon meat only for some time, yet after a while he would have an intense craving for other food—kinds which probably did not contain so much nourishment and yet for which he had an intense longing. The chemist may find in the meat all the elements for nourishing the human body, yet the demands of the stomach would not be satisfied with what the chemist announced. It is much the same with our farm stock, and experience shows that our animals do far better upon two or more kinds of feed than upon a single variety. Here at the west, corn is so cheap that we have gradually come to feel that there is little need of feeding anything else. The evil effect of exclusive corn feeding is soon apparent, however, and feeders are forced to drift away from it and furnish variety, or suffer serious loss from disease, small litters of pigs, those with little vitality, etc.

I have no fault to find with corn. It is our best single feed and we must

always use it for the main part of the ration with hogs; indeed, we cannot make cheap pork without it, but it must be supplemented with other kinds of feed for pigs and hogs up to the time of fattening, when if necessary it can be used nearly or quite alone, though even then I believe a little other feed for variety will prove highly profitable. Shorts is one of the best feeds to mix with corn for swine, because it contains much of the protein portion of the wheat grain. When wheat is cheap, as has been the case for some time past, then feed the wheat for variety.

Rye differs little from wheat in its chemical composition, being a little poorer in protein. It may be regarded, however, as having about the same value for the feeding of swine as wheat, and should be used in the same way. There have been complaints in the *Gazette* that rye poisoned hogs, but I cannot see where there is any reason for such a conclusion. Others reported excellent results. Rye is used by millions of people for human food and has been extensively fed to stock, both in this country and abroad. Rye-meal is generally fed in the form of slop. In this case see that the slop barrel does not get offensively sour, as possibly dangerous fermentations may occur. For young pigs feed half ground rye and half corn-meal, or, if shorts can be obtained at a reasonable price, substitute part shorts, giving one third say of each, which would form a very rich ration. After weaning feed half rye and half corn, with or without a little shorts. As the fattening period comes on, the amount of rye can be reduced to one third, and even less, the amount being regulated by the relative cost of this grain and corn. I think the feeder who tries feeding a mixture of rye and corn or wheat and corn against corn alone, will soon see the great advantage in mixture in both the rate of growth and the better animal frame (1).

PIGS AND POTATOES.

Which do you consider the most profitable food for pigs now six months old—potatoes at 40c. per bushel (not extra quality), pea meal at \$1.25 per 100 lb., ground wheat (frozen) at \$1.25 middlings at \$1.10, barley meal at \$1.10? The potatoes will be boiled and could be mixed with the middlings. E. W. Brockville, Ont. [E. W. presents the question which often occurs, of overestimating the feeding value of potatoes. The potato is 75 per cent. water; consequently a bushel of potatoes at 60 lb. would have 15 lbs. dry matter. Now this would be the highest feeding value of the potato for swine. Pea meal in the milk ration would have an extra value for its albuminoids. (2) Ground wheat would have no greater value for fattening purposes than barley meal. Barley meal is therefore the cheapest food for W. to fatten his pigs on. If convenient, the barley meal would be improved by cooking. E. W. S.]

The Household.

WHAT OPEN EYES SEE.

SPICED HAM STEAK.—Cut as thick as a fresh steak and broil. Have butter

(1) And if pease can be had, at a reasonable price, 1/3 of them would be an advisable substitution for 1/3 of the meals.—Ed.

(2) Good.—Ed.