

MAGIE HOG.

This is a breed which originated in Butler County, Ohio. It is, by some, called the Gregory Creek hog; by others the Moore hog, but it is more generally known as the Rutler County, Ohio, hog. It is represented as a large breed, which, in the last few years, obtained some celebrity in the Western States. Its precise history seems to be unknown. Some of its advocates claim that it is composed of four distinct breeds, viz: "Poland, Big Spotted China, Big Irish Grazier and Byfield." "This breed," says the same writer, "is of fine bone, but large size, combining more eminently than any other, the excellences of both large and small breeds; being docile, very good feeders, breeders and sucklers: fattening readily at any age, and yet attaining great weight at maturity. They sometimes dress 350 pounds at from ten to twelve months old; 500 to 550 pounds from 18 to 20 months old; at full growth I have had them to dress 800 to 936 pounds." The same writer says: "The Magie hogs are mostly spotted, though we frequently have a number of light colored pigs." From an article by a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, describing the different breeds of hogs at the New York State fair, October 6th, 1871, we take the following in relation to this breed:—"The Poland monsters, of questionable color, with noses of indefinite length." Again: "The Poland and Magie, and the copper-colored hogs for which some counties of Jersey have been famous, are better suited to the black lands of the West, where \$2.50 worth of labor in corn will make 80 bushels of ears." We confess our acquaintance with the Magie hogs is limited, and would not be understood as wishing either to detract or add to their reputation which may have been so justly earned; and they may be—as one of their advocates affirms—"second to none, but superior to all." Yet from our own observation of some specimens, and from the best information we have been able to obtain of the breed, we are unable to discover any evidences of a distinct race; special merit, or decided characteristics.

BERKSHIRE HOG.

The old Berkshire hog of England was in high repute for more than a century, and was finally selected as a basis upon which was constructed the most remarkable improvements ever made upon the hog. These improvements, however, were not completed or established until about the commencement of the present century. From these, and upon this basis, was established what is now known as the improved Berkshire, embracing in its formation, the blood of the old original Berkshire, the Neapolitan and white Chinese. Since the establishment of the breed at that time, no innovations have been made

and it has been propagated pure to the present time. Written testimony upon this point, we think superfluous, when this breed, for more than a half century, has so unerringly transmitted its peculiar color and general characteristics to all its offspring, a standard by which all breeds should be measured.

From an article written by Mr. Sydney, an English historian, we clip the following:—"Among the black breeds," he says, "by universal consent, the improved Berkshire hog stands at the head of the list, either to breed pure or to cross with inferior breeds." Again: "The late Lord Barrington, who died in 1829, did a great deal towards improving the Berkshire breed, and the improved Berkshires are all traced back to his herd. They are now considered by farmers to be divided into a medium, (not large breed), and a small breed. If first class, they should be well covered with long, black, silky hair, so soft that the problem of "making a silk purse out of a sow's ear" might be solved with a prize Berkshire. The white should be confined to four white feet, a white spot between the eyes and a few white hairs behind each shoulder."

Reports on Crops.

BOULARDERIE, June 24, 1872.

Nothing favorable can be said about the appearance of the crops in this district this season,—everything is fully four weeks behind ordinary years, and the extent of every kind of seed sown is below the average. What was put in the ground could not possibly be put into it in good condition on account of the continual wet and cold weather up to the 15th inst. Grass has been extensively winter killed, and there is no encouraging prospects of a heavy crop. Yours, &c.,

JOHN ROSS.

NOEL, June 18, 1872.

Dear Sir,—By last mail I received your note of the 12th inst., asking for a few remarks on the subject of crops and spring work in this district. In reply I beg to observe that from Maitland through Noel to Walton, a distance of 25 miles, and Upper Kennetcook, at this time less than half the crop and seed usually sown and planted has been put in, owing to the frequent rains keeping the ground totally unfit for farming operations. Our land generally on the south side of the Basin of Mines and Cobequid Bay is wet and heavy, but if the frosts keep off well in the Autumn, and the weather keep fine for a week or two, I hope a considerable portion of the present deficiency may be made up in late crops, by sowing Barley, Buckwheat and Turnips in place of Wheat, Oats and Potatoes. The season for tree

blossoms, &c., I think, is very near a month later than last year, but the grass is quite as forward as usual, and the appearance is good. Yours, &c.,

J. J. O'BRIEN.

UPPER MUSQUODOBOIT, June 17th,

Dear Sir,—Your favour of the 12th June received, and in answer would beg to submit the following:—

The Spring season with us here, as in other parts of Nova Scotia this year, has been most unprecedentedly cold, wet and late. The labours of the field for some time past have almost been suspended. Persons owning dry, sandy or gravelly soils were enabled, in the month of May, to make use of the few fine days that there were during that month, but others less favoured have been thrown into the back-ground. Appearances for some time past, in an agricultural point of view, have indeed looked gloomy; but, as I write, the scene brightens, the clouds have passed away, the sun shines out in all its beauty, with every indication of fair weather. Wheat, for years past, has been but little sown in this community, and in the present year less than ever. Barley, one-half of the quantity generally sown has not this year yet been put into the ground. Oats—the most important grain with us, is perhaps one-third less in the quantity sown this year, on an average with former years. Potatoes, the planting of which is now being vigorously prosecuted, is far short of the breadth planted generally. But should the fine weather continue as (there is every indication of) this important crop will fully equal former years. The seed-time for Buckwheat is just commencing. Farmers calculate upon sowing a much larger breadth of this grain the present year than formerly, as a substitute for more important grains. Never in the experience of the oldest farmers has the soil been worked in such a state as it has been the present year. Not one acre out of five hundred has been in a fit state for either plough or harrow. The alarming continuation of wet weather induced the farmer to prosecute his work while the soil was in a most unfit state to receive it, yet the grain sown early looks vigorous and healthy. The continued moisture prevented the soil from being incrustated, and the grain sown under such adverse circumstances may yet bear an abundant harvest.

Grass and hay-lands look most encouraging and with the exception of very low lands, that have been damaged by continued overflowing and cold clay upland soils—with these exceptions, the hay-lands give promise of an abundant yield. The continuation of showers has done much for dry, light and poor soils, taxing them to their utmost capacity to yield a crop; while *well-cultivated* lands