

QUEBEC, Jan. 12th., 1899.

Dear Sir,

My basic slag, at my farm, cost fourteen dollars. That was the first lot I imported, last spring. According to the analysis, made by Alfred Lintham (it is hard for me to understand his signature) of Liverpool, official analyst to the Liverpool corn trade, the per centage of phosphoric acid was 21.14.

Yours truly,

(Signed) G. A. GIGAULT.

Now, as the price quoted in the *English Agricultural Gazette* for basic slag of the finest quality containing from 38 to 45% of phosphate is \$8.64 a ton, (Mr. Gigault's importation analysed 46% of phosphate) it follows that the f. and i., with landing and other expenses, came to \$5.00 a ton, of we presume 2,240 lbs.

Although this manure does not seem to answer on all sorts of soils, we think that experiments on an extended scale should be tried, under the auspices of every farmer's club in the province.

Bacon-hogs.—What is a bacon-hog? What is the breed of swine likely to turn out hogs suited to the requirements of the large manufacturers of bacon for export? What food is most likely to be converted into sound, firm bacon by the latter? These are some of the questions connected with the pork-trade in Canada that need solution.

Mr. Andrew Dawes, of Lachine, tells us that the Tamworths may make good firm, lean bacon for the English market, but that, after giving them a fair trial, he found it did not pay to fatten them.

Another pig-breeder, from the States, swears by the Poland-China; a third, by Yorkshire; a fourth says there is nothing like the Berkshire, and a fifth holds by the Chester-whites.

Well; which of them really deserves our preference? Who can tell? Is it not more a question of training, so to speak, than of breed? If pigs are fattened from their early days, up to the time of slaughtering, they will probably turn out over fat and too soft for bacon, though they may make good pickled pork. It is clear, however, that until the animal is exploited, it will always be difficult to judge of its suitability to the bacon-curer. Look at the reports of the "Block-test" of the Ontario Provincial Fat-Stock Exhibition.

The sweepstakes prize for the best live bacon-hogs was won by a nice pen of pure-bred York-

shires; but when it came to the block-test, these pigs were only awarded the fifth place! The first prize in the block-test was won by a pair of Tamworths; but one of them was 11½ months old, while one of the Yorkshires was 5 months younger and only weighed, when dressed, 8 lbs. less! Which paid the better is easily seen.

It was observed, at the conference that followed the test, that the packers received by far the largest proportion of cross-bred hogs. Many of the farmers present thought that a cross between the Yorkshire and the Berkshire paid better than any other hog, that is, for bacon. Mr. Leach, a partner in the Wm. Davies & Co.'s firm, preferred the Berkshire and Yorkshire cross to any hog, as the former gives the best ham, and the Yorkshire the length of body and the thickness of belly.

As to the feeding of the hog for bacon, good sound food and plenty of exercise on clover or pasture, with a month before slaughtering on barley meal first and then on pease, we believe to be still, as it used to be when we were in the habit of fattening from 100 to 120 pigs a year for the London market, the best treatment. As to cooking food for hogs, Professor Curtiss only repeated a very well known piece of advice, when he stated that potatoes were the only food for hogs that paid for cooking, a doctrine that was promulgated by Professor Johnston in his lectures on Agricultural Chemistry, published in or about 1846.

The following paragraph, from the *North-West Farmer*, gives the general opinion of the meeting. Can roots make firm bacon? We should doubt it.

The first prize pigs were pastured during the summer and had a little mill feed given them. When the cold weather came on they were penned and given roots and grain. Roots were strongly recommended for growing hogs, especially if the pen was not too cold. Pasture of some kind, with a little mill feed or grain, is the ideal way to feed bacon hogs in the summer, and warm quarters, with roots and grain, the ideal winter method. One of the packers recommended cooking roots for the hogs, but Professor Curtiss, of Iowa, who was present, said that the result of numerous experiments in the United States showed that potatoes were the only feed that could be profitably boiled.

Dairy-Shorthorns.—We see, by our exchanges,