

Berkshires vs. Yorkshires.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The following extract from the Irish Farmers' Gazette of the 14th November appears to be so confirmatory of the views of Mr. W. Davies, as opposed to those of Mr. Snell, Mr. Benjafield and others, who wrote in favor of Berkshires, that I have no hesitation in asking you to be good enough to give it in your next issue. Last week I had a native gentleman from the Philippine Islands here to purchase some Improved Yorkshires to breed pure, and to cross on the native pigs. It appears that as many as two thousand pigs are sold each week at Manila, the consumption of pork being very large owing to there being so many Chinese in the district. The native pigs are small, coarse and lean, and very like wild hogs, whilst the Chinese like their pork to be very fat. I sold a boar and four young sows to be shipped about Christmas, but I recommended Senor Manuel Amor to purchase some Berkshires, as they would produce meat so much fatter; but the reply was that the Berkshires were too much of the same size as the native pigs. The desire was to breed a quick-growing, early-maturing pig, as everything matured at an early age in that country. Last week I shipped some pigs to Austria, and have now an enquiry for ten boars from Germany and some pigs from Holland.

Yours, etc.,

SANDERS SPENCER.

Holywell Manor, Eng.

PROVISION CURERS' ASSOCIATION OF ULSTER.

We have been favored with a copy of the second annual report of this Association, which was submitted at a meeting of the members recently held in the offices, Garfield Chambers, Belfast.

The chairman, Mr. W. F. Biggar, J. P., moved the adoption of the report, which referred in grateful and complimentary terms to the Pig Improvement Association, as well worthy of encouragement. Mr. McCartney (Ballymena), in seconding the adoption, said the quality of pigs brought to the market was of the utmost importance. They did not get as fine a class in the north as they did in the south, as those here had a greater tendency to fat, and they all knew they would not accept fat meat on the other side of the channel as they did formerly. This matter should again and again be brought more forcibly before the farmers, and they should be pressed to pay more attention to the class of pigs they raised. A circular had gone out amongst them, containing the wishes of the Association; and, if it were attended to, and if they brought a better style of pork to the market, they would, no doubt, secure better prices.

Mr. Burnett said that some rules had been drafted for the government of the Pig Improvement Association. Prizes had been offered, and influence had been brought to bear on the Royal Dublin Society, with the result that these rules were adopted, and all with the view of having better animals for commercial purposes raised. Their association took the matter up, and issued circulars on similar lines. Prizes were also given locally, and the North-East Agricultural Association agreed with the suggestions, and they also altered their conditions. They wanted the judges in the local society to be the same as those in the Royal Dublin, so that the same quality of pigs might be raised in the north as in the south. In the south of England they gave a premium of half a crown for every pig that was lean. Fat pigs were now no use; American pigs, even, must be lean. Unless the farmers of the north did the same as in the south, the merchants would get the bacon left on their hands. If the curers all joined and supported the Association liberally, the existing state of affairs in the north would soon be changed. The Government had promised £200, a year, to be distributed in prizes over the country, and he looked upon this as one of the best things that could happen to improve the breed in the north.

Mr. Thomas Sinclair said the most important work to which the committee could direct their attention was the improvement in the breed of pigs. They had not realized yet how far in that respect they had fallen behind other parts of Ireland. There were too many Berkshires offered for sale here, and their farmers should be made aware how undesirable these fat, short, thick pigs were. The buyers from his own firm were told to avoid all such, and he believed others were doing the same. If they could get the Large White York introduced here, it would be an advantage both to farmer and curer.

The report was adopted, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Extracts from an Address to the Listowel Dairymen's Board of Trade, by Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Dairy Commissioner.

VALUES OF CORN.

In the growing of corn for cattle feeding it has been settled clearly that when the stalks have reached the tasselling stage, they do not contain much more than a quarter of the feeding substance per acre which they afterwards possess when the ears are almost mature. Hence the advantage of planting corn in rows from three to three and a-half feet apart, in order to permit the stalks to carry ears and to bring them to maturity. If a crop of corn at the tasselling stage be valued at \$16 per acre, a similar crop at this stage when the ears are nearly mature will be worth \$72 per acre for feeding stock.

BENEFITS FROM SILOS.

The most economical plan for the storing of corn for winter feeding is found in the use of a silo. A few years ago when the speaker first commenced to agitate this matter in good earnest, the silos in Ontario could almost be counted upon the fingers of one's hand. Now it is estimated that there are about 5,000 silos in Canada; and the people of Ontario, with all their vaunted advantages, have not made so much progress in this matter as have the farmers of Quebec. About one-half of the number of silos in the Dominion are outside of the premier province of Ontario. Silos can be constructed inside of an ordinary barn in the country at a cost not exceeding \$75 for each silo of one hundred tons capacity. Ensilage provides the cheapest, most convenient, and suitable feed for milking stock during the winter. The use of succulent fodder during that period would enlarge the yield to the average cow about 30 per cent. more than it would be in the case where dry fodder, hay or straw, is fed during the winter.

BETTER COWS WANTED.

Not only should farmers increase the number of cows in their herds, but a serious and persistent effort should be made to enlarge the capacity of each animal which is kept. One farmer in the province of Quebec who kept an accurate report of the yield of his cows, made this statement:—In 1888 the average yield from each cow in his herd was 78 pounds of butter for the season. In 1889 it had increased to 121 pounds; in 1890 to 204½ pounds. That was accomplished mainly by the growing of corn and feeding of succulent feed during the winter season.

FEEDING FOR BEEF.

In the matter of feeding steers last winter at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, some information of great value to the farmers was brought out. Three sets of steers were put up to fatten. The ration of one lot was composed of hay, roots and meal. The ration of the second lot was made up of corn ensilage and meal; in the third lot the ration was a mixture of hay, roots, corn ensilage and meal. The animals of each lot were allowed to consume as much of the mixture as they would eat up clean daily. The ration of the first lot was composed of

Hay	20
Turnips	20
Straw	40
Chopped barley	5
Chopped peas	2
Oilcake	2
Cotton-seed meal	1

Of that mixture each animal consumed an average of fifty-four pounds daily.

The ration of the second lot was

Corn ensilage	50
Straw	5
Chopped barley	5
Chopped peas	2
Oilcake	2
Cotton-seed meal	1

Of that mixture each animal consumed an average of fifty-eight pounds daily.

The ration for the third lot of steers was

Corn ensilage	Lb. 20
Turnips	20
Hay	10
Straw	10
Chopped barley	5
Chopped peas	2
Oilcake	2
Cotton-seed meal	1

Of that mixture each animal consumed an average of fifty-three pounds daily.

The steers fed upon hay, roots and meal cost nineteen cents each per day. Those upon corn ensilage and meal cost 11.6 cents each per day. Those upon the mixture of hay, roots, corn ensilage and meal cost 15.6 cents each per day. The steers which were fed upon corn ensilage and meal gained over thirty pounds each more than the others, and the cost per head was only eleven cents per day against nineteen cents, the cost of those that fed upon hay, roots and meal. That points to the economical production of beef by dairymen, as well as cattle raisers when they use ensilage generally. In my judgment every dairyman should keep on an average half as many fattening steers as he keeps milking cows, and but few farms have at all sufficient help to attend to as many cattle in the form of milking cows as a farm should keep of stock. On most farms enough corn ensilage can be produced to feed all the milking cows which can be attended to by the help available on the place, and half as many steers besides. There is still room for very large increase in the number of live stock, since we send to Great Britain now only about twenty per cent. of the cattle which she imports. To grow steers to advantage, the cows, as far as they can be controlled, should be made to come in in the fall of the year. By that means a sufficient supply of skim-milk and whole milk will be available on the farms to raise calves of the best constitution and form. So far as has yet been learned in cattle husbandry, there is no cheap and efficient substitute for milk and skim-milk in the raising of calves and young pigs within reach of the ordinary farmer.

ECONOMICAL FATTENING OF SWINE.

The supply of milk during the winter would also make it possible to engage in butter-making upon an extensive scale in creameries; but one most important advantage would be the increase in the number and the improvement in the quality of the cattle and swine kept upon the farm where that practice prevailed.

In the matter of feeding swine to advantage, the experiments which were made on the Experimental Farm last winter were full of advice to dairymen for guidance in this branch of their business. In feeding 24 swine in six lots of four each, it was found that there was no additional profit from the steaming of feed or the feeding of it warm. The pigs fed upon steamed and warm feed gained in weight more rapidly than the others, which received a similar diet fed raw and cold; but the former consumed so much more feed than the latter, that there was no extra profit. Another point brought out was that the largest returns for the feed consumed were realized when the pigs weighed from 50 to 125 pounds live weight.

The following table shows the average weight of the swine at the commencement of each month:—

First month	62 lb.
Second month	84 "
Third month	128 "
Fourth month	166 "
Fifth month	191 "
Sixth month	205 "

During the feeding period of six months the swine were fed upon a mixture of equal parts of ground rye, barley and peas. The following table shows the quantities consumed during each month for every pound increase in live weight:—

First month	3.31 lb.
Second month	3.07 "
Third month	4.04 "
Fourth month	5.73 "
Fifth month	6.45 "
Sixth month	6.93 "

This shows that the lowest cost of production was during the second month of the feeding period. Every pound of increased live weight during the third month cost 31 per cent. more than during the second month; and the increased