

For the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL:

Prairie Stables.

LIKE SOLOMON'S TEMPLE BUILT WITHOUT SOUND OF HATCHET OR HAMMER.

As some of our intending prairie farmers would like to know how to build a cheap and comfortable stable for the prairies, I shall try to give you a plan of a complete prairie stable, root house, and hay shed. As most of your readers will know the chief item of expense in building with us is that of getting the lumber, but this difficulty is surmounted in the plan I submit. At the door under the shed is a good well, and as the water runs eastward from there it is always pure, and the manure from the stable is taken out at the east end, so that everything is kept clean on the west. It will be seen that there are two doors in the east end to admit stock. There are eight posts upon which you can attach wire or a rail in three sections marked III. Fig. 2, for the purpose of keeping stock from tearing the wall with their horns. Before building the walls put up the frame as shown in Fig. 1. Cut the upright posts long enough to be placed in the ground, say eighteen inches apart, so as to hold your walls steady until they have settled, as they will settle down four or five inches after being built. The posts for beaming up the walls will be 6½ feet, and the centre two will be 12½ feet above ground. In each wall there is a pole marked B fastened to the post at each wall, and it runs the full length of the inside of the stables, to prevent cattle from tearing the wall in going out. C C C are poles or cords to beat up ceiling F. The ceiling F is raised over the horses to prevent the latter from striking their heads. D D are cords to bear up the rafters. E E are sods upon the roof. You can place willow or birch upon top of the rafters and over that a little straw or slough grass, so as to make a smooth surface for the sod. The sods should all be ploughed up with a breaking plough twelve inches wide, and four to six inches deep as may be best. These sods can be obtained around any slough or low ground. After ploughing them take your spade, turn the face side towards you and cut your sods straight down and square across. To fit a sod around any post cut a notch in it. These sods are placed upon the ground (as shown in ground plan Fig. 2), so as to break joints. The stable wall is two sods or two feet wide. The root house is four sods or four feet wide, and built two feet high at rear and sloped up to over six feet at the wall of the stable. To bear up the wall, place in the posts. Two cords are then run lengthwise, and upon these place the rafters, and cover same as the stable, with the exception that the roof is made stronger and covered with three tiers of sods with joints broken. These sods can be easily lifted in your hands, and placed in a wagon and hauled to the desired site. Take a spade and dig out about two feet in the root house, and place the soil at the back of the house, and opposite each end of back wall, so as to raise up the wall wide enough to admit a wagon and team when hauling in roots. This will keep the wall warm and make unloading much easier. Fig. 1 represents end of the stable as if end wall had been taken down. E E are the sides of the stalls. It will be seen in Fig. 1 that every fourth sod is laid acrosswise so as to tie the wall together. Care must be taken to fill all loose joints so as to prevent air from passing through, also to level each course of sod on top to make a level bed for the next. B B in Fig. 2 is feed alley, C is feed box, D is stall for work team, eight feet wide, and handy to the door. The rest of the stalls are seven feet, except the one opposite corner to D, which is eight feet wide. The full width of the stable inside is thirty feet. The four mangers are each two feet wide; A A are the cross alleys. There is one window in the north side at west end of the root house, and one in the door at the north-east corner. These will give ample light on north side. Cut a hole in the door the same size as the glass in the window sash, and tack sash on the door, then take four pieces 2 x 2 ft. halve them together at corners, same size as sash, and place them on the sash, and with four small bolts fasten all to the door. Then take a small wire (1/8 in.) and run this across over the window four inches apart, on each side of the window. Then run one across the opposite way in the centre of the window, taking a turn around each wire and fasten each

end to keep all in place, and protect the window from being broken. Then you can place windows on the south side to suit your taste. To put hay in the loft you have a small door in east end. Fig. 3 is a hay shed at the west end of the stable, made of six posts and six cords (A). These cords may be cut to suit the size of the shed. The one end will rest on the stable and the other on posts placed two feet in the ground, and of the same height as the stable. Care should be taken to cover over the entrance to the stable, and hang on a door at the entrance. This is all that is necessary, as we have scarcely any rain here in the fall. By putting the hay in the shed, commencing to build in around the walls first, and afterwards filling in the centre, this will come out first, leaving that at the walls up to keep out snow and wind. The shed is covered with a few poles, and

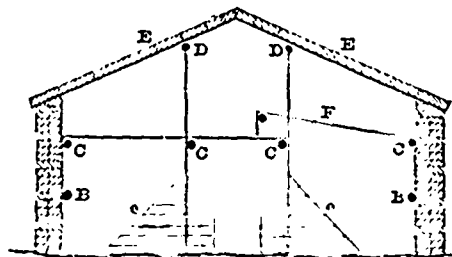


FIG. 1

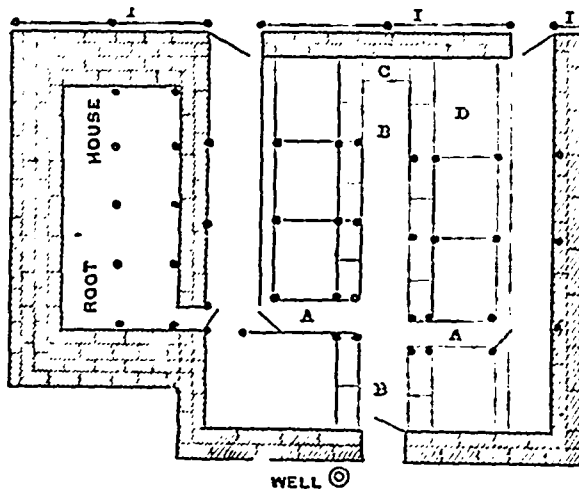


FIG. 2

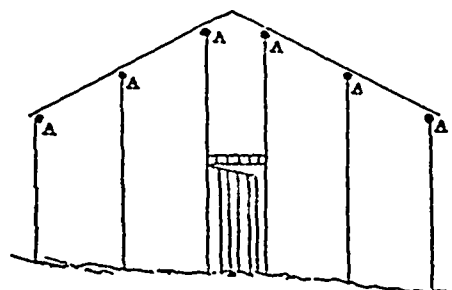


FIG. 3

brush then put on, and then a little hay, to keep out snow, and thus you have a comfortable place to feed from through the cold weather.

Saskatchewan, N.W.T.

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For the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

The Improved Large Yorkshire.

Some months ago a desire was expressed in THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK JOURNAL, that some breeder of the Improved Large Yorkshire would give an account of the origin of the breed. I had been in hopes that the subject would have been taken up by a more efficient pen than mine, but as several months have now elapsed without any breeder taking up the

gauntlet, and lest such reticence might be detrimental to the breed, I shall attempt in this paper a short account of what is known of its derivation. The works which treat fully on the various breeds of pigs are few in number, and in none that I have met with is there any complete account of the descent of the different varieties. To form a consecutive narrative, one is compelled to cull a little from all, and although much is of necessity left to conjecture, yet sufficient information is afforded by standard authorities to enable one to glean as complete a history of the Improved Large Yorkshire as of any other variety.

Without going back to the wild hog, from which all naturalists agree that our domesticated pigs are descended, it will be sufficient to commence at a much later period. Years ago, and prior to the time of Copland, there was a breed of pigs which existed over the greater part of England, and possessed many of the traits of the wild hog; they were long and bony at the legs, light as a greyhound in the carcass, and had long heads and large flapping ears; their chief recommendation being their prolificness, and the care they took of their offspring. Copland, in his *Agriculture, Ancient and Modern*, remarks that he recollected a similar breed in Ireland, but at his time it was seldom to be met with, a fact which may be probably accounted for by the improvement spoken of by Morton and which is alluded to further on in this paper. Coming to a later period, it seems unanimously agreed by all authorities on live stock, that a large breed of pigs prevailed in most of the English counties, which, while undoubtedly the same breed yet exhibited certain minor differences from the local circumstances to which they were subjected. Of these, the old York or Lincolnshire pig, sometimes called the Wold pig, which abounded in the Lincolnshire Wolds and in Yorkshire, was one of the largest types, having long legs, flat sides, narrow backs, weak loins, and large bones, very long from head to tail, chiefly white in color, with coarse curly hair, but were tolerable feeders. In Leicestershire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, etc., different types of the same breed prevailed, while that in Cheshire was the largest of English hogs. The latter stood from 3½ to 4½ feet high, were long bodied, narrow backed, slab sided, large boned, and long limbed; their heads were large and their broad pendant ears hung over their eyes, their skins being loose and coarse, but they fattened to an enormous weight, without requiring a greater proportion of food than a smaller breed; their color was usually white with patches of blue or black. According to "British Husbandry," published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, importations of Chinese pigs were made to England long prior to 1841.

There were two distinct varieties introduced, the white and the black, the former being better shaped than the black, but less hardy and prolific; they were small limbed, ears and head fine, round in the carcass, the skinned head so imbedded in the neck that when fat the end only of the snout could be seen, but they were for the most part much smaller than the common run of European swine. About this time, breeders of all kinds of pigs appear to have applied themselves towards remedying the undesirable qualities of their respective breeds, and these Chinese importations gained great popularity, experimental crosses being tried with them on nearly every variety; these were doubtless attempted in order to meet the then demand for early maturity, although even at that period it is stated that for bacon the Yorkshire was preferred (Stevenson's Survey, p. 537). Morton, in his *Encyclopedia of Agriculture*, published in 1855, mentions that the large breed, or Wold pig, had in his time made as great an improvement as any breed, and had become the most profitable kind, being then known as the improved Wold pig; he describes it as being well formed throughout, head of fine length, with pleasant, mild, docile countenance, ears drooping but not too large, back broad and very lightly covered, with wide well-set rump and chine, loins broad, ribs springing, deep sides and full chest; color, white; hair long and thinly set; it, continues he, is a very fine specimen of the pig, grows very fast, feeds rapidly, the quality of the pork being remarkably good, and having a full proportion of fine lean meat. Whether this improvement was effected by selection or by crossing, it is impossible now to be ascertained.