

Berkshires and Yorkshires.

MR. SNELL'S REPLY TO MR. SPENCER.

In your April issue Mr. Sanders Spencer has, through your good nature, secured a very large advertisement, in which he takes good care to puff his own wares without any attempt to conceal his natural *modesty*, which is well known where he is known.

I do not purpose to intrude upon your valuable space at any great length in replying to his statements. I do not call them arguments, as I feel sure that any one who reads carefully his letter cannot fail to see that it is a bundle of bold assertions without any attempt at proof. The attempt to leave the impression that the demand for pigs of the improved breeds for the different countries he names is confined to the Yorkshires, is an ingenious subterfuge, and is calculated to mislead only those who are not aware of the facts. I know from experience that, in my search for high class Berkshires in England last year, I had to compete with buyers from nearly all, if not quite all, the countries of Europe he names, and, in addition to these, with enterprising buyers from that greatest of hog-raising countries, the United States. How is it that in that country, where the hog interest is so vastly greater than in any other, the Berkshires and other black breeds constitute ninety-nine one hundredths of the hogs placed upon the markets? In the city of Chicago, the "Hogopolis" of the earth, there are probably more hogs slaughtered in one week than in most of those little European countries in a year. And does anyone believe that the wide-awake stockmen of this great stock-raising country, who have sought out the best of all classes of stock, regardless of cost, would have failed to discover the good qualities claimed for this much vaunted breed of hogs; yet, it is well known that very few of them have found their way to the States. But our American friends buy the Berkshires in very large numbers; they are our best customers for breeding stock, and they are the largest exporters to England of cured bacon and hams. They buy the Berkshires because they know they are best suited to the varied climate of the country, to the wants of its people and of its expert trade. There is scarcely a week in the year that we do not ship Berkshires to the States, all the way from Maine to California, Oregon and Texas. A sow has lately been sold for \$300 to go to the latter named State, after her two litters have been sold for nearly \$600. An Iowa man said to me only a few days ago: "We have no use for a hog that cannot stand out in the sunshine without its skin cracking and blistering, as those white hogs do, till, in some cases, their ears are nearly rotted off." How is it that in England, where Mr. Spencer and his hogs are supposed to be best known, the farmers do not want them? It was my privilege last summer to attend the Wiltshire County Show, one of the principal bacon-curing counties in England. Here the pigs were not classified, all breeds being allowed to compete, and the competition open to all England, yet not a single white hog was found in the show, but a large entry of Berkshires, all the pens being filled.

At the Royal Show at Windsor, the entries of Berkshires were greater than all the white breeds combined. And, on reference to the prize list, I find Mr. Spencer credited with only two

prizes, one second and one third, in the class of Large White breeds.

The crucial test of the breeds is at the fat stock shows, and I would like to know where the Yorkshires were at the Smithfield Club Show last Christmas, where the Berkshires won the championship over all breeds, and had the reserve number for the same, showing that they had at least two pens good enough to beat all other breeds. Surely those English judges ought to know what sort of hogs are best adapted to the wants of the people and the trade. But perhaps they are not so *disinterested* as Mr. Spencer, who evidently has no axe to grind; and if he had, is so very modest that he would not take advantage of a free advertisement.

Yorkshires and Berkshires.

While I am pleased to see Mr. Sanders Spencer take a hand in this controversy, there is one portion of his letter to which I must take exception. He writes:—"Mr. Snell asserts and Mr. Green appears to *accept* the statement that the Improved Large White Yorkshire is not recognized as a pure breed at the Royal." Mr. Snell's assertion was intended as a disparagement of Improved Large Yorkshires in comparison with Berkshires, and also as an innuendo that the former was not as great a favorite or as pure a breed as the latter. It is true that at the Royal no separate class is provided for the Improved Large Yorkshire, the class being for "Large White," hence there is nothing to preclude any other variety of pig which might come under that definition from competing in it; yet, as a matter of fact, the Improved Large Yorkshires are almost invariably the sole contestants in that class. So far from accepting the statements of Mr. Snell, I entirely rejected it, and pointed out that the fact of there being no special class, was no evidence whatever of their not being recognized as a pure breed by the Royal, and quoted as an analogous instance, the Shire horse, which has only within a few years since been allotted a separate class. In the ordinary acceptance of the term "pure breed" the Improved Large Yorkshire will contrast favorably with any other variety of English pig, but, as I remarked in my former letter, if the term "pure breed" be strictly interpreted, there is probably no pure breed of pigs any more than there are pure breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, etc. There are few varieties of domesticated animals which have not received an outside cross at some early date, and prior to the establishment of herd books and records, it is difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain whether any or what alien blood has been used; but this we do know, that there are at the present time herds and studs of all breeds which have been bred pure and distinct for many years, and have acquired certain desirable characteristics, which they are prepotent in transmitting to their offspring. It is, therefore, a matter of little importance, when this is the case, whether the Shire horse, the Shorthorn, the Improved Large Yorkshire, or the Berkshire did or did not receive an outside cross, some fifty or one hundred years ago, as the alien blood, if any must be now completely obliterated. It is evident the public recognized the merit of the Improved Large Yorkshire, for our young pigs are sold before weaning time, and we get correspondence in reply to our advertisement in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE from as far west as British Columbia to the extreme east of the Dominion. We have the strongest faith in the futurity of the Improved Large Yorkshire in Canada, and are so satisfied with our experience that we have ordered a second importation from England, which we expect in May next.

FRANCIS GREEN, JR., Innerkip, Ont.

Care of Foals.

The season has now come when the complaints of mortality among the young foals will again be heard. Last season was the worst for many years in some sections of the country. That there are causes for these epidemics is generally allowed, and in most of the cases it is not hard to define. In a general way, with the mare running quietly in the yard, not overfed, there is not often trouble, neither is it the case when the mare is worked moderately and moderately fed, but where mares are kept in idleness and fully fed, trouble multiplies fast. The difficulty is caused by the blood being heated. The foal should be carefully watched after birth to see that it has its passages all right. Should it be costive great care in the treatment is required, as very little over-dosing will kill it outright. In this case try injections of warm water with a little oil added, or pass a little lard up the rectum with the finger; a dose of sweet or castor oil is the safest. Should costiveness be anticipated give a dose of raw linseed oil to the mare before foaling. In a case of scours also try mild remedies; a dose of sweet oil will help allay any irritation, and often stop an attack of this kind.

West Highland Cattle.

BY GLENLYON CAMPBELL, ELPHINSTONE, MAN.

Having seen Mr. Jaffray's letter, in a late number of your paper, on West Highland cattle, I would like to say a few words also in their favor. We have here, I suppose, the largest herd of this breed on this side of the Atlantic—something less than a hundred—and I find them superior to any other breed I have seen for this country and climate. They winter out, never being in a barn or shed, only being fed hay in time of deep snow, and invariably come out fat in spring. Bulls we sometimes handle, and in rare cases cows; they are very nervous at first, but soon become very quiet if kindly treated; if abused they will fight—what Highlander won't? The hides of these animals are particularly adapted to take the place of buffalo skins, many of them being covered with silky hair from four to eight inches in length; the only difficulty is to get the robes properly dressed.

What Mr. Jaffray says about the offspring of Highland bulls and grade cows is very true, as the Highland grade is almost always larger than either sire or dam, and is always hardy. I find the Galloways make the best cross with the Highlanders I have yet tried, the cross being generally a hornless Highlander, with fine close hair, suitable for robes. About fourteen calves were born out in the deep snow during the cold weather in March, and are all right, only a very few of them having been taken in, and then only for a few hours to dry off.

My cows will average between six and eight hundred pounds of dressed beef. I killed two yearlings this last winter that weighed 500 lbs. apiece; they had never been in a barn. In favor of the Highlanders for this country I would put forward their extreme hardiness, their gentleness, adaptability for range cattle, their fertility (cows seldom or never missing), their capacity for laying on beef under the most unfavorable circumstances, and their superiority over other breeds for crossing for beef, and some of my neighbors say for milk; and, last of all, their production of robes.