

NATIONAL SWINE BREEDERS CONVENTION OF UNITED STATES.

This Convention held its meeting at Indianapolis, commencing Nov. 20th. The committees on the several breeds of swine presented their reports. From the report of the committee on Berkshire swine, we learn that the improved breed has been traced to a remote date, a Mr. Wallbook, of Ryham, Berkshire County, having possessed a Berkshire log as far back as 1780, very like the swine bearing this name in modern times. The Berkshire swine, it is said, were then generally large and coarse, though the improved breed existed at that time in various districts.

The first importation of Berkshire swine to America, of which there is any record, was in 1823, by Mr. Brentnall, an English farmer, who settled in an English neighborhood in New Jersey. The second was made by Mr. Hawes, another English farmer, in 1832, and others soon followed with larger importations. All these swine

were similar in size, markings and quality to the Berkshire of the present day.

Characteristics and marks of the Berkshires, as reported by the committee and adopted by the Convention.—Face, short, fine and well dished, broad between the eyes. Ears, generally almost erect, but sometimes inclining forward with advancing age, small, thin, soft and showing the veins. Jowl, full. Neck, short and thick. Shoulder, short from neck to middling, deep from back down. Back, broad and straight, or a little arched. Ribs, long and well sprung, giving rotundity to the body; short ribs of good length, giving breadth and levelness to the loin. Hips, good length from point of hips to rump. Hams, thick, round and deep, holding their thickness well back and down to the backs. Tail, small and fine; set on high up. Legs, short and fine, but straight and very strong, with hoof erect; legs set wide apart. Size, medium. Length, medium; extremes are to be avoided. Bone, fine and compact. Offal, very light. Hair, fine and soft, no bristles.

Skin, pliable. Color, black, with white on feet, face and tip of tail, and an occasional splash of white on the arm, while a small spot on some other part of the body does not argue impurity of blood, yet it is to be discouraged to the end that uniformity of blood may be obtained. White upon one ear, or a bronze or copper spot on some part of the body argues no impurity, but rather a reappearance of original colours.

Size of pigs most profitable:—It was claimed that a medium size is best for packers use, as well as for all purposes. The weight most desirable is 350 pounds, or 300 to 350 pounds.—Abridged from the Iowa Homestead.

THE WHEN, WHY AND WHEREFORE OF CORN FODDER.

The corn plant, like all other vegetable structure, has but one object or aim in its growth, and that is to produce seed. It is engaged nearly its whole life in storing up large quantities of starch, which is to be used when the pressing occasion ar-

rives, or the seed vessels mature, to form by some subtle mysterious changes the rich nutrient principles which are found in the seeds. As soon as this struggle is over, the corn plant, like all animals, dies a natural death. It is not necessary for the frost to strike it; it dies from simple exhaustion. The proper time to cut and feed corn stalks is during the four or five weeks which succeed inflorescence, or in other words they should not be cut until the flower is fairly developed, and the ear commences to form, and any corn that is so planted that the ear cannot form and mature is practically worthless as fodder. Farmers may learn from these facts that corn designed to be cut for fodder should be planted at two or three periods during the season; some fields quite early, others somewhat later, and still others as late as is safe. In this way when the hot, dry months of July and August are reached, and the pastures falter, a supply of fodder is secured, at a proper stage of growth to afford the largest amount of nutriment.—Live Stock Journal.



The Stranger.

Old folks and young folks, did you never see a stranger among you? Do you think you could ever act as barbarously as these wild animals are doing? What can be their reason for such treatment? It carries its own tale. You can enlarge on it, perhaps with profit to yourselves.

We hope in the next issue to give you some illustrations of Canadian stock. The cuts are in progress, but not ready for this issue.

THE OPINION OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST ON THE AGRICULTURE AND STOCK-BREEDING OF CANADA.

A late issue of the *Prairie Farmer* says: "The people of the 'States' are always inclined to look upon their neighbors in the Dominion as a very slow-going people, who do not increase very fast either in numbers or evidences of progress and prosperity. Still statistics show that during the past ten years Canada has received an addition of over 40 per cent. to her population; while during thirty-three years her population has increased from half a million to two and a half millions.

It is claimed, that as a rule, the emigrants to Canada are superior to those who come to this country, and that they are mainly English speaking people. Agriculture in the Dominion is in a most flourishing condition. If the yield of the leading crops there do not compare with those of the Western States, the money value of them is greater on account of the cheap water communication to the sea board. The character of the live stock all along has been improving, owing to the skill of the breeders, and the ease with which fine animals are obtained from Great Britain. The system of general education there is excellent, and is carried on much less expensively than here. The University of Toronto has the finest college edifice on the continent, if, indeed, it is not the finest in the world. The reputation of this University, as well as those of Montreal, stand very high among the great literary and scientific institutions of the world. No country, perhaps, can boast of a more moral, intelligent and law-abiding people than those found in Canada. If the cities there have not increased like our own,

their growth has been a steady and substantial one. The Grand Trunk Railway, with its numerous connections, was an enterprise only eclipsed by our Pacific road, which was chiefly built by means furnished by the general government."

ROOTS AND OIL CAKE FOR SHEEP.

If growers of combing wools should raise sheep primarily to produce mutton: should attend to the breed, and keep their sheep well fed, and care for them generally; and should also try and mature them early, so as to sell the carcass—we should have wool from well-fed, young, healthy, strong, well-bred, fat sheep, which is just the wool wanted for combing and delaine purposes. Farmers cannot keep these large sheep on lean pastures, with but little to care of them, and have good wool. And the great reason combing wool sheep run out when brought from England and Canada is, that they do not get the same care and treatment they had in these countries, and are often kept on soil they are not adapted to, and are not fed sufficiently. The wool from a Leicester sheep

that has been in the United States two years is generally harsher, leaner and worth much less than it would have been if the sheep had stayed in Canada or England. Now this will not always be so, for growers will yet learn that these large sheep need more to eat than the small Merino, and their food should not consist of Indian corn, but they should have some roots, mangel wurtzel and oil cake. When sheep are fed on corn they are too hot and feverish, and the wool becomes harsh and brittle, while a proper supply of roots and oil cake with other food will produce soft, sound elastic wool.

MEAL TO BE FED WITH STRAW.

When straw or hay, cut or whole, is well wetted, and finely ground meal is sprinkled on and mixed with it, the whole goes, in like manner, to the first stomach, and the action of every part of the stomach is made available for complete digestion. Not only can the dairyman derive better results from meal when fed in this way, but more of it can be consumed in a given time; because more of it can be fed with-

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