

Yorkshire Swine.

By H. S. McDiarmid.

There is no class of live stock kept on the farm to-day that should receive more care in breeding and management than swine. Every thoughtful farmer knows that a very large proportion of the food consumed by hogs is highly concentrated, and therefore is costly food; and, consequently, anything that can be done to improve the economical feeding of hogs, the same will be financially bene-



An English Yorkshire Boar.

ficial. It is, therefore, a fortunate thing for the hog industry of Canada that many breeders of pure-bred swine find their business a profitable one, and also find a good home market in Canada for their breeding stock. With intelligent care in feeding, and selection of breeding stock, the future of this industry will be greater, and even more profitable than it is to-day. The breeder, however, should ever keep in mind, no matter what breed he is using, the bacon type, and to me it appears the best, other things being equal, for the Canadian farmer to breed the breed of stock that produces the best finished product. The Yorkshire is, beyond doubt, the best bacon hog in the market to-day.

The Improved Large Yorkshires, as they are known in America, or the Large White Breed, as designated in England, are one of the three principal white breeds of that country—the Large White, the Middle White, and the Small Yorkshire or Small White. The general opinion is that these breeds have come originally from the Old English hog, a large white class of animal, inhabiting Yorkshire and other counties of England from a remote period. The Small Yorkshire owes its refinement in a measure to Chinese crosses, and the Middle Yorkshire is the outcome of a cross between the Large and the Small Yorkshire breeds. The Old Yorkshire was long in the head, in body and legs, was narrow, had very large ears, and was coarse of bone. It was hardy and prolific, but slow in maturing. Their improvement commenced, it is thought, more than a century ago. The White Leicester, introduced early in the last century, and crossed on the Old Yorkshire, effected considerable improvement, and the blood of the Small Yorkshire has also had an influence in the improvement.

About sixty years ago, or probably more, Yorkshire pigs were first imported to Canada. These pigs were much the same style of pig as the Middle White Yorkshire of the present day. But, about 1880, Wm. Davies, of Toronto, began the advocacy of the Large Yorkshires as the pig the farmers of Canada should raise. He and others imported them here, but they were very coarse and large. They were coarse-boned, coarse-haired, and lacked the quality of most of our present-day Yorkshires. As a result of careful breeding and selection, and good judicious feeding, our leading breeders have succeeded in producing a hog that combines to a very satisfactory degree the desirable size, with smoothness, strong bone, without coarseness, early maturity and prolificacy. We see, nowadays, at our large exhibitions, excellent individuals of great size, length, and excellent quality. Our enterprising breeders, who have done, and are still doing, much for the breed, are too well known to need mentioning.

There is no question of the popularity of the breed, because they combine the desirable characteristics of an ideal bacon hog to a remarkable degree; they are the packer's favorite, generally. Breeders of Yorkshires are more numerous than of other breeds, and are, therefore, registering more stock than patrons of other breeds.

In our bacon-hog contests, and bacon-carass competitions, the Yorkshires invariably lead, and the quality of their meat is unexcelled.

A typical Yorkshire boar should be long and deep in body; large, but free from coarseness and wrinkles. Top line strong, and slightly arched from tail-head to top of neck; side lines straight and parallel; bottom line straight. This conformation gives a long, deep side, a full and deep heart-girth, a light even shoulder, a well-fleshed back, and a rump well carried out and full; a well-developed ham, and all parts of the animal free from flabbiness, which means cheap meat, are essential. The bone of a first-class boar should be

large, with quality, free from coarseness, and flat. His legs should be straight, and his pasterns strong and springy. His head should be free from coarseness, and should show masculinity and strong character, being broad between the eyes, ears well carried, and of good size, but not drooping; snout of medium length, and of fair size. His crest should be well developed, and his whole make-up should indicate masculinity and strong individuality.

The ideal sow should have most of the characteristics of the ideal boar, but should be free from the masculine appearance, should show strong breed character. Her bone will not be so heavy, and her side will be deeper. She, in addition to the above, should have at least twelve well-placed and well-developed teats.

From the feeder's standpoint, the Yorkshire compares favorably with other breeds. Experiments—and they are the only accurate means we have of determining—indicate that it is not so much a matter of breeds, but much more a matter of individuals of any breed, that give best results from food consumed by them; and, of course, all our principal breeds have been used in these experiments, as well as their grades and crosses.

The Yorkshires are probably not quite so good grazers as some of the fatter breeds, but, because of their strong limbs and hardy constitution, and growthiness, are probably the best pen feeders of them all.

I am a breeder of Yorkshires because I recognized in them the hog that best suits our great bacon trade in Britain, which is our best market. From the Yorkshires we get our best sides of Wiltshire bacon, and the quality of the meat is of the best, the lean and fat being evenly mixed, and of about equal proportion, and finely flavored. Then, the Yorkshire is the largest, and, indeed, the handsomest of the breeds of hogs in Canada to-day, and, to my mind, their feeding qualities are unexcelled, they being able to produce pork of



A Baker's Dozen and One to Spare.

Photographed on the farm of the President of the William Weld Co., Middlesex Co., Ontario.

No. 1 quality just as cheaply as the Berkshire, Poland-China, Essex, Hampshire, Chester White, or any of the thicker, fatter breeds can the pork of much less value as a Canadian product in the British market. Another point in the Yorkshire's favor is the size of the litters produced, and the splendid mothers the females of the breed are.

As a farmer and breeder, I would advise the farmers of Canada to breed pigs that best suit a great and growing trade; and, from present indications, I judge that the farmers of Canada see in the Yorkshire a hardy, prolific, large breed that they need to produce to suit the best demand of markets at home and abroad. We have in Canada hardly any room for the thick, fat, lard hog. A Yorkshire sire in a common-bred herd is a great advantage. He gives size, growthiness, length, and large litters. The Yorkshire is the strongest breed, and is, therefore, able to impress upon his progeny more markedly his excellent qualities, than a sire of any other breed.

Scattering Contagious Abortion.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have long intended to write you on an evil that to me seems to need bringing before our legislators. With a view to remedying the same, I speak of the growing practice of farmers selling out their herds because they have contagious abortion. Near here, within the last two years, there have been several sales of infected herds. The result will be obvious: it will spread to healthy herds, and cause loss to many farmers. And again, a young man starting farming, without much capital, has at present to run an awful risk, for he probably has to buy his cows at sales to start on, whereas an older farmer can raise his stock, and miss the evil. And so, to a certain extent, the young man, who can ill afford the loss, has to run the greater risk.

Don't you think, Mr. Editor, that it should be made a criminal offence for a man to load his trouble onto his neighbor in this way, rather than beeing his herd or curing it?
Ontario Co., Ont. NIVAT NON NIVAS.

THE FARM.

"Alfalfa" as a Crop and Feed.—I.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Alfalfa, or lucerne (*Medicago sativa*), is a plant that has probably been used for hay longer than any other cultivated plant. It was held in high esteem by the Romans during early times, and from that time to this it has been in favor wherever the best agriculture has been practiced.

It is a hardy, perennial, leguminous plant, which produces upright stems, flowers in purple clusters, and roots which penetrate deeply into the ground. Under favorable conditions, this plant furnishes material of high nutritive value for all kinds of stock.

Alfalfa has one great advantage over other forage crops, in that it penetrates very deeply into the soil. Thus, the whole soil is in use.

Next, remember that the plant uses the whole of the growing season, and it is the only crop the farmer grows that does this. It is hardy, and the cold has little effect upon it. As soon in the spring as the sun has slightly warmed the earth, the alfalfa starts its growth. Light frosts do not affect its growth, and soon after the corn is planted the alfalfa is ready to cut. Thus, one crop is secured almost by the time the corn is ready to be cultivated. Then, in about thirty or thirty-five days, there is a second crop ready. Then, about thirty or forty days later, a third crop is ready for cutting.

Best of all, the forage which the alfalfa plant produces is the richest and most palatable that the farmer can grow. The alfalfa, when cut at the right time, is very rich in protein. This is the compound that makes the red flesh and red blood in all animals. It is also that which goes to nourish the brain, the nerve and vital process. It is also rich in the elements which enter into the composition of bone.

In Ontario, alfalfa is grown for the production of hay, green fodder, pasture, seed, green manure, silage, and other purposes.

Horsemen of the present day have the universal opinion that, for the raising of horses, there is no food that approaches the value of alfalfa, both for pasture and for hay. Some of the finest horses found on the market have been reared on alfalfa pastures, and fed a light ration of it during the winter. The essential feature is that it should be fairly mature when cut, and not mouldy or musty. When alfalfa is fed, less grain is required. Horses doing regular work should not be fed more than one pound of hay per hundred pounds of live weight per day.

To the cattleman and the dairyman, alfalfa is increasing in favor. It is one of the best flesh and milk producing foods available at the present day. Cows fed alfalfa hay as part of their ration will give milk as with no other possible combination of foods. Alfalfa is nearly as rich, pound for pound, as wheat bran, and, therefore, we get an insight as to its value as a food.

For pasturing purposes it has no equal, owing to its rapid growth, its palatability, and its milk and flesh producing constituents.



Typical Yorkshire Sow.

It is an excellent food for sheep, if not fed in too large quantities.

As a food (both as pasture and hay) for hogs it has no equal. It is exceedingly good for young, growing hogs, and for brood sows, as a pasture, and gains from fattening hogs can be