

but then he goes no further—the fact that the pig is pure-bred is sufficient; it never occurs to him to question whether he will mate well with the sow with which he is about to be coupled; consequently, he is disappointed with the result, and, as I have noticed in a good many cases, instead of trying to find out where his mistake has been, he gives vent to his disappointment by declaring that “this pure-bred stock is all humbug, anyway and there is no money in it for poor men;” and so he goes back to his old way of doing things, breeding first to one pig, then to another—this year to a pure-bred, next year to a scrub—and so on, never having the least idea as to what sort of a litter he is going to get, and, as a result, when he comes to do his marketing, instead of having a nice, even lot of porkers that will bring the highest price, he has a lot of miserable brutes of all sizes and shapes, that will not at the outside bring more than 20 to 30 per cent. less than the top market price.

To return, however, to the subject of “Breeding Pigs,” the first point we have to consider is, “What style of pig is best suited to the requirements of the market of to-day?” And here we find that there has been a great change in public opinion in the last few years, and, I am sorry to say, we also find that our Canadian farmers have not by any means manifested a disposition to keep pace with this change. In support of this statement I may be allowed to make some quotations from a letter written to my friend, Mr. Cheesman, by Messrs. Wm. Davies & Co., of Toronto. After stating that they have been for over thirty years engaged in the business of packing and curing pork, they declare that, while a few years ago the demand was almost entirely for heavy fat pork, public taste now seems to have changed completely, and what the market now calls for is light, fleshy meat. This opinion is, I may say, identical with that expressed by such authorities as Mr. A. W. Shaw, of Limerick; Messrs. Harris, of Calne, Wiltshire, and many other well-known firms in the bacon trade; to return, however, to Messrs. Davies & Co.'s letter, we find the following statement:—“During the year 1887 we slaughtered 63,457 hogs. Owing to the indifference of the Canadian farmer to this department of agriculture, more than half of this number was obtained on the other side of the line. When buying hogs in the markets of the United States, we have no difficulty, owing to the large number regularly for sale, in picking out exactly the class that suits our purpose. Of this kind we purchased last year 33,113. They averaged 176 lbs., and cost, laid down here, \$5.19 per cwt. Their yield was 78 per cent. dressed weight. Our Canadian purchases consisted of 26,244 prime hogs, between 140 and 200 lbs. They averaged 174½ lbs., and cost \$5.25 per cwt. In order to secure these we were compelled to take 4,100 unsuitable hogs, the objection to them being that they were either too heavy or too light, half fed or rough. These averaged 223½ lbs. and cost \$4.47½ per cwt.”

Just think of this: out of 63,457 hogs slaughtered by one firm in Toronto, 33,113 were purchased in the United States at a cost of \$298,017; in other words nearly \$300,000 went from Toronto in 1887 to pay for American hogs, while the year before our farmers were content to sell their barley for from forty-eight to fifty-six cents a bushel, and then sit down and “howl” about hard times! And let me also call your attention to

the fact, that the reason these hogs were brought from the United States was, not that there were no more hogs to be obtained in Canada, but that the class of hogs on the Canadian market was not suited to the requirements of the bacon trade; witness the 4,100 hogs purchased by Messrs. Davies & Co. against their will at a cost of \$4.47½ per cwt., or 77½ cents per cwt. less than they were willing to pay for first-class hogs. Now, let me try to point out where I think our farmers are at fault in their judgment with regard to what kind of pigs to breed. They go in too much for weight and fat, while, as I have already pointed out to you, all the demand is for light, lean meat. Another thing, they pay too much attention to the hams, while neglecting more important points. For example:—I continually hear the remark made on a show-ground: “There's a good pig; look at his hams; look how square he is.” Now, it is not the square, heavy-quartered pig that gives the best return; it is the lengthy, deep-sided pig. If we examine the price-lists of any bacon-curing establishment, we find that the highest prices are paid for those parts of the carcass that lie between a line drawn straight down behind the shoulder and another drawn parallel to it in front of the ham; indeed, I may say that when in Ireland two years ago, I was told by a large bacon-curer there that, taking a pig bought at so much per lb. all round and dividing the carcass as I have mentioned, he would lose money on the first third, *i. e.*, the head and shoulders, would clear himself on the hind third, *i. e.*, the hams, &c., and would look to the middle third to make up the deficiency on the front and to make his profit. The moral to be drawn from this being, in a few words, breed a pig with as much middle as you can without being rough or coarse, or, to quote the words of Mr. A. W. Shaw, who is head of the second largest bacon-curing establishment in the British empire, “What is really wanted is a pig that is neat in the head, light in the neck and shoulders, deep in the heart, thick in the loin, stout in the thigh and short in the legs.”

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The best way to market oats is to feed them to good, young draft horses.

It is said that in the Northwest, the expense of keeping sheep yearly is only thirty cents per head.

Disinfectants are better than disease. Look into the condition of cesspools, sink drains, poultry-houses, etc.

If farmers had the same relish for swapping experience that they have for swapping horses, they would all be the gainers.

When the horse shies at some object, or stumbles, do not whip him. Help him to stand, and show him the folly of his fear.

For colic in horses, take one teaspoonful of the salt of tartar to one pint of water; shake well, and drench the animal with it, and if not relieved in one-half hour, repeat the dose; but I do not think you will have to repeat the dose.

A New York farmer argues that one ton of clover hay contains nine or ten per cent. of albuminoids, while a ton of timothy hay has only 5½ per cent. of these valuable nutriments. Clover hay is always cheaper than timothy, and oftentimes 30 to 50 per cent. cheaper. Hence farmers should grow timothy for sale, and clover for feeding out to their own stock. Again, Mr. Stewart claims that if a ton of straw containing 2 or 2½ per cent. of albuminoids is mixed with a ton of clover hay, the mixture contains the same nutritious substances as two tons of timothy hay, certainly another argument in favor of feeding the clover.

The Farm.

Beautifying Our Farms.

BY JOHN CAMPBELL, JR., WOODVILLE, ONT.

This is a line of our business which does not get in this country the share of attention that it is worthy of. The reasons why are not difficult to discover. Necessity has compelled farmers in by-gone years (and, to a certain extent, does yet) to devote their time closely to produce from their farms the means to live by.

We cannot but admire the pluck and perseverance of the pioneers who have made our country what it is. Considering the most difficult work of clearing heavily-timbered land, and the many hardships they had to endure, can it not be truly said, that the equals of our forefathers as settlers would be hard to find? Many of them did more or less in the way of beautifying, as they plodded on. Some can remember the old shanties, roofed over with the hollowed-out, split logs, many of which showed good taste, in the neatness seen within and without.

Now, that such a grand country has come into our possession, should we not do our part in improving it?

No doubt we have many difficulties to contend with, and much remains to be done. Notes and accounts have to be met; mortgages compel attention; draining is very necessary; also building, and many improvements: but yet I believe the time has come when we should aim at adding to the general appearance of our homes and farms. Improvements of this kind may not increase our incomes, but will surely enhance the value of our properties, and add sunshine to our lives.

It has been said that when passing through the country for the first time, a close observer can guess what the character and circumstances of the occupants of the farms he passes are. Were that strictly correct, it would follow that wherever we see disorder, neglect, and want of harmony prevailing, we would find lack of means, or spendthrift habits, as the cause. I much doubt if either is the cause, in a large number, or perhaps in the majority of instances; for can we not call to mind some whom we know are temperate and wealthy, but looking over their farms, would lead us to believe they were either drunkards or in poverty.

Let us, in imagination, take a trip through the land. And now we come to a fine farm, apparently well tilled, with good out-buildings and a splendid brick house, large and finished throughout in a first-class manner. We decide at once, and rightly, that the owner is a prosperous farmer, with a good bank account. But, after all, there is something lacking. There is a cold, bleak look about this home, and probably it is cheerless within. It may be the want of trees, or the rough rail fence with which the door-yard is enclosed, or the heap of rubbish here, and the bunch of burdocks yonder.

Whatever it is, a closer inspection lessens our admiration, as the surroundings are sadly out of keeping with the fine house.

We take our leave, and soon come to another home. It is rather small, compared with the one we left, and, did it stand alone, we would deem it plain, if not ugly. But with its immediate surroundings all that we can desire, the whole is pleasing to behold. It has its grass plot neatly