

J. A. S. Macmillan's Shopshires.

Sheep-breeding is one of the industries that has not as yet received, in Canada, anything like the attention its importance merits. Thousands of acres of the lighter rolling lands appear especially adapted for sheep pastures, and even on the heavier land sheep thrive well and are not subject to any of the diseases so common in other countries. It is almost needless to say, that when properly managed, sheep rearing is a very profitable business; the price of mutton being high, feed very cheap, expensive buildings not necessary, and no great amount of manual labor being required, this is bound to become one of our leading industries. As in all other branches of live stock husbandry, great importance attaches to the quality of the stock raised, hence the necessity of using only pure-bred sires.

In order to meet the growing demand for pure-bred stock, Mr. J. A. S. Macmillan, of Brandon, imported last fall a flock of pure Shopshires, consisting of two hundred ewes and three rams, a draft from which forms the handsome engraving on the front page of this issue. Mr. Macmillan made his selection from some of the most celebrated flocks in England; such as Mr. Mansell, of Spinal; Mr. Inger, of Thorpe; Mrs. Barrs, of Odstare Hall, and others. The best ram, Odstare Edgar, bred by Mrs. Barrs, is full brother to her champion ram, sweepstakes winner in all leading English shows last year, and which was sold at auction for \$840. The ewes selected from Mrs. Barrs' flock are by the same sire as Champion. Full particulars of this importation appeared in our issue of November, 1892. From the two hundred shearing ewes, Mr. Macmillan reports two hundred fine, healthy lambs, and so well satisfied is he as to the future prospects of the sheep business that he is now in England selecting another lot which he will bring out with him, a review of which we will publish on their arrival. He imports all breeds of sheep, and will have some choice pure-breds for sale this fall, also some good grades.

In comparison with a year ago, the number of hogs packed at Chicago from March 1st to June 15th show a decrease of 450,000, while within the last three weeks Western packing has shown a reduction of at least twenty-two per cent. from the number packed for the corresponding period of last year.

The International Reciprocity Convention, held last month in St. Paul, was very successful. A large gathering of influential men from the Northwest and Middle States, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, expressed themselves strongly in favor of closer trade relations between the two countries. James Fisher, M. P. P. for Russell, was elected president for the ensuing year.

The Scottish Farmer has the following:—"Consistently with the policy which he has announced as his determination to follow, Mr. Gardner cannot, in the absence of proved disease, very well do anything else than withdraw the slaughter order, should no disease appear in Canadian cattle after a sufficient investigation. The whole question will turn on this, What is a sufficient investigation? and about this there are likely to be nearly as many opinions as there are parties." The above is quite true, but we would like to state a few facts: First, Pleuro-pneumonia has never been known in the Dominion of Canada. The first time that anything was heard of it, this disease was brought over by cattle imported from England. Measures were at once taken to stamp it out, and it was never allowed to go any further than the quarantine station. Pleuro-pneumonia is not known in the section from which the suspected animals were supposed to have come, and prominent veterinary surgeons in England disagreed as to whether it was the dreaded disease or not. This spring, out of between five or six thousand cattle which have been slaughtered, only one has been suspected, and it also came from a place which was never suspected of being infested with the disease, and in this case the English authorities do not seem in a hurry about giving their decision. In view of all this, and the fact that Sir John Leng stated in the British House of Commons that it was the invariable experience of Scottish farmers to find that the lungs of Canadian cattle were far healthier than a corresponding number of either English or Irish cattle, we would like to respectfully ask our contemporary what would be a sufficient investigation.

New Trees for the Brandon Experimental Farm.

Mr. Bedford has recently returned from a trip to Rat Portage, whither he went to select a supply of hardy evergreens, Eastern Ontario evergreens having proved very disappointing. He brought back with him two thousand trees, including balsam, jack pine, red pine, white pine, tamarac, black and white spruce, mountain ash, Labrador pea, maple leaf cornus, etc. Many of these are new to the farm and will be watched with interest to see how they succeed.

Keep tools bright and sharp. Never work with a dull hoe, or in fact any other tool, for it is a waste of labor. Always take a file to the field with you.

Take advantage of slack times and wet days to put the fences in good order before the pastures get bare. Poor fences and short feed make breachy, unmanageable animals.

Farmers are frequently advised to leave salt in the field within reach of their stock at all times. This is very good advice, but still the old-fashioned way of carrying out the salt as often as it is needed will give equally as good results, and has this advantage that the average farmer will visit his animals oftener in the busy times than if he knew that they had plenty of salt, and will be on hand if any are injured in any way and thus know them better and can see just how each one is doing.

The Connecticut Legislature has just passed a law that provides that any person who has a dog in the habit of going out on the road to snarl, bite, or otherwise annoy those lawfully using the highway, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding seven dollars, or be imprisoned for not more than ten days, providing that written notice regarding the dog has been given to the owner by a justice of the peace. This is another step in advance of this country, and one which might be copied with good results by our legislature.

Change your stock from one pasture field to another every week or two, even if you have to put a fence down the middle of the only field and put the stock backward and forward through the gate, for it will be found to pay well for the extra trouble. The animals cannot tramp over the whole area at once, and while they are feeding in one field the other will be freshening up. Animals appreciate a change as much as human beings, and will do much better than if they could feed over the whole extent of pasture at once.

Watch the sheep and see if they are troubled with attacks of the gadfly, the parent of the grub in the head. Some years they are more numerous than others. One of the best forms of prevention is to allow the sheep access to a cool, dark shed or a piece of dry woodland where they can find plenty of dust to thrust their noses into. In the absence of the above conditions it may be wise to plow a furrow across the field. If tar is applied to the nose often enough that it will not become dry, it will prevent the attack of the insect.

When our fathers cut all their hay and grain with the sickle, harvest time was the easiest time of the year for the horses, for they could roam at will in the pasture field, and were only needed to draw the crop to the barn; but now, with our mowers, horserakes, tedders and heavy binders, this is all changed, and from being the easiest time it has become the hardest. While the farmer has his work made lighter, he should not forget his faithful servant, the horse, and not as some farmers do, begrudge him the extra feed and care necessary to enable him to stand the added strain in the hot summer months.

The Wide Tire Bill of New York, which has just been signed by the Governor, provides that any person who uses wagons the tires of which are at least three and a-half inches in width, shall receive a rebate of one-half his assessed road taxes, but in no case to exceed the amount of four days' statute labor. The right to such rebate shall not be affected by the use upon the roads of buggies and carriages carrying a weight not exceeding a thousand pounds. New York is considerably in advance of Ontario in respect to this subject. A bill was brought into our legislature some time ago to aid the introduction of the wide tires, but for some unaccountable reason it failed to get through the House. We would even go further and offer a bonus for every wagon with wide tires which is used to any extent on the public highways. This would be a cheap way of improving the roads, for the wide wheels act as a roller, and instead of cutting up the road will render it firmer and smoother.

Canadian Cheese at the World's Fair.

The judges on cheese decided that each exhibit of cheese that scored 90 or over should receive a medal. The total number of single exhibits of cheese was 667. Of this number Canada sent 162, which were gathered from 110 different factories. When the judging was finished it was found that out of the 135 medals awarded, Canada had no less than 126, and also that 31 exhibits scored higher than the highest cheese from the United States factories. The honors were divided among the provinces as follows: Ontario receives 60; Quebec 52; New Brunswick 1; Nova Scotia 2; Prince Edward Island 2. Of the present year's cheese twenty lots from Quebec received medals, while only one medal went to cheese manufactured in Ontario in 1893.

Farm Scales.

Nearly every farm product is sold by the pound; if the farmer has a set of farm scales, he is rendered independent of the middleman. They will often pay for themselves in a winter by enabling a farmer to tell those of his cattle that are making a profitable gain from those which are not paying for their feed. These should be sold to the butcher at once for what they will bring. A few minutes will be sufficient to do the weighing, and the weights can then be easily compared with those of the previous month, and animals which have not made a paying increase removed to make room for better ones. In selling animals alive the farmer can always make a better bargain if he knows the weight beforehand, for it stands to reason that a man who is engaged in buying and weighing stock will be a better judge of the weight of an animal than the farmer who seldom sees an animal weighed. Again, if a buyer knows that you have scales at home he will be more particular that he makes no mistakes in weighing your grain and other produce, and if he should happen to make a mistake you can put him right at once and in this way save more than the price of the scales many times over.

Canadian Sheep Record.

The American Sheep Breeder has the following kind words to say for the Canadian Sheep Record, in noticing the fact that sheep entered in this record will be allowed to compete at the World's Fair without the need of registration in the American Records:—

"Mr. Garland has added the Canadian Sheep Record to the list of registers. This new record includes Lincoln, Cotswold, Leicester, Southdown, Oxford and Hampshires. The rules of entry to this new record are so strict that our breeders in the States can certainly raise no objection. Rams not recorded in some English flock record must have at least five top crosses, and ewes four top crosses; each of such sires must be bred by a reputable British breeder of that breed to which such animal belongs, and satisfactory evidence given to prove that each of the above-mentioned sires was purely bred and has been used in the flock of a reputable breeder."

The second yearly meeting of this society convened in London, Ontario, a short time ago. A full report will be published in an early issue.

We believe that there is some prospect of a dog show at Montreal this fall during the exposition week. This will be good news to the fanciers in that section, who were disappointed in not seeing their pets out in full force last year.

There is a great difference of opinion as regards the usefulness of lightning rods. Some consider them of no use whatever, while others are loud in their praise. Very much of their utility will depend upon the manner of their construction and their being kept in a state of repair. The little light things that are commonly peddled over the country are dear at any price. Both science and practice unite in supporting the statement that a well-made lightning rod is a great protection, but it must be kept in order, for if the conductor is broken or hanging against the building, instead of being a protection it increases the danger tenfold; yet in going over the country how many lightning rods do we find in just this condition? The current should be conducted several feet down into the moist earth. The complaints which are so often heard about lightning rods being of no use in time of trial, are chiefly due to either a neglect in keeping them in repair, or because some of the cheap, worthless ones have been purchased.