

Prominent Ontario Sheep Breeders.

Our plate pages in this number are of more than usual interest, presenting as they do photo-engravings of Ontario's best known and most popular sheep breeders. Many of our readers are familiar with some, if not all, of these gentlemen, and will appreciate our efforts to bring them more prominently before the public. Those of our readers who have not heretofore known all, may now become acquainted with each by means of the engravings and the short sketches we now present. If any of our readers desire to purchase pure-bred sheep of any breed, we can heartily recommend to such the breeders whose portraits appear on our pages.

COTSWOLDS.**MR. JOSEPH WARD**

has been breeding Cotswold sheep for thirty-five years. In 1871 he had a large and good flock of Canadian bred sheep, but that year decided to add some imported animals to his flock. Accordingly, he bought two imported ewes from Mr. Arthur Johnston. The first year these ewes reared three ewe lambs and one ram. The next year they reared five lambs. In 1872 Mr. Ward purchased and used the Duke of Burford, then a lamb, imported by Mr. Johnston, bred by Mr. Jacobs, England. After using him one season Mr. Ward sold him to Mr. Wady, of Kentucky, for \$200. He previously paid \$160 for him. After showing him two seasons in Kentucky and adjoining states, Mr. Wady sold him to another Kentucky breeder for \$1,200. It is said \$1,500 was afterwards refused for him. This sheep possessed a fleece of wonderful length, fineness, evenness and beauty. He was long, large, showy and upstanding—just such a sheep as at that time caught the eye and fancy of the American buyers, but not thick and fleshy enough, nor possessing enough constitutional vigor to suit English or Canadian breeders of the present day. The next ram used by Mr. Ward was bred by Mr. Gillet, of England, and cost Mr. Ward \$150. About this time five ewes were bought from James Johnston, Cannington, the dams and sire of which were by Robert Jacobs, Gloucestershire, England. Next a ram bred by Mr. Arthur Johnston, and out of a Jacobs ewe was used. The next ram used was bred by F. W. Hodson, sire his noted Gray Prince, winner of many first prizes at all the leading exhibitions in Canada and the U. S. A., including the Ontario Provincial, St. Louis Exposition, Indiana and Illinois State Fairs, besides all the leading exhibitions of Kentucky. At the American Centennial, held in 1876, he won the silver medal as best sheep in his class. That year and the next lambs got by Gray Prince won over 300 prizes at the various exhibitions in Canada and the United States. The dam of Mr. Ward's ram was bred by Jas. Walker, Gloucester, England, and was a very successful prize-winner both in England, Canada and the United States, finally winning the silver medal in her class at the Centennial in 1876. The next sheep used was imported by James Main. Mr. Ward's flock now numbers 110, forty-three of which were imported by him last season, being selected in person from the flocks of the leading English breeders, and are an exceptionally good lot, both rams and ewes.

JAMES MAIN,

importer and breeder of Cotswold sheep, is a native of Devonshire, England, who emigrated to Canada about forty years ago, and is now in his sixty second year, but being blessed with an unusually strong constitution is still in vigorous manhood. Coming to this country with very limited means, but with strong hands, a brave heart and the spirit of enterprise, he has been eminently successful as a breeder, importer and exhibitor of high class stock. His first ventures as an importer were in bringing out pigs and poultry, but in the last twenty years he has made large and costly consignments of sheep, mainly of Cotswold, which is his specialty, selected from the flocks of the leading breeders on the Cotswold Hills, including Messrs. Jacobs, Gillet, Swanwick, Baynall, Garne, Smith, Powell and others. Mr. Main has the reputation of being an excellent judge of all the leading classes of sheep and pigs and also of heavy draught horses. He will not handle inferior stock at any price. Believing that the best is none too good he will have only such as come fully up to the standard of first-class. He is regularly entrusted with orders by leading breeders of the different breeds of sheep to make selections and import for them, and has invariably given good satisfaction to those who have placed their orders with him. His honesty and integrity, as well as his love of British fair play, combined with good judgment, has made him a safe man to deal with, and he has probably brought out as many of the prize-winning animals at the Royal and other leading English shows for himself and for others as any other man in the business. His importation for 1891 included the first and second prize pens of ewes at the Royal Show, several of the best shearing rams that have been brought out in recent years, and a number of very grand ram lambs, among which was the extraordinary lamb which was allowed to be the best in England, which won first money at Detroit, Toronto and Montreal, and was sold to Mr. J. C. Snell, of Edmonton, for \$100. Mr. Main's success in winning

prizes at the great shows above named might fairly be called a clean sweep, though it was by no means a walk-over, the competition in Cotswolds being stronger than for many years previously. Mr. Main has some of his last importation still on hand, some of which he proposes to carry over for next year's fair to be supplemented by another importation next summer. He also has young rams and ewes for sale at fair prices.

MR. J. C. SNELL,

senior member of the well-known firm of John Snell's Sons, of Edmonton, Ontario, breeders of Cotswold sheep, has long held a prominent place amongst the advocates of this standard old breed. The Messrs. Snell may be fairly numbered with the pioneers in the introduction of Cotswolds into Canada, having secured a portion of the first importation of these sheep which ever reached the shores of this continent. This was in the year 1854, and built upon that foundation, strengthened at intervals by new importations from the leading flocks in Britain, the Willow Lodge flock has been steadily maintained to the present day without a break in a period of nearly forty years. The frequent importations which have been incorporated into the flock during these years have included a large number of the prize animals at the Royal and other leading shows in England, and it has always been the rule to maintain the use of first-class rams at the head of the flock. The records of the old Provincial Exhibition and of the late fair associations will show the high position this flock has held in the list of prizes won, and from the past few years selection from the Willow Lodge flock in the hands of customers of the Messrs. Snell have largely made up the list of winners at the great Western State fairs. Mr. Snell having through a long series of years in the show ring made himself a continental reputation as a breeder of high repute has ceased to show his stock at the fairs, but makes a point of preparing a good lot every year for his customers to show in their different provinces and states, and most of his sales are now made through orders, his patrons trusting his judgment and integrity to fill the bill for them, and so great has been the demand for Cotswolds during the past year that it has taxed the flock to its utmost to supply them; indeed several orders for ewes have been returned as they could not be spared without weakening the flock below the standard to which it is aimed to keep it. Mr. Snell's name and premises are familiar to stockmen throughout the country in connection with the leading exhibitors and breeders' association meetings, and he has frequently been called to distant parts of the country to act as single judge of cattle and sheep of which he is acknowledged on all hands to be a careful and safe judge. He is an active member and an ex-President of the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario, and a member of the World's Fair Committee charged with the interests of Ontario stockmen in that connection.

MR. JOHN PARK'S

flock of Cotswolds was established in 1870; since that date nothing but the choicest imported and registered rams have been used. These have been principally selected from the pens of Mr. J. C. Snell and Messrs. Laidlaw & Jackson. During the last five years Mr. Park has won upwards of 700 prizes with his sheep. His flock at present numbers 40 head.

WM. THOMPSON, ESQ.

Mount Pleasant flock of Cotswolds, the property of Mr. Wm. Thompson, Esq., was founded about twenty-five years ago, when he began sheep-raising with a few fairly good Cotswolds. He always kept in use rams bred by such breeders as Snell, of Edmonton, and Stone, of Guelph. About seventeen years ago he bought a number of imported ewes and a ram, keeping only the best ewe lambs for breeding. Again in 1877, along with his brother, he imported several from such flocks as Jacob's, Tom's and Gillet's. Those first imported were from the Walker flock. Since then he has always used rams bred by Jacob's, Ecker and Gillet, until the present year, when he imported another bunch which came from the flocks of Bagnal, Hubert and Gillet's, several of these, and also these of the former importations, being winners of prizes at the Royal shows in England. The flock numbers now about sixty head, all of which are registered. Ever since beginning to raise sheep he has shown at local fairs, and always carried off a good share of the prizes. This year he showed at the Toronto Industrial in company with Mr. Ward, and at the Peterborough Central and Lindsay Central, winning at the latter two all the prizes, while at Toronto he won first on shearing ewes and third on ewe lambs, also second on shearing ram and third on ram lamb, also second on the pen. At the North Ontario county fair held in Uxbridge he took first on shearing ram, and first and second on ram lamb; also first on aged ram, first again on shearing ewes, second on ewe lambs. On a pen consisting of four ewes, two ewe lambs and a ram of any breed, he took first. Since beginning to breed sheep he has shipped them to all parts of Ontario, and to different parts of the U. S. A., even as far west as Oregon. Mount Pleasant Farm is situated about three miles north of Uxbridge, a thriving town through which passes the Midland Railroad.

LINCOLNS.**JOHN GEARY,**

Blü Bro Farm, importer and breeder of Lincoln and Shropshire sheep, made his first importation of Lincoln sheep in 1879, followed in 1882 by a

large importation of Lincolns and Shropshires, and since then by smaller importations. Both the above breeds were for several years shown at the provincial fairs in Ontario by Mr. Geary with success, having carried off a great many prizes, medals and diplomas. Many breeders, both in Canada and the United States, have drawn largely from these flocks for their show sheep.

MESSRS. WM. WALKER & SON'S

flock of Lincolns was established in 1840. It now numbers 50 head of imported and Canadian bred sheep. The first direct importation from England was made in 1853, and comprised one ram and seven ewes. Since that date stock rams have been imported every two or three years. In 1887 two rams and four ewes were imported. In 1890 further additions were received from England. Ever since the foundation of the flock it has been very successful in the show ring. In 1891 representatives from this flock won a large share of the prizes offered to this class at the Toronto Industrial and Western Fair. At the latter they carried off the bronze medal for best flock of sheep any breed. On September 11th, 1891, the show flock was weighed. A yearling ram tipped the beam at 324 pounds, a ram lamb 168 pounds, a breeding ewe 323 pounds, a yearling ewe 276 pounds, and a ewe lamb 154 pounds.

MR. WM. OLIVER,

the well-known breeder and exhibitor of Lincoln sheep, resides on the farm taken up by his father nearly fifty years ago, who soon after commenced to breed improved sheep. About thirty years ago six Lincoln ewes and two rams were received from Mr. Thomas Wilkinson, of Dumfriesshire, Scotland. The progeny from this importation was bred to rams imported from the flock of John Bellirew, Lockerby, Scotland, up to the year 1881. Since that date the rams have been bought from Mr. John Geary, of London. Mr. Oliver writes that the demand for Lincolns is very good, frequently greater than he can supply.

MR. J. T. GIBSON

was born in England, emigrated to Canada in 1860, but returned again to England. He has had much experience both in Canada and the U. S. A. as a breeder of Lincoln sheep. He was manager of the New York Mills farms some years, and later for Colonel King, of Minnesota. At each place Lincolns were bred. He visited England in 1891. After inspecting the flocks of several of the Lincoln breeders, he selected a number of choice specimens from the flock of H. Dudding, which is said to be the largest and best in England. The ram selected was, Mr. Gibson thought, the best that could be bought, in fact he experienced considerable difficulty in persuading the owner to put a price on him. Mr. Gibson also choose what he thought were the best from among a flock of 700 breeding ewes. A number of the ewes selected were in lamb by a ram for which Mr. Dudding paid \$525, the highest price paid in 1890 for a Lincoln ram. The balance of the ewes bought were in lamb to a very large upstanding sheep, which has since won the first prize at the Royal Show of England. Mr. G. now has one ram and four ewe lambs got by this ram.

LEICESTERS.**MR. WM. WHITLAW,**

one of the most highly respected Canadian breeders, came to Canada from Mertoun, the home of the celebrated Border Leicesters of Lord Polewarth. He was naturally partial to that breed of sheep, so in the year 1841 or 1842 he bought from the late George Millar, of Markham, a young Leicester ram to improve his then small flock of ewes, and some years afterwards bought another ram from the same gentleman; after that he bought from various breeders the best rams he could find until the year 1871, when, being in Scotland on a visit, he brought home with him to Canada 12 shearing ewes and 4 rams. Some two or three years afterwards he made another importation of rams, and has continued importing at intervals ever since. The last importation made, four years ago, was five shearing ewes from the flock of Lord Polewarth; also two shearing rams from two of the most noted breeders of Border Leicesters in Great Britain. His present flock consists of about 50 breeding ewes, besides a number of ewe lambs and ram lambs, which he intends to keep for shearings. In a recent letter he says:—"I have always had a good demand for my sheep; greater at times than I could supply."

MR. JOHN KELLY, JR.,

founded his now famous flock of Border Leicesters in 1872, when he purchased from his father six ewes seven ewe lambs and a stock ram. In each of the years, 1875 and 1878, he bought a stock ram from Mr. Wm. Whittlaw, Guelph. The second proved a great success. In 1881 Mr. Kelly went to Scotland and selected three yearling rams and five ewes from the flock of Alexander Melvin, Midlothian, and in 1882 he imported a ram from the flock of Samuel Jack, Scotland. In 1886 he again bought two rams from this flock and one ram and four ewes from the famous flock of Lord Polewarth, of Mertoun, Scotland. Again, in 1890, a ram and two ewes were imported from the last named flock, and in 1891 a ram. Mr. Kelly says he never used a sheep whose stock he considered so uniformly good as that by the one imported in 1890. In 1891 Mr. Kelly imported five Hampshire Downs from the flock of Mr. Hobbs, Gloucestershire, England. These he intends to give a fair trial. If he likes them he will continue to breed them. In his hand they will no