

and half the number of good sheep that there are of poor ones would yield double the profit on one-half the feed.

Now I can hardly agree that a champion prize won counts for nothing as to the suitability of a breed, although the fact that a Cotswold ram won the champion prize at the County Show in Oxford, Eng., may not count much, it being right in the home of the breed. There's an old saying that "It's a poor rooster that can't win a battle on his own dung-hill."

And the champion prize won at London on flock at the late Provincial Show decided nothing as to the merits of the different breeds. Still, the Cotswold breeders have reason to be proud of their victory. It always carries its weight.

Mr. Shore, one of the judges, states very clearly the ground upon which the award was made:—"That they were the best and most even representatives of their breed." Had it been known that the judges would have taken this very sensible view in making their award (some-what at variance with the wording in the prize list), I have no doubt there would have been stronger competition for so valuable a trophy. As it was, so far as I know, the decision was a correct one. "Give honor to whom honor is due."

A single battle does not decide the destinies of a nation. "Bull's Run" did not decide between the North and South; but the army that wins battle after battle, and victory upon victory, is a safe army to enlist in. The merest chance shot may hit the bullseye, but the one that can hit it twice out of three times, you may risk your money on. Just so with champion prizes. The breed that can show the highest average in a large number of trials has good grounds for claiming superiority.

Mr. Snell states that at the Smithfield, 1889, the greatest Fat Stock Show in England (and he might say in the world), "the champion prize for best three lambs of any breed was won by Cotswolds for the third time in the last five years." Without disputing the correctness of it, I would like to know where he gets his authority for this statement. I have at hand a number of the official catalogues of the Smithfield during the last five years, and in them I fail to find any such prize offered. I also have the report of prizes as awarded by the judges at the last show (1889) given in the London Live Stock Journal, and no mention of a champion prize for lambs.

The assertion that in grazing the finer wools go in solid column, or in the shape of the letter A, does not apply to Down sheep. It may in a measure apply to Merinoes (or a flock of wild geese); but if it did, it would be no objection. The leading Southdown flocks in England are kept in hurdles for the very purpose of keeping them in solid column, to clean off the pasture as they go. Flock-masters find it pays to do so, and there are none more healthy in England than the Southdowns.

The Southdowns, the sheep that produces the "best quality in paying quantities," while we don't claim everything for them, have always been noted for being prolific breeders and excellent mothers, producing a large percentage of twins, and occasionally three (one too many). We have not heard of them producing lambs by litters of five, nor do we hope to until they are provided with as many teats as a Berkshire sow. It would be a curiosity to see even a Cotswold ewe raising five lambs, and a greater to see the lambs after she had raised them. In the next issue I will give some facts and figures that will enlighten many readers.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

### Hog Raising and Pork Products.

By the last trade returns we find that in the year ending June 30th, 1889, Canada imported \$2,500,000 worth of pork and pork products, and with the increase of consumption we have one-tenth less hogs in Ontario than we had five years ago; though in the four counties bordering on Lake Erie hogs have slightly increased, every other county in Ontario has reduced its numbers. By this it would seem that this industry has been neglected of late. As the additional duty lately placed upon imported meats will doubtless have the effect of increasing the price, more attention should be paid to this branch of stock-raising; the cheapest manner of producing pork should therefore be considered. The profitable hog for the feeder is one that makes the greatest growth at the earliest age; to obtain this the sow should be of good size and of the most approved form, with good length, deep sides, carrying her size well back, with deep, large hams. Old sows are also best for this purpose, as they are better nurses, and their pigs are stronger; keep the sow in good condition, but feed cooling food towards the time of farrowing; don't be in too much of a hurry to wean the young pigs, leave them eight weeks with the sow, they will do better afterwards; then push them forward with good muscle-forming foods, such as shorts or middlings. As they become older more concentrated food may be added, such as ground corn and peas. This food with a few roots in winter and grass cut for them in summer will keep them in good health; continue to push them forward, so they will weigh 250 pounds at from six to nine months; they should be farrowed so as to be ready for market any time between May and September, during which months the highest price can be obtained. This will be found much more profitable than exclusive grain-growing, and the advantages are that it does not require much money to make a start. Always endeavor to sell your pigs alive directly to pork packers.

The extensive pork packer of Hamilton, Ont., Mr. F. W. Fearman, writes as follows:—"The packers require their hogs alive all through the year, as they handle them to much better advantage, and make better meats of them, than they can from hogs which are brought in dead and dressed. The custom of killing hogs on the farm is being discontinued in many parts of the country, as drovers now are eager to buy them alive and ship to packers, and farmers find it more profitable to sell and get their money early. Hogs are wanted as early as May, and then on through the year, especially in the summer, as the meat cured then, with the assistance of ice, is in much better demand than winter cured. Even the farmers prefer it, as they say they cannot get their families to eat the fat, home-cured meats. It is easily understood that men who handle and cure tens of thousands of hogs in the year, and employ the most competent labor and use the best of material in curing, that the product will be of a much superior cut and quality than that made and cured in the old style of years ago. A great change has come over the provision trade in the last few years; the working people now, as well as the rich, demand the best of meat, and as higher wages are now paid, they have more money to buy the better article. By greater care in breeding and feeding, and the improved methods of cut and

curing, the consumption will become greater, our home trade thereby is increased all round, and all parties benefited. There has been a great deal said and written on the different breeds of hogs. The Berkshire has long held the highest position both in England, Canada and the United States, as an all-round serviceable hog, for while young weighing from 160 to 250 lbs. alive, or 125 to 190 lbs. dressed, which are the weights desired by the trade, it is good for fancy cuts of meats, and also when allowed to grow to 200 lbs. and over is suitable for heavy bacon, mess pork, and lard.

There is now coming to the front a breed called the Improved Yorkshire, which is represented as being a great improvement, and very suitable for bacon purposes, as they are long and deep in the body, thick in the ham and light in the shoulder, with a small head. They grow fast when well fed, making a bacon pig in six or seven months. I have had no experience with this line yet, but as there have been several importations from England they will be soon on the markets. I hope they are nothing like the old breed of Yorkshires, as that was a very coarse, unprofitable animal. I have always found a cross from a thoroughbred of almost any breed with common stock to make the best pork for bacon, as they do not lay on so much fat.

### Dorset Horn Sheep.

BY THOMAS CHICK, STRATTON, DORCHESTER, DORSET, ENGLAND.

Of the various breeds of sheep in Great Britain the Dorset Horn is one that deserves to be more known by Canadians than it is at present. As producers of early, fat lambs they outstrip all other breeds; few, if any, are such prolific breeders. Mr. Charles Horrell, near Winchester, had a Dorset Horn ewe that produced three living lambs on the 27th of January, 1889; they were all reared without milk beyond what the mother supplied, and in the open field with the rest of the flock. When these three lambs were eleven weeks and two days old, they were sold fat in Winchester market for £7 1s. 0d., the three lambs. Many instances of four lambs at one birth have been known, and even six lambs has occurred; in this case the ewe belonged to the writer. This ewe had previously produced three lambs at a birth for three consecutive years, and on the 15th of December, 1864, she produced five living and one dead lambs, thus making a total of fifteen lambs in four years. Dorset Horn ewes will take the ram at almost any part of the year, provided they are well fed, and will continue to breed if properly treated. Two crops of lambs in one year can sometimes be reared, and in a general way three crops of lambs in two years may be relied upon if desired. As an instance of early maturity, twenty-five lambs were sold fat in Dorchester market in June, 1889, at an average price of 38s. each. The dams of these lambs were under eighteen months old at the time, and at this present time some of them are suckling two lambs each, although less than two years and four months old now; thus by the time they are two and a-half years old they will have reared three lambs. Is not this early maturity and prolificacy? These sheep are now in my flock. The mutton of Dorset Horns is not excelled by any breed of sheep except the Southdown, to which all other breeds must give place for quality of mutton. Dorset Horn mutton is, in fact, very superior to that of the heavy coarse breeds.

Dorset Horn sheep must of necessity spread far and wide as their merits become known, and an opinion formed after an experience extending over about forty years, is that no animal will give a better return for food consumed, than a good Dorset Horn ewe, provided she is properly treated, and with suitable soil and climate.