

Fattening Sheep in Winter.

As a general thing, the price of mutton does not reach the point at which it will pay to fatten sheep in winter, till the winter is nearly over. Sheep that have attained a high condition on the late fall pastures will retain their condition far into the winter, if they get enough of clover hay, or pea straw, and comfortable shelter; and so long as most of our butchers can buy animals in even tolerable condition, at a cheap rate, they will not give anything like a fair price for those on which extra care and food have been lavished, in order to make them fat.

We have had some experience in the matter, and know sheep will fatten readily at moderate expense, if the right method is taken and proper animals selected for fattening. In England, where manure is of high value, it pays to fatten sheep to a very high point, and over a long period of time, the

object being not so much to make mutton, but rather to make use of the sheep as a cheap vehicle for transforming turnips and straw into a valuable and concentrated manure, in order to raise wheat.

Other things taken into consideration, large sheep fatten more easily and profitably than small sheep, and full grown animals than those that have not reached maturity. Two year old wethers are the most profitable to fatten, and it is a matter of considerable surprise to us that so few of our farmers breed them. Sheep will fatten readily in winter on good clover hay alone; we do not mean the dark-looking, burnt-up stuff commonly called by that name, but what an English farmer would call "hay," cut when in full bloom, and cured in such a manner as to retain all its sweet juices before they are turned into woody fibre, and of a good green colour. A sheep of, say, 120 lbs., live weight, will consume 21 lbs. of clover hay per week, and increase in weight 2 lbs. Allowing that it would ordinarily consume 14 lbs. to keep it in good stationary condition, an expenditure of 7 lbs. of hay extra will produce 1½ lbs. mutton, worth in the spring 10 cents, so that the extra feeding is literally realizing to the farmer at the rate of nearly \$30 per ton for his hay. No other stock, we think, will give such a return for the trouble of fattening as this. If it is desired to fatten sheep rapidly, the addition of a small quantity of oats to their other feed will be of great service; a gallon of oats,

once a day, among twenty sheep, will be a great help to fattening. Fattening sheep do not require very warm quarters, in fact they will not bear close confinement, but their quarters must be dry, well ventilated, and abundantly littered with clean straw; they must be fed regularly, kept quiet, have access to water, and an occasional taste of salt. It will be found that when the weather is very cold they will require to consume somewhat more food than at other times, in order to counteract the waste of substance used in generating heat for their bodies, otherwise they will lose, instead of gaining, on very cold, stormy days. Very few Canadian farmers have yet discovered how easy and profitable it is to fatten sheep for the spring and early summer market; first, because they do not generally raise wethers, and secondly they have not learnt how to make clover hay properly. When we state the consumption at 21 lbs. of hay per head per week, we sup-

pose that none of it is allowed to be wasted or trampled under foot by the sheep.

Kenwyn Farm.

J.M.

The Short-horn Bull, "Sweepstakes."

Amongst the most prominent agriculturists in the Western States who have recently directed their attention to the raising of improved stock, Mr. J. H. Pickereil, of Harris-town, and Mr. W. R. Duncan, of Towanda, Illinois, have taken foremost rank. These enterprising breeders recently paid a visit to this country, to inspect our finest Canadian herds, and make purchases for the improvement of their own. To each of them Mr. Cochrane sold some of his choicest imported stock. Some of Mr. Miller's best animals were bred by Mr. Duncan. From a number of very fine photographic portraits which these gentlemen left at the office of the CANADA FARMER, we have selected one of the best bulls in Mr. Pickereil's herd for illustration.

"Sweepstakes," the subject of the accompanying engraving, is four years old, and has won prizes in Kentucky as a yearling, and in Illinois and Missouri, carried all before him on the two year old and three year old rings, besides winning sweepstake prizes both years, (1866, 1867) at the State and other fairs. The sum total of the premiums he has gained amounts to nearly \$1,500.

The interchange of choice stock between our neighbours and ourselves, will be to the advantage of both parties, and we may thus worthily stimulate and aid each other in the work of agricultural progress.

Bits in the Horse's Mouth in Frosty Weather.

(To the Editor.)

SIR:—You often exhort your readers to treat with kindness what man terms "the lower creatures." They ought to do so. The highest of all authority says, "A merciful man regardeth the life of his beast." I am, therefore, encouraged to hope that you will allow me to say a word in behalf of a class of animals most serviceable to man—one, indeed, of the most useful which God has given him.

It is now winter—a season during which the weather, I need not say, is often intensely cold. It is well known that when what I may term frozen iron, is applied to a moist part of the skin, the metal and

animal tissue stick so firmly to one another that, if quickly separated, the skin is left on the iron. Now, any one who has paid the slightest attention to a horse's mouth, knows that it is a most delicate structure. Of course, then, as can easily be supposed, putting bare bits into their mouths in frosty weather causes them great pain. It not unfrequently happens that the skin is torn off, and the mouth made to bleed.

Speaking on the subject of this communication, you very properly remark, in one of the earliest issues of the CANADA FARMER, let a man put a piece of bare iron into his mouth, some day when the thermometer is far below zero, and see how he will like it. I would add, let him fasten a piece of cord to each end of the iron, and then jerk it about in his mouth. But many persons seem to imagine that, because the Creator has not endowed these poor creatures with speech, they do not suffer.

What then is to be done to remedy the frequent cruelty in this respect? The easiest

