

again bring the matter up, but in reality it was dropped, and we are safe in saying that it would not again have been heard of, had not the present secretary interested himself in the matter, with and by the aid of Messrs. Russell, Campbell, Jackson, Snell, Dryden, Mills and Hallam. This association, as separate and distinct from all others, was brought into existence, and all expenses connected with its formation were entirely borne by one man, but without the aid of the above-mentioned gentlemen he could not have established the association. To the above belong the honor and credit. Let it be fully understood this is a Sheep Breeder's Association, formed for their mutual benefit and protection, and not a Record Association, as was proposed in Toronto last September. A meeting of this body will be held in the City of London, Thursday, September 12th, the programme of which will be given in our next issue. Several very important subjects will be discussed. Hon. Mr. Drury, with several other distinguished Canadians, and Mr. Mortimer Levering, Secretary American Shropshire Record, are expected to be present and address the meeting.

#### Railway Tariff on Sheep.

BY ROBERT MILLAR, BROUGHAM, ONT.

In undertaking to address you on the subject of railway tariff on sheep, I must say, in the first place, that I have not given the subject very much consideration lately. I have been from home so much, and have been so busy when at home, that I have not had time to prepare any paper. But it seems to me that our grievances in the matter of railway charges on small lots of sheep are so well known to all shippers, that it is hardly worth while to say much on the subject. I think that we all feel that our business is as prosperous as any in the country; that we feel that, in distributing well-bred sheep or well-bred animals of any kind throughout the land, we are benefiting the public as much or more than those engaged in any other pursuit. And I say, that when any railway company hinders any person from purchasing well-bred stock, by the excessive charges which they in many cases make, they are doing harm that cannot be computed. I cannot use any more forcible argument to make this fact clear than to take, as an example, the Clydesdale stallion, Grey Clyde, imported about half a century ago, and so extensively used in the counties of York and Ontario. We have all known something of him; we have, I may say, all received a benefit from his being brought here. To put it stronger, I will say that he has been a source of untold wealth to this country; and we will be benefited by the Clyde cross in the pedigrees of Clydesdale horses as long as they are valuable. While Grey Clyde was benefiting breeders to such an extent, he was also preparing a source from which the railroad companies were to receive great benefit. Who can have any idea how many horses have been sold and sent out of this country on account of having the Clyde cross? And the railroad companies have been receiving, and will continue to receive, a great revenue from their transportation. While we claim that the good done by the liberal use of a good male cannot be counted, and lasts for all time, we also claim that the harm done by the use of a bad one is just as extensive, and lasts just as long. I believe that all of you have heard of Mr. J. J. Hill, of Minneapolis, who had such faith in well-bred animals being shipped to any district being a great source of revenue to railways in the future, that he imported, at great expense, a large number of bulls from Scotland, and distributed them free of charge amongst the settlers along his extensive railway system. I believe I speak the opinion of this meeting when I say that we do not ask that our animals be shipped free of charge; that we do not ask anything unusual. As I said before, I think the sheep-breeding in-

dustry is in as prosperous a condition, and promises for the future as much, as any industry in the country. Yet we do not wish, and cannot stand, to be discriminated against; and we ask that our goods, which are no more trouble, shall be carried at the same rates as groceries, or any other goods for consumption, the usefulness of which is there and then ended.

#### The Flocks of Ontario—Can they be Profitably Increased?

BY JOHN DRYDEN, M. P. P., BROOKLIN, ONT.

The business of raising sheep is as old as the history of man, for we read of the sons of Adam, that Cain was a tiller of the ground, and Abel was a keeper or feeder of sheep. There are large areas of our country which by common consent are altogether unsuited for the production of sheep. The land lies too low, and the country is too flat; but while this is true, the opposite is also true, that there are sections of the country admirably suited for these purposes, capable of producing better returns from the rearing of sheep than any other way.

I was impressed with this thought when, a few weeks ago, I attended a number of Farmers' Institutes to the north and east of Kingston. There are large tracts of country on limestone foundation, only portions being covered by soil, but much of this of great richness and fertility, yet so irregular as to prevent proper cultivation. On enquiry, I found sheep grew admirably here, and were always healthy. Yet, strange to say, scarcely any could be found. Why is it that our farmers thus refuse to keep sheep? Why is it that, not merely in this locality to which reference is made, but elsewhere, large tracts are found practically without sheep? If sheep raising could be made profitable anywhere, it surely would be in such sections as these. Several reasons suggest themselves. First, our farmers are inclined to be conservative in the management of their farms. If they have not been accustomed in their earlier days to the care of sheep, they will very likely refuse to embark in the enterprise now. If they have tried, at some time in the past, the business, and because of lack of facilities, or because of wrong breed for the locality, or for other reasons, it has proved a failure, they conclude that all sheep-raising must fail in the same way. Some have the erroneous opinion that sheep are hard on their pastures. Sheep do bite close to the ground, but they will often find their living where no other animal can exist. In my own opinion, where any considerable number are kept, they should always be pastured by themselves. Again, another reason is found in the fact that, originally, almost our entire flocks were composed of one sort or another of the long-wool breeds. This class of wool, having gone so much out of use as to be almost worthless, has discouraged many from keeping sheep at all. Having discarded these, they are slow to believe any others will be better. Some go out of the business because their sheep, left to shift for themselves on the road side in summer, and in winter jostled and knocked about the straw-stalk by cattle and horses, do not make their owners rich and prosperous. Undoubtedly, a little extra care and expense would add largely to the profit of many of our flocks. The erection of a suitable building, the provision of a separate yard, food at regular intervals, would itself bring many a useless flock of sheep into paying proportions.

2. The use of better sires would add a large percentage to the profit of the flock. So many neglect this important matter when prices are low and dullness pervades the market. Anything will do them; whereas, the opposite course is the only one likely to bring any profit. In dull times a good article alone sells readily, and at paying prices. The inferior article cannot be got rid of at any price or on any terms. Again, such sires should be used as would produce whatever is needed in wool or mutton, to supply present demands. There are some so conservative that they refuse to change at all

their course, though their variety is not in demand anywhere. They insist that soon a change will come; that certain breeds are being boomed, and that presently these will be discarded and men again will return to the old sort. My own profit in sheep raising in past years might easily have been doubled, had I earlier consented to lay aside the Leicester and take up the Cotswold instead. With that experience, I did not long keep the Cotswold when I found they were not wanted.

In a few years the essential qualities of any breed of sheep may be impressed on the common sort if persistent effort be put forth in a judicious selection of pure-bred sires. Just now, when a better demand is springing up for mutton, I think greater profit will be realized by the use of such sires as will form a supply to meet this demand. Let not our prejudice prevent the use of the best sires from the best mutton breeds. Besides, it is quite possible to create an increased demand by producing a better article in supply of that demand. As an illustration, it has been the wonder of many how the production of cheese in the United States and Canada could go on increasing year by year, and still the demand be just the same, or even better. It is accounted for by the fact that a superior article placed on the market has in itself increased the demand. If the father brings home a piece of cheese that suits the family, he will soon hear expressions like this: "Oh, what good cheese; you must bring some more like it when you go to town." So the excellence of that article produces in that family a demand for more. If, on the other hand, it had proved an inferior article, the exclamation would be: "Oh, what nasty stuff; we don't want any more of that;" and so the demand would be diminished.

The same is true in regard to mutton. If a superior article is placed on the market, those who buy it will want more. So I confidently expect that if these better mutton breeds are cultivated in Canada and the United States, that as the supply is increased the demand for them will continue to increase in the same proportion. It is possible to boom any class of domestic animals for a short time by united effort and organization; but when any breed spreads from one county to another, and from one nation to another, until every civilized country is reached, it is safe to assume that it spreads, not because it is boomed, but because of real and intrinsic merit. Is it not wise, then, to acknowledge the merit, and govern ourselves so as to share in the profit of their growth?

I know one flock of ten pure-bred sheep which produced in one season 23 lambs, the proceeds of which, when sold, netted \$33.00 for each ewe. The profits on the land used to produce these lambs would be very large. Everyone could not do as well, perhaps; but my argument is, that it is wiser to produce that which gives the best returns, even though we must change our methods and destroy some sentiment. Then, I am sorry to say it, but it is nevertheless true, that in some parts of the country those who would like to be keepers of sheep cannot do so, because of the prevalence of dogs in the neighborhood. I think in the days of the early church, dogs must have been considered emblems of evil because of the illustration used in giving the warning, "Beware of Dogs." Whether this be so or not, I am bold to say, the accumulation of a number of dogs in any community is only evil, and that continually.

I venture the assertion, that if you commence on any given concession and start through, taking special account of every dog which is kept, you will not find more than one to fifty which can be proven to be of any use, except it may be to eat the scraps from the table three times a day. So strongly have I felt about this matter, that I have refused for many years to allow a dog to exist on my farm. If all the legislators were of my view, we should very soon have some legislation which would tend to lessen their number, and so, in a measure, remove one obstacle in keeping a large number of sheep. I think it is a shame that after our fathers have driven out the wolves which originally infested this country, so that they might be keepers of sheep, that we in this day have to submit to the pest of dogs, which are often quite as destructive as wolves