

**SHEEP SHEARING BY MACHINERY.**—This seeming impossibility was exhibited before a large collection of ladies and gentlemen at the late San Francisco Mechanics' Fair, by Jenkins' Power Sheep Shearer, a beautiful and most ingenious little machine, invented for that purpose, with which the inventor stripped off the fleece of an old gentleman sheep in less time than it used to take an energetic foreign mining tax collector, in some of the mining countries, to strip the coat from a repudiated celestial, and that did not use to take very long.—*San Francisco Mining Press.*

**SHEEP WORRIED BY DOGS.**—On Saturday night some dogs attacked a flock of sheep belonging to Mr. Robert Barber, of Guelph, killing twelve and worrying two others so badly that they cannot live. Mr. John Kirkland, a neighbour had one sheep killed the same night. The owners of the sheep watched on Sunday night and as expected the dogs returned, but although shots were fired at them they managed to escape into a swamp. The owners of the dogs, it is thought are known, and steps will doubtless at once be taken to have the brutes destroyed and to recover damages for the sheep.—*Guelph Herald.*

**THE TIGER AND THE TASMANIAN SHEEP FARMER.**—A Tasmanian paper, the *Cornwall Chronicle*, states that Mr. Quinn, who is employed by Dr. Grant, of Launceston, at a fixed salary and £3 per skin, to protect the Woolnorth flocks from the ravages of the native tiger, lately brought up ten skins, thus netting £20 in addition to his regular pay. The tiger is a most destructive foe to sheep. Though not very swift, it is untiring in its pursuit, and invariably follows its victim until it secures it. The tiger is such an epicure that it "turns up its nose" at "cold mutton," and declines to dine more than once off a sheep as long as he can secure another from the flock. The extent of havoc that ten of these bloodthirsty animals would consequently make in the Woolnorth flocks in a year would be a serious item to deduct from the profits of the station.

**MARKING SHEEP.**—David Street, of Ohio, gives the following directions:—I first used turpentine, linseed oil and lamp black, stamping my initials on each sheep; in a few weeks not a mark was legible. I next tried boiling tar, keeping it hot by placing the vessel containing it in a kettle of coals. This was legible until the fleece was removed. I tried Venetian red and linseed oil, which soon became obliterated. Lastly I tried coal or gas tar which makes a distinct and durable mark. Mark ewes on the side, wethers on the shoulder, and bucks on the rump. Sometimes stamp with my initials cut in a block of soft wood; also use a stamp cut in a circular form, making a ring; and when in a hurry use the large end of a corn cob, making one, two or three spots near together. By marking sheep of different sexes on different parts of the body, it facilitates the assorting of a flock. Last spring, marked all my breeding ewes with copper labels, bearing a number stamped upon the face, suspended from the ear by a wire ring; but several of them are now missing, having been torn loose.—*Tucker's Rural Annual.*

**BROWSING SHEEP.**—Nelson Young, South Addison, Steuben Co., N. Y., writes us that several years ago he experimented in browsing sheep in winter, and that "he found if they could have plenty of hemlock they would eat no other that he could give them." Since then, "whenever his sheep are kept from the ground a week at a time by snow, he has attempted to provide them with hemlock." He says:—"It would have done you good to see my sheep meet me last winter when I drew the first hemlock top into the yard. Though they had plenty of first-rate hay and poorly threshed straw, they devoured the hemlock with avidity." Mr. Young thinks it keeps his sheep healthy, and that if they have plenty of "fresh cut and thrifty hemlock" they will not eat more than two-thirds as much hay. He says his lambs come late, and that "he does not know how it will do for ewes that suckle lambs."

Sheep confined to dry feed soon learn to eat hemlock: as above described, and they undoubtedly obtain a degree of sustenance from it—but whether as much as a third, as our correspondent supposes, we are hardly prepared to say. We have known sheep killed by eating hemlock when it was given them in large quantities after a long confinement to dry feed—but this never need happen, because it can be given more frequently, or more sparingly at first.

We should be glad to hear immediately from farmers who have used other kinds of browse for sheep, giving the results of their experience. If the present winter proves a severe one, there will be great need of eking out the feed of our domestic animals in every possible way. Dr. RANDALL in *Rural New Yorker*.

## Correspondence.

### Use of Wind Power.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I, perhaps, am somewhat lazy, and also somewhat avaricious, and want anyone or anything that I can get to work for me without board or pay to do so. I have thought that I might make the wind help me by saving my firewood, and even threshing my grain but I am afraid to try him unless I can find out how to keep him in some sort of subjection. You seem to know almost everything; now, cannot you tell me how to contrive the sails that they will adapt themselves to the force of the wind, so as neither to be carried away with it or be carried round by it so fast as to set my proposed mill on fire? I think that I can remember something about such sails in the Old Country, but do not know how to learn anything about them, except by troubling you on the subject. Any information will much oblige your subscriber and constant reader.

MOLA VENTOSA.

{ANS.—We quite approve of the endeavour to enlist the wind and every other material agency in the service of man. The best thing our correspondent can do, provided he can afford the outlay, is to obtain a self-adjusting wind-mill from the Mills Brothers, Marcellus, Onondago County, N. Y. They exhibited several working specimens at the State Fair held in Rochester last fall, and we were highly pleased with their performance. They seem admirably adapted for pumping water, sawing wood, churning, and driving machinery. The wings will adjust themselves during heavy gales of wind, so that the motion is uniform at all times. The frame and all, except the wings, is made of iron. We do not know how these mills would answer for threshing grain.

If our correspondent wishes to try his own mechanical ingenuity in the construction of a wind-mill, perhaps the following extract from "Farm Implements," by J. J. Thomas, may be of some service to him:—

"In all wind-mills, it is important that the sails should have the right degree of inclination to the direction of the wind. If they were to remain motionless, the angle would be different from that in practice. They should more nearly face the wind, and as the ends of the sails sweep round through a greater distance and faster, they should present a flatter surface than the parts nearer the centre. The sails should, therefore, have a twist given them, so that the parts nearest the centre may form an angle of about sixty-eight degrees with the wind, the middle about seventy-two degrees, and the tips about eighty-three degrees.

"In order to produce the greatest effect, it is necessary to give the sails a proper velocity as compared with the velocity of the wind. If they were entirely unloaded, the extremities would move faster than the wind, in consequence of its action on the other parts. The most useful effect is produced when the ends move about as fast as the wind, or about two-thirds the velocity of the average surface.

"The most useful wind is one that moves at the rate of eight to twenty miles per hour, or with an average pressure of about one pound on a square foot. In large wind-mills, the sails must be lessened when the wind is stronger than this, to prevent the arms from being broken; and if much stronger, it is unsafe to spread any, or to run them."

### Commendation of the Canada Farmer.

WE have received from time to time, in the course of correspondence, very flattering references to THE CANADA FARMER, scarcely any of which, through excess of modesty on our part perhaps, have been transcribed to our columns. It is well, however, that our readers should occasionally be informed what is thought of this journal, especially by agricultural authorities. We therefore venture to publish the following communication from the Hon. David Christie, from which it will be seen that so competent a judge as Douglas, of Athelstanford, expresses himself in very high terms as to the general character of THE CANADA FARMER, and particularly in reference to its illustration of one of the beautiful Short-horns bred by that gentleman.

Mr. Christie says:—"I send THE CANADA FARMER regularly to my friend Mr. Douglas, of Athelstanford, Scotland, and as his opinion of it may be interesting, I transcribe it from a letter which I received from him to me:—

"Many thanks for THE CANADA FARMER; it is a very well got up newspaper, and contains a lot of news and advice on agricultural subjects."

"Referring to your illustration and notice of the 'Queen of Athelstan,' he says:—

"The portrait of the 'Queen' is very creditable indeed, and the notice very flattering."

"The good opinion of such a man as James Douglas is worth having, not merely on account of his position, but because he is very cautious in bestowing commendation."

In this connection it may be as well to state that in addition to "Honourable mention" from time to time, some of the leading agricultural journals of Britain have copied original illustrations from our columns. Thus the Model Poultry House given on page 126 of No. 8, was transferred to *The Field* newspaper, with a strong commendation of the general plan of the building. The Bee-hive, illustrated on page 101 of No. 7, appeared in the *Agricultural Gazette*, and *Gardener's Weekly Magazine*, with the accompanying descriptive article. A subscriber to one or other of the last named journals, cut out the article, and enclosed it to a relative near this city, requesting him to order from Mr. Scott, one of his hives, which was accordingly dispatched per express to Britain. Such evidences of appreciation and usefulness are highly encouraging.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT SUPERPHOSPHATE.**—A Canadian Farmer wishes replies to the following questions. We have numbered them for convenience of reference.

1. Suppose a farmer has eight acres of land, on which he wishes to raise turnips and carrots, and has only a sufficiency of barn-yard manure for four acres, and superphosphate of lime for the other four acres; which is the best way to apply the manures; to spread the barn-yard manure over all the eight acres, and then the phosphate, so that the two will be mixed together, or to put the barn-yard manure by itself on the one four acres, and the phosphate on the other four acres, each kind by itself?

2. What is the proper quantity of superphosphate to apply to an acre?

3. What is the proper way to apply it, to sow it broadcast just before you lay up the drills, or to scatter on the tops of the drills, before or after sowing?

4. Is superphosphate of lime merely a stimulant, or is it a permanent manure?

5. Is bone-dust a permanent manure, and if both these manures are permanent, which of the two is most so?

ANS. 1. It is best to spread the barn-yard manure over the whole field, and then add the superphosphate; unless, indeed, our correspondent wishes to test the comparative effect of the two fertilizers.

2. The "proper" quantity per acre, is that which will make the land yield the largest crops of which it is capable, and we have heard of quantities being applied that are quite startling. Something depends upon the state the land is in. A barrel (about 200 lbs.) will produce very perceptible effects on ordinary soil, but we believe the manufacturer recommends as much as two barrels per acre to be applied. Of course allowance is to be made in such a case as our correspondent proposes. Less would do if added to a previous dressing of barn-yard manure.

3. Both methods are adopted. Care should be taken to incorporate the superphosphate with the soil, as it is of so concentrated a nature, that it ought not to come into direct contact with plant roots.

4. It is a permanent manure (in a comparative sense,) if really good, and its effects will be observed for many years after its application.

5. Bone-dust is a permanent manure also, but we cannot say which will last the longest. Our impression is that the superphosphate will act the more quickly of the two, but whether the bone-dust will out-last it, is a point we are unable to determine.

**TOWNSHIP SOCIETIES.**—"A. M. D., of Mara, says:—"I believe the fact to be, that the Township Societies are to the Provincial and County Societies, what the twigs are to the tree, the life of them. They are the societies of the million, and although as a general thing not as well managed as they might be, still no doubt they are progressing more or less, and by good management might do a great deal more good: one item of good among many others, is the facility with which they spread information on agriculture, through the means of your valuable CANADA FARMER, at a cheap rate by their united efforts."