

street, because it is the cheapest, they say. In summer they pasture their cattle on the summer fallow and wood lot, while in winter they allow them to trample their food in the snow about the straw-stack. Very unlike Mr. F., who is always careful and attentive that his stock are provided with the best of food and proper shelter. Now, there is an old maxim, which farmers would do well to heed more, "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

It seems to me that if the class of farmers of which I have been speaking would follow the advice of Sam Slick, and "cipher" more, they would soon see the fallacy of their ideas in reference to stock-raising. Experience has proved that it costs no more to keep a good beast than a poor one, and frequently not so much, while the profit is often nearly double.

Every one will readily admit that it will require a certain amount of food to supply the ordinary requirements of animal life, whether the animal be in good condition or bad, so that it follows, if the animal is once put in good condition, it costs no more to keep it thus than in a half-starved state. Now, if by carefully selecting the best, and supplying them with proper food and shelter, we can produce the same weight in two years that we can by careless treatment in four years, it requires no great scholar to determine which pays the best. Is it not an immensely foolish notion that what pays one man will not pay another, similarly situated? I claim that it is a reason why numbers of our farmers are so poor, that they acquire these prejudiced notions against stock-raising, and insist on perpetual cropping, until eventually they find themselves and their farms in a like state of poverty. It does pay, and it will pay every farmer to keep the best stock of the kind and keep them well. The stock will pay them in a direct way, and indirectly they will be paid in richer manure, and, as a consequence, more fruitful and productive fields.

FARMER JOHN.

### Sheep Competition.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I wish to call the attention of farmers to the mode of offering prizes for sheep in this Province. In the case of turnips, it is the practice to compete for the best dozen or two; hence a man, by the extra culture of a small patch of land, may succeed in obtaining a prize, whilst his general crop may be below an average. The consequence is that in some counties farmers annually raise a fund among themselves, and prizes are awarded according to the crop per acre. And as it is with turnips so it is with sheep. By extra care and feed, one lamb may be raised that will succeed in obtaining a prize, whilst the remainder of the flock may be altogether inferior. But we have no prizes offered to

test the quality or value of a crop of lambs from a whole flock of sheep, or the product of one ram.

I am of opinion that nothing will advance the good breeding of sheep sooner than a spirit of rivalry among breeders; and for this purpose I have put up and placed in the hands of Peter Grant, Esq., of Hamilton, President of the Wool Growers' Association of Ontario, the sum of \$100 towards a sweep-stake fund for competition among the sheep-owners of Ontario, on the following conditions:—

1st. There shall be at least eight entries of \$100 each. Entry to consist of one ram, and this year's offspring of such ram from 30 ewes at least.

2nd. The prizes to be awarded as follows: It is supposed, by way of illustration that there will be 8 entries only, which would amount to \$800. Twenty per cent. of this sum to be awarded to the rams, and eighty per cent. to the lambs, in the following manner (less judges' expenses).

#### PRIZES FOR RAMS.

1st prize	40 per cent. of \$160	.....	\$64
2nd do	30 do do	.....	48
3rd do	20 do do	.....	32
4th do	10 do do	.....	16

#### PRIZES FOR LAMBS.

1st prize	40 per cent. of \$640	.....	\$256
2nd do	30 do do	.....	192
3rd do	20 do do	.....	128
4th do	10 do do	.....	64

Total..... \$800

3rd. The rams to be exhibited, shorn or unshorn, in the city of Hamilton, at the Sheep and Shearing Exhibition to be held there on the 24th May next, and the decision of the judges to be then given, and the lambs to be shown on each farm, and the decision of the judges to be given on or before the 10th day of June following.

4th. Judges to be appointed at said Shearing Exhibition.

5th. All entries to be made with Peter Grant, Esq., of Hamilton, and entry money deposited with him, on or before the 24th May next.

6th. Any farmer making entry and failing to exhibit or allow the judges to inspect his flock, shall forfeit his stakes.

By inserting the above in your next issue, you will oblige,

J. T. NOTTLE.

Binbrook, March 15th.

### Poisoning of Sheep with Nitre.

Mr. Fricston, of Witham Common, near Grantham, England, is reported to have lost 140 sheep from their being drenched with large doses of nitre, saltpetre, or nitrate of potash. This irritant salt is stated to have been given by mistake for the etherous body, sweet spirit of nitre. Saltpetre is generally

regarded as a comparatively harmless substance, possessing about the same activity and similar properties to common salt. In ounce doses it is used for horses with their Saturday night mash. It is a useful saline diuretic. In Mr. Dunn's volume on "Veterinary Medicines," it is stated that two pounds of nitre dissolved in six pounds of water, and given to a healthy horse, acted both on the bowels and kidneys, but that its operation ceased in about twenty-four hours—p. 392. Some French authorities have, however, produced fatal effects on horses with less than a pound of nitre, whilst two or three drachms, unless shortly got rid of by vomiting, kill dogs. A pound of nitre has been given to an ox with impunity. We know of no experiments with sheep, but judging from the effects of the saline on other animals, we suppose that two or three ounces would only cause increased activity of the bowels and kidneys, by which channels the salt would be expelled from the system without doing serious or permanent injury. Possibly the sheep reported to have been poisoned may have been in a weakly condition when they got the nitre—a conclusion justified by the fact that they had been ill, and prescribed for by the professional man who ordered the sweet spirit of nitre.

**SALES OF STOCK.**—Mr. John Snell, of Edmonton, has sold to Dr. Brown, of Henry county, Kentucky, one yearling Cotswold Ram, and one yearling Southdown ram; to Mr. J. Callaway, of the same place, a young Berkshire sow, and to Mr. Bush, of Clark county, Kentucky, a young Berkshire boar.

**SHORTHORN TREASURES.**—We learn from *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, that Captain Gunter's Wetherby herd has received valuable additions by the birth of a Duchess Heifer and a Duchess bull on the 25th of February. "Fourth Duke of Thorndale" was the sire of both, and also of two other calves during the same week. We also learn that our enterprising countryman Mr. Cochrane has purchased from Mr. Pawlett two yearling heifers, "Rose of June," and "Princess," for 100 guineas each. Mr. Beattie is about once more to visit England with the view of making fresh purchases for Mr. Cochrane. Amongst other recent sales of that gentleman's stock, the imported bull calf, "Captain Graham," calved on the voyage from England in July last, has been sold to Mr. George Greig of Beachville for \$500. He is a fine promising calf of Booth blood, sired by "Prince of the Realm" out of "Pink Thornlea," by "Baron Booth." Mr. Cochrane's Shorthorn herd has recently been increased by the birth at Compton of sixteen or seventeen calves, all sired by "Eleventh Duke of Thorndale." During the last month fifty cotswold lambs had been dropped in his valuable flock of that breed. Probably their number has been further increased since March, the date of our last report.