

(Specially reported.)

SHEEP.

The Shropshires, Southdowns, Oxfords and Cotswolds were an extraordinary exhibit, the quality being very noticeable. I doubt whether there were as many really good specimens of these breeds at the Columbian. To the Shrops, must be assigned their place of honor, by virtue of their strength; their merit, and the extraordinary success they achieved in the cross-bred classes, clearly, to my mind, stamping them as the sheep to use for crossing purposes. Mortimer Levering judged all the breeding classes, and got through his difficult task very satisfactorily. But few men, I venture to say, could have handled all the classes so well, and made no more mistakes. In aged rams, Howard Davidson won with a good backed sheep, off in color of skin and with a good backed sheep, off in color of skin and segone in pasterns; Campbell (Woodville, Ont.) second with his Toronto winner; Hamner, 3rd. The one and with his Toronto winner wherein the judge and the was one of the classes wherein the judge and the ring critic could not agree. Whilst the first was

Grand sweepstakes, \$100. best wether in show, any age, breed or grade—W. H. Beattie won with two-year-old Southdown.

R. GIBSON.

Winter Quarters for Sheep.

Whatever the house may be, an outdoor yard, of good size, is a necessity. Breeding ewes, especially, require plenty of outdoor exercise, without which a lot of limp, soft, and still-born lambs will be deplored next spring. The writer has found it good practice to feed pea-straw, which makes up a large proportion of the dry fodder, spread along the fences of the yard, where the sheep will pick it over and leave very little more than the bare pea-vines. This straw can then be made use of in bedding hogs. Access between the pen and yard should seldom be closed, except at night, or on stormy days. The sort of door to use is worthy of some consideration. This should not be less than four feet wide for pregnant ewes. A narrow doorway causes trouble by ewes becoming wedged in, crowding out or in at feeding time. A sliding door, suspended on rollers at the top, answers a good purpose; it takes up no room, and it can be left open at any desired width without projecting at a dangerous angle. This sort of door will be found useful in catching certain sheep as they pass out or in.

FARM.

Our Scottish Letter.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.

THE EDITOR HAS ASKED THAT IN THIS LETTER I SHOULD say something special about the general agricultural outlook in the Old Country. This I will endeavor to do by making a rapid survey of the whole situation, glancing at the various departments operated in by Scottish farmers. We are within six weeks of the close of 1895, and there is little brightness in the outlook. Weather is an all-important item in the economy of agriculture, and the weather of 1895 in the southern part of Scotland has been of the most erratic and unsatisfactory character. North of the Highland line other conditions have prevailed, and farmers there have had rather a good time. Still, taking the country over, the financial results of 1895 will not be too cheering for farmers. Wheat growing is almost a thing of the past. According to Sir John B. Lawes, Bart., Great Britain now feeds a very small percentage of her population—three-fourths, if not seven-eighths, of our entire food stuff are imported, and such importations increase rather than diminish. Barley was at one time depended on to make up some of the deficiency in the leading cereal, but foreign barleys seem to be quite as useful to the brewer and distiller as home barleys, and so many new substances have been found from which alcohol may be extracted that very little remains for the home grower. In a good season, with a favorable harvest, the best kind of home-grown barley can easily surpass any of the foreign sorts; but when the color is gone not much can be made of any home produce. The one remedy for the wheat-growing collapse would undoubtedly be the imposition of a tax either on foreign corn or foreign flour; and to this there can be no doubt many English farmers are