

# CANADIAN BREEDER

and  
AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

Vol. II.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 29, 1885.

No 42.



OXFORDSHIRE DOWN SHEEP, IMPORTED AND OWNED BY W. V. R. POWIS, WAYNE, ILL.

## OUR ILLUSTRATION.

The group of Oxfordshire Down sheep the subject of our engraving was imported by Mr. Powis, of Wayne, Ill.

This breed is increasing in popularity as it becomes better known. The sheep combine in an eminent degree the capacity for producing both good wool and good mutton. They are hardy, fatten readily, and are very prolific. Like all the heavy English breeds of sheep, they do well only when kept in small flocks, and are therefore adapted to farms of moderate size rather than the wide ranges of the far West and Southwest. Crossed upon "native" or Merino ewes, they pro-

duce lambs which bring more in the market the ensuing autumn than full-grown sheep of the small breeds. The general introduction of English breeds of sheep would go far to emancipate our sheep-breeders and wool-growers from dependence upon the fluctuating wool markets. There is scarcely a farm between Missouri River and the Atlantic, which cannot profitably carry a few sheep of the so-called "mutton" breeds. The period of unusual depression in the sheep interest from which it is hoped we are emerging, has not been without its uses. It has impelled sheep raisers to weed out their flocks, selling off the poorest. If they are wise enough to supply the places with pure bred sheep, the country will ultimately be the richer by millions of dollars. The Oxfordshire Downs stand

among the best and most profitable of the breeds adapted to the wants of American farmers. The ram shown in the engraving weighed on his arrival, after a 20 days' trip, 314½ lbs., the two yearling ewes 175 lbs. each. These sheep were imported by Mr. Powis, Wayne, Ill., and are entered in the Oxfordshire Record.

The shepherd should breed for size, weight of fleecce, evenness of distribution over the body, for length of staple and fineness, for vigor, healthfulness and constitution; and as a result he will soon have a flock of large, thrifty sheep which yield him each season fleeces of the highest merit.