

This year another experiment has been added—testing the effects and profits of shearing twice a year, and grades have been selected, as shown by the following memoranda:—

- July 12—Clipped Shropshire grade wether lamb; weight of fleece, 4 lbs.  
 July 12—Clipped Shropshire shearling grade wether; weight of fleece, 4 lbs.  
 Aug. 14—Clipped Cotswold grade ram lamb; weight of fleece, 3½ lbs.  
 Aug. 14—Clipped Southdown grade wether lamb; weight of fleece, 3½ lbs.

These weights represent the unwashed fleeces. The Shropshire shearling mentioned was shorn on April 1st, weight of fleece, 12 lbs., and the lambs selected were as nearly equal in age and other conditions as could be procured. They are being wintered in a partially open stall with other sheep of the same class and under the same management, but were not shorn last summer. In comparing the sheep and fleeces, it is observed that the Shropshire grade lambs, shorn in July and August, have length of wool 4½ inches, against 5½ inches for Shropshire grade lambs unshorn. It is also observed that the fleeces of the shorn grades have more lustre, fold better, are more uniform, less puffy, and would bring a cent more per pound in the market than those of the unshorn grades; the wool is drier, the animals not perspiring so freely, and the growth of frame and vigor of constitution is equally, if not superiorly, marked. It is thought that there will be little difference in the weights of the fleeces of the shorn and unshorn sheep when the time of shearing arrives.

This experiment ought to dispel the delusion that our climate is too severe for two clips annually, and that the process is an act of cruelty. It will also be seen that the profits of two clippings will be greater than under the existing system, but for accurate figures the clipping season will have to be awaited.

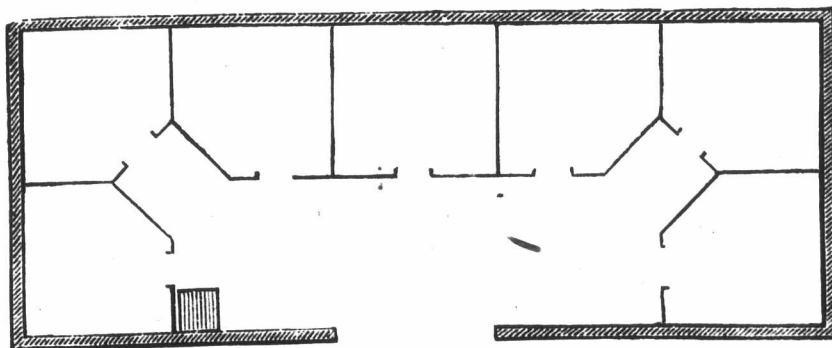
It is not necessary that the sheep should be highly fed in order to secure the best results in the production of wool, whether shorn once or twice per year.

Whilst in Toronto we visited the nursery of Messrs. Leslie & Son. The senior member of the firm informed us that during the past year 100 cords of wood had been cut from their surplus stock of trees in their plantation grounds and utilized as firewood, such as silver poplar, balsam poplar, English larch, European birch, English ash, mountain ash, Norway spruce, Huntington willow, horse chesnut, Scotch elm, tamarack and locust. We were fully convinced, with the appearance of Mr. Leslie's plantations of these different varieties, that forest culture is a profitable investment for the farmers of the older districts of this country.

We made enquiry from Geo. Leslie, Esq., about how the tariff affected the nursery interests, and he informed us, though he had been instrumental in moving for a duty on foreign nursery stock, he had found it was rather an

injury than a benefit to the trade, as it only encouraged the sale of a poor class of trees from the other side to compete with good stock here; and in proof of this we may say our nurseries have not increased, but, if anything, gone behind since 1878. To compete with the American stock a great number of our Canadian nurserymen have reduced the quality of their trees; and whilst on a visit to Bronte lately we saw the effect of this in the new orchard of Mr. Thos. White. They were all nearly affected with black rot, and were more or less of poor quality; and we are certain we express the opinions of the majority of our farmers when we assert that the tariff on fruit trees should be removed. Mr. White probably has old orchards equal to any in this country, but the new stock is what we speak of.

Mr. White is probably the most extensive breeder of specially thoroughbred trotting horses in Canada. He has two farms, one at Milton and one at Bronte. He has a large number of brood mares and colts of different ages, and his horses have a renowned reputation. He has a stable constructed from a plan made by himself, which is very convenient for the purpose required. We give you a ground plan. The stalls are 12 x 12, on the box pattern; one part of the upper flight



GROUND PLAN OF STABLE OF THOMAS WHITE, ESQ., BRONTE, ONT.

is fitted up as a dwelling for his grooms, and the other part is used for hay and grain left. This plan is sufficient to show how to construct one specially required for stallions or racing stock. We have not thought it necessary to show the feed racks, which are placed in the corners of the stalls. The harness, water, etc. are conveniently kept in the large hall or passageway. This stable is erected adjacent to his training course.

#### Farm Help.

Spring operations will soon commence, and with these a demand for good farm hands. The general rule that is followed in this country is to put off the hiring of men to the last moment, and trust to chances for some one coming along, and then probably some inferior workman has to be taken, or none at all. Men who know their business on a farm will not wait, and are early picked up in the neighborhoods in which they may reside. The trusting to men coming along just at the exact moment you are crowded, is a bad policy. There should always be profitable employment for a man in the early spring months before seeding commences, and it will pay any farmer to secure good farm hands early, and pay them good wages.

#### Special Contributors.

##### Our Washington Letter.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18, 1884.

The existence of pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle of certain districts in the U. S. has stimulated the zeal of those interested in stock-breeding into framing a bill "for the establishment of a Bureau of Animal Industry, to prevent the importation of diseased cattle, and to provide means for the suppression and extirpation of pleuro-pneumonia and other contagious diseases among domestic animals." As this bill is now pending before Congress and will become a law within the next thirty days, a few of its provisions may be found interesting and of benefit to the farmers and stock breeders of Canada.

The chief of this Bureau, which is to be a division of the Department of Agriculture, will be a competent veterinary surgeon, who will investigate and report upon the causes of contagious, infectious, and communicable diseases among domestic animals, and with his corps of assistants collect such information on these subjects as shall be valuable to the agricultural and commercial interests of the country. Two agents are to be appointed, practical stock

raisers, to examine and report on the best methods of treating, transporting, and caring for animals, and the means to be adopted for the suppression of pleuro-pneumonia and the spread of infectious diseases. The Commissioner of Agriculture is directed to make special investigation as to the existence of pleuro-pneumonia or any contagious or infectious disease, along the dividing lines between the United

States and foreign countries, and along the lines of transportation, and make report to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall establish regulations to prevent the exportation from any port of the U. S. to any foreign port of live stock infected with infectious disease, especially pleuro pneumonia. It also prohibits any railway company or vessel transporting such diseased cattle from one State to another, and appropriated \$250,000 to carry its provisions into effect.

William Saunders, the Superintendent of the garden and grounds of the Agricultural Department, in a recent report to the commissioner, gives some valuable suggestions on a variety of subjects. In relation to potato rot, he says:—By planting in hills or drills wider apart than usual, a free circulation of air would be admitted on all sides of the plants, which would tend to keep them dry and lessen the tendency of mildew, which leads to rot in the tubers. It is questionable whether any application to the soil in the way of special fertilizing will be of any value; so far all experiments with manures to prevent rot have ended in disappointment; at least they have not led to any definite useful result. This may be expected since the kind of soil in which a plant is growing exercises but little, if any, influence in disease, which is solely dependent on atmospheric influences.