

wooled sheep to be confined with Merinoes. The Merinoes eat too close, and the taint of body and excrement renders both the air and grass respectively objectionable. They should never be wintered in the same enclosure. My faith in these notions is so well grounded that this year each breed of sheep has a separate field, and the old sheep pasture is now used for the cows.

On small farms, or where the ranges are somewhat limited, sheep should not remain in one pasture longer than a week without change. They will be found to do a great deal better. This fact was well proved by my experience last year. A week is long enough to give the grass a start sufficient for sheep, and a longer time might result in its getting too rank or coarse. The Down and coarse-wooled sheep will do well on flat land, or on land with ranker grasses, than the Merinoes. The grass cannot be too fine for these sheep, and they delight to feed on the knolls and side hills, and even on the mountains, where the grasses are short and sweet. Large sheep must have rank pasture, or that which furnishes a big, full bite. These facts should be taken into the account, or rather should form the foundation of sheep husbandry on the farm.

So far as breeds are concerned, all the Downs are good. The South-Downs are the typical mutton sheep, and their admirers say, "Why go further?" This depends. While they are the foundation sheep of mutton, and the highest type, they are also the poorest shearers, and this is an important item. The world does not stand still, and I do not believe in resting all our chances on one sheep. The other Downs also have a mutton value, and some of them will make more mutton, and shear double the wool of the average South-Down. These points are worth something, for with sheep the margins are close, and a few pounds of wool help out. A law in breeding crops out here, and should be noticed, that all the good things are rarely, if ever, found in one body, and that perfection of body (carcass for mutton), is, as a rule, at the expense of the fleece. As fine and compact a fleece, or one with so much weight, cannot be produced on a perfect mutton body.

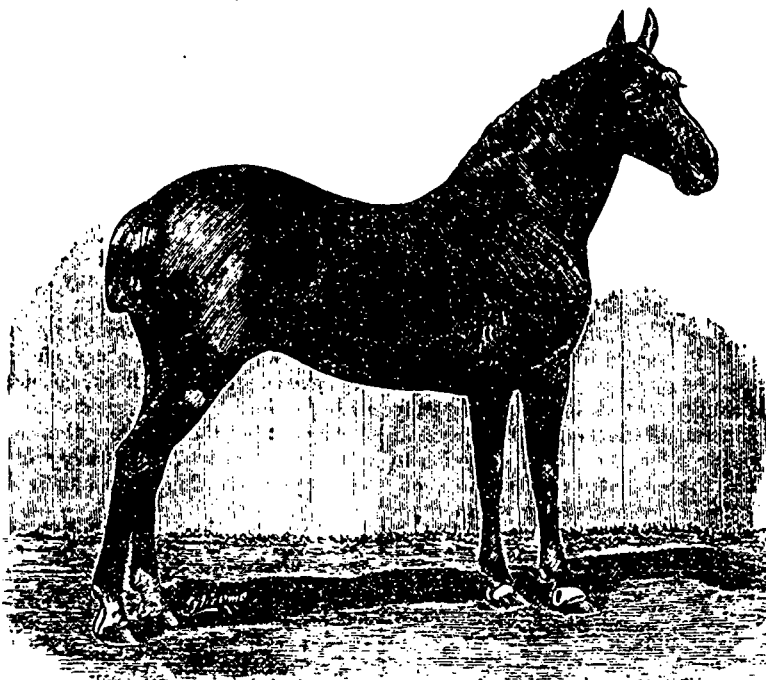
As the Merinoes approach a mutton standard in body, the fleece is more open and coarser in staple. As I have said before, the way to overcome this tendency to coarseness and lightness of fleece in the Down and the larger breeds, is to give them a "dash" of Merino blood. Where a farmer has a taste for thoroughbred animals—and it is always commendable—he should purchase sheep of a suitable pure breed. A small flock of these on the farm could be made a constant delight and profit. Where a farmer has a limited income, and thinks he cannot afford so much culling in his stock, he certainly can afford to purchase a thoroughbred ram, and begin

at once to grade his sheep up to a higher standard. There is no excuse for not doing this. A blind stupidity or a willful obstinacy may stand in the way, and often does.

I like to see a farmer with some kind of an animal hobby. A man wants to believe in some breed, and the more enthusiastic he is, the more likely he will be to succeed. In the older States, where local markets are plenty, the farmers have still got one hold. They certainly can keep a small flock of mutton sheep, and make them pay. They should make this grip stronger by improving their sheep, and not one South-Down ram lamb should go to the shambles, but all be used to improve the mutton qualities of all the sheep. All of the choice ewe lambs should be saved as a foundation for a paying flock, and every farmer should start his foundation new.

THE HORNED DORSET.

There is a hardy breed of sheep in England called the Horned Dorset, which combine the mutton and wool features. The wool is light, quite free from oil and strong in fibre. It would be classed as medium. Hon. Adin Thayer informs me that twelve ewes and one ram of this breed have been consigned to him, and are now due. No doubt Mr. Thayer will exhibit them at the next New-York State Fair. The Horned Dorsets are not as heavy as the average Downs, but they are a more sprightly sheep, and better calculated for large flocks and extended ranges. A lot of these sheep, at the Chicago Fat Stock Show, two years ago, bore their lambs in November. A number were born at the show. They struck me then



PRIZE HACKNEY MARE, ELEGANCE.

as a desirable general-purpose sheep, and if the autumn breeding is characteristic, they will be a great acquisition for J. S. Woodward and other Western New-York breeders, who want their lambs to be dropped in the late autumn, so as to be ready for market by Christmas. Have we always got to go to England for our best sheep?

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Crops in the U. S. and Canada.—Now that a considerable amount of grain is threshed, we can get some idea of the yield of grain-crops in the States. Corn, in all the great corn growing districts is almost a total failure. Oats and barley are about half a crop; wheat two-thirds of an average: Hay seems to be variable; a good return has been secured in the N. E., but in the S. and Middle States, except in New York, the yield is short. Crops of all sorts in Ontario and in our province are very much below the average, and I fear the farmers and country storekeepers, unless they practise great economy, will have hard work to get through the winter.