

tive Prize Takers are being carefully tended, comfortably housed, well fed, and groomed.

#### IMPORTATION OF "LINCOLN" SHEEP.

Mr. Ellershausen of Ellershouse, Hants Co., with his usual enterprise and spirit, sent out by the steamer "Olympia" a pen of sheep to his agent at Ellershouse. He shipped a ram and five ewes, but unfortunately three of the ewes succumbed to the length and roughness of the voyage, and died ere they reached their destination. They are really magnificent sheep, and are said to be of the best bred stock to be found in England. The sire of the ram was hired merely for a few ewes, at a cost of 55 guineas, and the ewes are equally well descended.

Mr. Ellershausen has on his farm a flock of about 100 ewes, chiefly of "Leicester," "South" and "Shropshire"-down grades, carefully selected from the best flocks in Hants and Colchester Counties. Some handsome stock may be expected by crossing with the "Lincolns."

Last Spring Mr. Ellershausen sent over to his agent a quantity of white seed oats; and by an advertisement in our columns, it will be seen that some of the product is now offered for sale. A sample has been placed in the Legislative Library. We are told that these oats will mature in as short a season as ordinary black oats.

WINDSOR, April 1st, 1874.

SIR.—Before going into the details of Colonel Laurie's letter, I cannot help drawing your attention to the remarkable similarity of our ideas on certain points, as expressed by me in a letter published in the JOURNAL of March, 1873, and by Colonel Laurie in the last JOURNAL.

In my article on the application of farm capital, in speaking of the relation of landlord to tenant, I use the following language:—"As the relative position of the English landlord and tenant may not be understood, I will make the following explanations:—Few landlords, when repairs are taken out, realize more than three per cent on their holdings; tenants from nothing to from twenty to thirty per cent. Now, why this great discrepancy in land returns? Simply that the landlord's can only be looked on as an investment of capital. He is either too ignorant of agriculture, or engaged in something more attractive." I quote thus far.

Col. Laurie says in words to this effect, that the landlord holds his lands simply to gain him a social position, and is content to receive about two per cent, con-

sidering himself reimbursed in other ways.

In a discussion of this kind it is absolutely necessary that the main point at issue should not be forgotten. The Col. and also you, Mr. Editor, think that we quite well agree, except on one point; but this it appears to me is the only point we ever did disagree on, and I regret as much as he does that we cannot agree on it, because I believe that on a proper solution of it the whole prosperity of the farming population depends. I confess that many parts of the letter I cannot understand, whether he approves of the English tenant farmer, or the Nova Scotian. If, to the English farmer, simply the fact that land can be rented when the landlord is contented with two per cent gives the working or tenant farmer such enormous advantages that he had better stay where he is. If he applies his advice to the Nova Scotia farmers, Mr. Blois supplies the missing link, and I am glad on that account that I did not publish before for Colonel Laurie admits, that without capital a farmer works at an enormous disadvantage. Mr. Blois says that farmers owning their own soil and with capital can hardly make two ends meet; then I ask the question, what chance have the people that Col. Laurie would bring here, or have stay here (for I can not understand what he means), why the plain fact must be they must go through the process of slow starvation. Again, Col. Laurie speaks of unexhausted improvements, I may say harps on them, and speaks in the same letter of encouraging tenants, as they are sure to take all they can out of the land. Now how can these two ideas possibly be reconciled, it would imply that no two men could be found honest enough to have mutual confidence in one another. I intend this letter if possible to answer both Mr. Blois and Col. Laurie; the former cannot, I think, have read my letter on the application of farm capital, where things are fully explained to the best of my ability, and Mr. Blois will see that it is only the term tenant *vs.* landlord used because I supposed it would be more readily understood; the question he puts to me, (*vide paper*) is a hard one to answer. The farmer owning his farm and having capital may be going behind by working his farm at a great disadvantage, without manure, machinery, drainage, &c., and his six per cent not being able to keep up his expenses, he may be either landlord or tenant; if he has capital enough to work his farm in the highest state, and own it also, he is both landlord and tenant; but he should distinguish his capital, if he finds by experience that he is realizing great results, by applying his own capital on his own land. Then I would say by all means become some one

else's tenant, and use the brains given, to the best advantage, taking care to secure your unexhausted improvements, Col. Laurie would say, how can this be done? I intended in future articles to write on the subject after the principle was thoroughly understood, but Mr. Blois has settled the whole affair in a very off-hand manner; but I must say in courtesy to him, that he writes more to get information than to give.

The reason that I never proposed or argued out any scheme may be easily explained by my repeating the remarks of a friend of mine after reading my original article; it was something like this: "This is all very good and true, but no one cares two pence halfpenny about it," and then I came to the conclusion that I would not trouble myself till some one else did. Again, to meet the objections that Col. Laurie offers against a Government loaning money: Why is it that things so comparatively easy in other countries, always create so much trouble in N. S. The scheme by which the Government becomes part landlord has long been in operation in Ontario, for permanent improvements, such as draining (I expect the papers in a few days); and as to any Government bringing political pressure by foreclosing, the interests of all the farming population being identically the risk in that way would be small, as such a large and influential class could not be ignored.

Yours truly,  
ALPINE C. THOMAS.

Port Williams, April 25, 1874.

At a meeting of the Council of the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia, held at Wolfville on Wednesday, 22nd inst., it was decided to hold the Annual Exhibition at Wolfville on Wednesday and Thursday, the 16th and 17th of September next.

A list of prizes was prepared and adopted, which will be printed and circulated as soon as possible. In the meantime, we would urge all intending competitors to commence at once, and by procuring the best seeds, by preparing the land in the best possible manner, and by setting the fruit trees, vines and plants in good order, to be prepared to show to the world, at both the Autumnal Exhibitions, what we really can produce in garden vegetables, fruits, and flowers.

There are prizes offered for best collections of fruits in season, embracing all sorts: best collections of early apples; best do. do. pears; best do. plums; best do. garden vegetables; besides the usual list of dozens and plates of various sorts. There are also prizes for ornamental plants and flowers. This last is a new feature in our Exhibitions, and we hope by its means to still further enlist the co-opera-