

the core will not be so large. If cut later there will be evident increase of fibre, destroying the digestibility of the nutriment, and a falling off of the albumen. This is not made up by the larger crop cut."

The Botanist and Chemist have made a report upon their analysis of 25 varieties of grasses. It is interesting, but whole is too long for a letter. Among them they mention Meadow Foxtail, not a native of this country, but which grows throughout the Northern States. It flowers in May, nearly four weeks earlier than timothy, and is one of the earliest grasses to start in the spring. Pastures of this will afford a free bite to stock a week or ten days earlier than others. For this reason it is a good grass for early spring pasturage. It will not do well in dry soils, but is not injured by frequent mowing. For dry sandy soils they describe a variety of Red-top much grown in England. It is said to withstand severe droughts.

A series of experiments made by P. E. Salmon, D. V. M., and communicated to the Dept. of Agriculture, shows that chicken cholera, which has destroyed so many fowls in different sections of this country, is not communicated by inoculation or germs in the air. He states that it can only be contracted through the throat by means of food or drink swallowed infected with the disease. When flocks remove from those affected are attacked with the disease, it is communicated by other animals that have eaten or drank with the infected flocks, or by insects or flies coming gorged from the sick birds, and are eaten by the healthy.

The drought of the past summer has so increased the price of all farm products, that many farmers are selling off a large portion of their stock in preference to feeding them on high-priced grain and fodder.

LOTUS.

Oxford Downs versus Cotswolds.

BY PETER ARKELL, TEESWATER, ONT.

In your number for October, Mr. J. C. Snell has quite a long article on Cotswolds, and, being a breeder of Cotswolds myself, can fully endorse what he says of them in regard to hardihood and making of large weights for mutton purposes, but must take exception to what he says in respect to the Oxford-downs.

First, with respect to their not being a sufficiently fixed breed to produce a uniform offspring; this statement can scarcely be borne out in face of the following facts, viz:

That they have been an acknowledged distinct breed and allowed to compete as such in the Royal Society's show yards, of England, for the last twenty-four years, and that Mr. Hitchman, of Great Milton, in Oxfordshire, Eng., commenced to breed them nearly thirty years previous to that date, a space of time greater than that occupied by Bakewell to establish from a multitude of crosses and fix beyond doubt the celebrated Dishley or Leicester breed.

In the second place, I do not believe in Mr. Snell's prophecy that at the end of two or three years people using them will be disappointed; this of course will depend considerably on the skill and experience of those handling them, as it would do in any breed; but I would venture to say that if handled only in an ordinary way, the result will be satisfactory; in conformation would quote what Mr. Randal, of the *Practical Shepherd*, says of them: These sheep were first introduced into the United States by Richard S. Fay, Esq., of Lynn, Massachusetts, and the Hon. William C. Nives, of Virginia, who selected and improved their sheep together. Mr. Fay had a considerable extent of rough pasturage, better adapted to sheep than other animals, and he first stocked it with fine woolled

sheep and subsequently with crosses between them and Southdowns. Neither experiment resulted satisfactorily. A resident of several years in England induced him to turn his attention to the English breeds, and he came to the conclusion that they would better answer his purpose. Living two years among the Shropshires, he was highly pleased with them, but on going to see Mr. Gillits and Mr. Druce's Oxfordshire-downs, he gave them the preference and sent home a ram and ten ewes of this family. Mr. Fay, in answer to my inquiries, informs me that these sheep fully meet his expectations, that they are of good constitutions and "take to his briars and rough pastures as if 'to the manner born.'" He has no difficulty in raising all their lambs dropped in March, and the ewes many of them then fit for the butcher. The mutton killed from his rocky, rough pastures, in November, is of very high quality. His ewes in 1862 averaged 8½ lbs. to the fleece, unwashed. The average weight of the shorn ewes being 135 lbs. and rams 220 lbs. The yield of lambs was 160 per cent. on the number of breeding ewes. In 1863 the yield of wool fell to a small fraction under 8 lbs. and the increase of lambs rose to 175 per cent. His wethers yield on the average fully 10 lbs. of wool. He further remarks that their wool has a good lustre, is neither hairy nor harsh, and it has a very desirable quality for certain fabrics and will always command a ready sale. Of their disposition, he says they are gentle and disinclined to rove, but are willing to work hard for their feed and are very promiscuous feeders; they make excellent returns for their feed and mature very early.

Your Opinion Wanted.

Very great and very important changes are about to take place in agricultural affairs in Ontario. We have been called on to express our opinion on a very critical question, but we felt it our duty to withhold our own personal views for a short time and appeal to our patrons before committing this journal to the support of any particular course of action, as we believe any great changes should be freely and openly discussed before too hasty decisions are arrived at.

We went to Toronto on the 23rd of November to ascertain as much as we could about your affairs, as two very important meetings took place at that time. On the 23rd a meeting of the Shorthorn breeders of Canada had been called to assemble and discuss final arrangements in regard to the establishing of a new Herd Book, as the existing Canadian Herd Book is found to be in disrepute in England and in America, on account of entries having been made in it of animals of shorter pedigrees than the best American Herd Books have allowed. The breeders found that in effecting sales the name of our Canadian Herd Book is looked on by the breeders of the fancy or choicest bred animals as of no account, and they call it a Grade Herd Book; and, to maintain a proper position for Canadian stock, they consider the only possible way to do so is to establish a new Herd Book, leaving out all cross-bred animals and inserting only those that can be traced directly to imported English stock. The Agricultural and Arts Society have, by invitation and propositions, tried to compromise the matter and alter the Herd Book to some extent to try to meet them, but the breeders refuse to take any part in the matter of arranging about the old book, as any steps they might take must lead to dissatisfaction to some, and they wish to have nothing to do with the four-cross animals or their descendants that have been entered in that book.

We fail to see any reason why an individual cannot keep record of his own stock, or if they

choose, to combine and keep a record for those who prefer to record with them. The objectors to this say it will form a monopoly, and is done for the purpose of enhancing the value of certain stock, which we presume is the point desired. But to do this effectively and to raise the standard of stock and of the Herd Book, they contend that no alloy must be found either in their book or animals entered into it. The Government is not called on to pay anything toward their Herd Book, and they consider that the breeders can manage their own affairs better than the Government officials can. "Stockman's" report of the meeting will be found in another part of this journal.

The Board of Agriculture is in a bad plight. When at London a resolution was passed to register no more descendants of the four-cross animals they had already entered; and now at the last meeting they propose publishing a hand book omitting many animals for which they have received payment from the farmers. While the debate on this subject was going on, your humble servant, although merely sitting in the room as a reporter, was called on to express our views, but not deeming it judicious we respectfully declined until fully prepared to do so, which we said we would be if the Board would furnish us with the particulars in regard to the first establishment of the Herd Book in Canada, and also at whose suggestion and for whose benefit was the original Herd Book altered to admit of the four crossed animals being inserted. We asked Mr. White or Mr. Shipley to explain, but they have not yet explained. We believe that public officers who are in receipt of public money should explain or acknowledge their inability to do so. These gentlemen, being old members of the Board, having been in close and intimate connection with all who have had anything to do with the Herd Book, having had their expenses paid to travel throughout the United States and Canada for many years, expressly for the Shorthorn interest, should return information for all the money that has been expended, for there is a great difference in a private individual and a public or paid servant. We yet await their reply, and we require your opinion. Do you consider that the Association or the Government should publish the Herd Book as usual? Do you think they should omit any names of animals for which they have received payment? if so, should they refund the money to those that have paid it?

The Board have decided to publish their Herd Book and to leave out many animals for which they have received payment. This subject is now open for discussion. It is our opinion that erroneous steps have been taken.

Another very important question was brought up, namely, the location of the Provincial Exhibition for 1882. The usual custom has been for any locality desiring to have it to send a deputation and furnish approved guarantees from the localities desiring to secure it; and the decision has generally been arrived at by a vote of delegates sent at great expense from all parts of Ontario to the annual exhibition. This year Kingston was the only place that complied with the Act, although a premature assemblage of the members of the Board of Agriculture had been called to Toronto to previously decide this question, and through some extremely doubtful or injudicious arrangement that is stated to have been made by one of the members of the Board that Toronto had been promised it two years in succession—such was the darkness kept over affairs that the delegates who attended the Provincial this year to decide where it was to be held next, were not made publicly aware of this underhand promise. But somehow or other the Board almost to a man voted for the