

a protection policy for home stock raisers. Here, where our cattle are always so healthy, and with only two or three great seaports to guard, we do not see any difficulty in preventing the importation of the disease, by a few simple regulations, and well-timed provision for carrying them out. The report telegraphed from Ottawa some time ago, to the effect that foot-and-mouth had appeared at Guelph, was entirely without foundation.

THE decline of SHEEP HUSBANDRY in this Province is a subject deserving of serious consideration. The Editor of the *Colchester Sun* very properly calls attention to the discouragement of this desirable branch of industry by the frequent destruction of sheep by dogs. He cites a proposal made in the *Maine Farmer* to impose a tax upon dogs, and to apply the resultant fund to the payment of owners for sheep killed. It is well observed that sheep husbandry ought to be one of the most important and profitable branches of our agricultural industry, instead of one of the most neglected and insignificant. We see it stated in the *Toronto Globe* that eighty thousand sheep are reported killed during the past year, and an estimate is made that, as many are not reported, the whole number will be four hundred thousand. Need it be wondered that, in the South-West, where dogs do most abound, sheep farming is becoming a thing of the past. This is a reason why we here in the North-East, with hills and valleys, and a cool maritime climate, specially adapted for sheep, should increase our flocks. We don't think that payment should be made to farmers for losses, because that might tend to make careless shepherds; the owners of dogs that kill sheep are the proper parties to pay for them; but we do think that every dog in the country should be registered, and wear a collar with his number and owner's name. A small fee would cover the expense of registration. We regard the watch-dog as a valuable animal,—in many cases a domestic necessity, in the humble, lonely cottage, as well as in the fashionable villa, and entitled to exemption from special taxation like any other useful animal. But, at the same time, the farmers are entitled to reasonable security from his depredations. If properly registered and collared, destructive dogs could be identified, as regards ownership, in a reasonable number of cases,—in numbers sufficient at least to discourage persons from keeping such pests. We are further of opinion that dogs would not have such a bad reputation if flock-masters looked better after their flocks. The unprofitableness of sheep is owing more frequently, we believe, to the owner's neglect than to destruction by dogs, but yet we feel very

strongly that sheep farmers should have every reasonable provision for the protection of their stock, which, from its very nature and habits, is more exposed to accident than any other description of rural property. For various reasons it is desirable to encourage sheep husbandry, which, whilst it might enable our people, in many districts, to derive profit from otherwise useless hill pastures, would likewise provide profitable domestic labour in the idle winter season in spinning, weaving, and knitting, and tend to encourage habits of thrift and industry; but, without reasonable protection from destruction, no efficient encouragement is possible. We respectfully commend the whole subject to the attention of Members of the House of Assembly, and the Sessions.

PLEASANT recollections of Margaree are aroused by a descriptive account of a recent visit to that lone region in the *Dalhousie Gazette*:—"The road along the Margaree is one of the best in Nova Scotia, and the scenery is exquisite. * * * * The farms are generally good, some of them very superior, and several of the farm houses are tastefully built and picturesquely situated, but everything is picturesquely situated in Margaree. * * * *"

"We remained a fortnight, a memorable fortnight, 'a joy forever.' We fished late and early, and, oh! such basketfuls of trout! We went forth beetle-hunting, and entrapped flies of divers sorts. We captured and dissected a huge snake. We threw off our coats—seldom on—and worked at the hay. We explored the ravines with hammer in hand, and roamed through the woods. The hottest part of the day usually found us in the coolest spot on the premises, to wit, the dairy, where, seated on empty butter tubs, we 'biped the flow of longicaudate kine,' as the Autocrat hath it. And in the evenings Mac gloried in showing off the paces of his 'gallant grey' as we drove down the valley for a few miles, or returned, singing snatches of songs, in the moonlight and the dew.

"One day we went to the Barrena. A stiff ascent of from three to five miles through very thick woods brought us to the edge of a wide plateau almost destitute of trees. The vegetation is short and scrubby, and everything is covered with lichens. Here and there are deep gloomy gorges, their sides shaggy with sombre firs, and black peaty looking streams silently stealing along in their dark mysterious depths. But the greater part is high table land, bleak and bare. From one point we could see Margaree Island, 25 miles to the west, the Baddeck mountains 30 miles to the south-east, and to the north the highlands and bar-

rens of Cape North 40 or 50 miles away; and as far as the eye could reach in all directions there was not the faintest trace of a human habitation, not a tree cut, nor a track but those of the bear and the cariboo. We were struck by the great abundance of the *Rubus Chamaemorus*, the 'cloudberry' of Scotland, the 'boke apple' of Nova Scotia. We saw no flowers, but in one spot the bright orange colored fruit was so plentiful that we could not step without crushing some.—We ate *ad lib*, and saw that bruin had a liking for them too, as his huge paw had left a frequent mark on the soft and mossy soil' Blueberries are also abundant on these barrens, and bears are particularly fond of them. We spent several hours out on the barrens and then returned through a tremendous ravine, along the rugged and slippery sides of which we floundered, in danger of smashing not only our guns but our heads."

We recommend our Halifax friends, who are wont to scour the surface of land and sea from Niagara to Naples in search of scenery, to get off the beaten track for once, and try the glorious Island of Cape Breton next summer. We know that they may go farther and fare worse. A good summer hotel there might bring birds of passage from all parts of America. Let a few patriotic capitalists lay their heads together and the thing is done.

A DISCOVERY of very great interest to chemists and mineralogists, and of practical importance in the useful arts, has just been made in California. It appears that an extensive deposit of borax, (tincal, or sodium borate), has been found in the bed of a dry lake in the Slate Range mountains. It extends over an area of 15 miles long by 6 wide, with saline crystals to a depth of 6 or 8 feet. An ancient beach mark shows that the water had formerly stood 60 feet deep over the area. In its middle there is a tract 5 miles long and 2 wide of common salt, on the outside a deposit of borate of soda 3 feet thick, and under this latter a stratum of sodium sulphate and tincal mixed, from 1 to 3 feet thick. It is expected the Thibetan tincal will be driven out of the market, as the Californian tincal can probably be used without refining for glazing fine pottery. Those who take an interest in such subjects will recollect of Prof. How's researches on the Borates of the Windsor plaster beds.

A NEW Agricultural Society has been formed in Lunenburg County, at New Ross, of which Mr. John Prat is Secretary. They have commenced operations by advertising for an Ayrshire Bull, having been too late in collecting their subscriptions to get forward to the sale of imported stock.