

more valuable than previous securities became so much the better by it, instead of being prejudiced. Under this act many millions of pounds had been expended in England, and the agriculture of that country thereby raised to the high state of perfection in which it is at present is.

Mr. Boulton addressed the meeting at considerable length, the above being a very short abstract of his remarks, and was listened to throughout with much interest. He said he was carrying on operations himself to some extent, having purchased several thousand tiles, and he had men employed the whole of the present winter up to the present time, except one extremely cold day, in sinking drains on his farm. He concluded by saying that he was fully determined to urge the matter upon the attention of others, till he could impress its importance upon them, and get them to join in memorialising Parliament for an act similar to the English act.

FINE VS. COARSE-WOOLED SHEEP.—"Which is the most profitable breed of sheep, the fine-wool or the coarse-wool mutton breeds?" Taken literally, this query divides sheep into two classes—Merinoes and other sheep—and I have no hesitation in saying that the coarse-wooled sheep are the most profitable. If, however, the first half of the sentence be taken as a text, the question becomes much more difficult to answer in a country where the soil and climate are so various. No particular breed will suit all localities; and the kind that is most profitable in one place, will prove the reverse in another. Where the climate is mild, the range extensive, and mutton in little demand, of course the Merino must be the most profitable. Where the soil is rich, the pasture luxuriant, and proper shelter and winter food available, the Leicester breed and its grades will be found the most profitable. Where the soil is poor and hilly, the South-down breed and its grades will be the most profitable; and more particularly in localities where the quality of mutton is appreciated. In general, however, cross-bred sheep are the most profitable; and there is no better cross than that between the Leicester and Cheviot—combining a large quantity of good mutton with a heavy fleece of wool, besides being much harder and better breeders than pure Leicesters. But, as far as my experience goes, the most profitable sheep are of no breed. Buy poor and inferior ewes, (of the native breed if possible,) cross them with the best Leicester or South-down rams, according to their roughness and other qualities, and they will pay from 50 to 100 per cent per annum or more. This is simply taking advantage of the established maxim in breeding, that the first cross is the best. You thus obtain an increase in mutton of from 20 to 30 lbs., and an increase in wool of from 50 to 100 per cent., besides a great improvement in the quality of both. To sum up, in order to keep the most profitable kind of sheep every man must decide for himself, by comparing the qualities of the different breeds with the nature of the soil and climate, nearness to market, demand for wool, etc.—J. C. Orillia, C. W., Nov., 1858.—*Cor. Montreal Witness.*

SHEEP AND WOOL.—It has long been the practice of farmers either to sell to the butcher or slaughter hundreds, yea thousands of sheep, during the fall and winter, because they thus avail themselves of some ready money, and also for the reason that they seem to have little confidence in raising sheep for their wool alone, as a paying business. By means of this wholesale slaughter, the stock of sheep throughout the whole country has been kept comparatively small, and wool growing, except at some intervals of unusual excitement, has been in a languishing condition.

In our opinion, no stock kept upon the farm, unless we except cows in the dairy districts, pays as well for the amount invested and the expense of keeping as a good flock of sheep. True, wool is often low and slow of sale, but at the low rates, with the increase of flock, there can be very little, if any, loss under unfavorable circumstances; and for a series of ten years they prove profitable, as any one may know who will take note and consult figures.

If we can succeed in inducing the farmers of Western Canada, in places where the ridge and rust have nearly destroyed the wheat crop, to turn their attention to sheep, in part, we shall, according to our view of the subject, be instrumental in promoting their interests. One reason why farmers are averse to wool-growing is the difficulty of making satisfactory sales, as buyers are always ready to decrier the article when the clip first comes to market, and quite as willing to hold it for a rise after they have succeeded in getting it into their hands. We do not now propose to offer any suggestions to remedy the difficulty, only to express the opinion that those farmers