

On the Wing.**SOUTH DOWN SHEEP.**

The depression in the price of long wool has given quite an impetus to the breeders of the South Downs, which was evinced at Mr. Daniel Perley's sale. This gentleman had long been known as one of our best breeders of this class of sheep. For many years his success in the prize ring was the envy and admiration of many. Unfortunately he met with an accident, being kicked by a horse, which caused his death. The family concluded to sell off all the farm stock and implements, and the sale was advertised in the Feb'y issue of the *ADVOCATE*. The farm is situated in Burford, three miles from Paris and seven from Brantford. The day previous to the sale a heavy snow storm prevailed, which blocked the roads. This part of the country being hilly, and a breeze having been blowing, the snow had drifted so as to fill the roads and in some places cover the fences. Despite this, the people flocked to the sale; they made their way over fields for miles, it being impossible to go on the roads, and to our surprise, the largest assembly of farmers was seen there that we have ever seen at a farm sale. The number was variously estimated, even as high as a thousand. The South Down men were drawn from north of Toronto and west of London. The flock brought a good sum, averaging nearly \$30 per head; some few sold at over \$50 per head. They were a very even lot of sheep and in fine, healthy condition.

The directors of the Union or Hamilton Exhibition have taken a new departure in regard to the encouragement of raising fine-wooled sheep. They have added a special class for Canadian-bred South Downs. Some of the South Down men have thought that it is not giving a fair show to them to allow the importers of the prize winners at the Royal or other English exhibitions, to run around all our exhibitions and carry off all the first prizes, as it is claimed that these prize winners seldom do good to the real breeder, but only give a reputation, often undeserved, to dealers; also that these imported show ewes seldom breed, and that we are encouraging the speculator rather than the breeder. By awarding the same prizes to Canadians we encourage our farmers to strive for the honors. The subject deserves the consideration of the directors of other exhibitions. We know for a long series of years Canadians have not had the same privileges and encouragement that importers have had. For instance, when exhibiting at the Provincial, if an animal gained a prize and it was imported, the prize money was doubled. This was militating against the Canadian breeder, and paying a premium to foreigners. Canada has now the nucleus of as good stock as any other country. It only requires the care, the feed, and the attention, to compete with any in the world. Canadians have not as long purses to continue the feeding and care that many wealthy foreigners have; but for profit and use Canadians can produce such as are suitable to our requirements just as well as foreigners. So support Canadian expenditure for the benefit of Canadians.

After leaving the sale, we proceeded to

NORWICHVILLE,

a rising town in Oxford County. This is a place of historic note, and should be known by all Canadians interested in the agricultural prosperity of the country. An enterprising American named Ferrington took up his abode in this locality about twenty years ago. He came from New York State, and was well posted in the factory system of cheese-making. He erected a cheese factory and induced patrons to supply him with milk, and was one of the principal gentlemen who established a

cheese convention. It was commenced and established, and had become a subject of great importance before the Government interfered with it. Mr. Ferrington, we believe, gave Canadians more information about manufacturing cheese on the factory system than any other individual in Canada. He was much respected, and always gave any information so freely that every person looked on him as one of the leading spirits in the cheese interests, and all western dairymen who have ever attended any of the conventions have known the great benefits derived from his information,—in fact he added more to the real interest of cheese-making than any other individual. He never allowed nationality, party, sect, greed and gain to influence him. It is much to be regretted that after establishing three factories and getting them in good running order, he was called from earthly labors. From Mr. Ferrington's exertions may be traced the great spread of the cheese factory system over the country.

Mr. Lossee's factory is near Mr. Ferrington's late residence. His establishment is considered one of the best managed factories in Canada, many say the best. His products have brought a higher average than those of any other factory in the west. The annual meeting of the patrons was being held when we were there, and everything appeared most satisfactory. We were invited to make a few remarks, and enquired of the meeting if they were in favor of maintaining township shows. The unanimous vote was for their retention. They considered they were doing more good than the large exhibitions. One expressed his disapproval of returning so many speculators to offices that should be only filled by practical farmers.

The neighborhood of Norwichville is well adapted to fruit growing. A large fruit evaporating establishment is located here. We consider it the best we have seen. The dryer is constructed horizontally. This is considered better than those constructed perpendicularly. In the apple season this must be a busy establishment. At the present time but few hands are employed. The work in progress when we were there was assorting some of the dried fruit that had not been just in prime shipping order when put through the dryer. For instance, so particular is the proprietor to have first-class goods shipped, that after the peeling and coring and slicing are done, one person is employed at each knife to pull the apple slices apart, and examine them before passing through the dryer, and they are again closely inspected before packing. Every slice that has a small piece of core in it is rejected; also any piece that has had a worm in it, and any piece of an apple that has been frozen. These defective pieces are all thrown out at packing time, and in the winter, at leisure, people are employed with scissors to cut out any little defect in these dried slices. There is considerable waste in drying apples. For instance, the small and uneven apples are rejected, also all defective apples, whether worm eaten or badly bruised. These, together with the cores, etc., are turned to cider and then to vinegar. There are knitting and other factories established here already, and the progress and improvements are to be seen on all sides.

Mr. Lossee's factory is situated about two and a half miles from the village. Perhaps we may be offending some by not calling Norwichville a city. We had recently passed through many of the residential streets of Toronto, Hamilton and London, but we consider that Norwichville carries off the palm of honor from the whole of them in the displays made in the windows of the houses. In floral gardening the inhabitants of Norwichville

appear to rival each other, for the display of flowers and shrubs far surpassed any we had seen in any other locality this year; in fact none of our city streets could at all compare with the very pleasing effect that the Norwichville inhabitants display in window gardening. Another remarkable sight was to see a foundry placed in an orchard and shaded by the large, fine apple trees that overhang, and make it such a contrast to the generality of foundries. The implements made in this foundry deserve comment. In it are constructed what are considered the best cultivator and the best gang plow in the Dominion,—their great superiority consisting in the mode of constructing the implement. The teeth of the cultivator are made to cut all thistle roots, and the gang plow has an additional width of cutting surface on the landside to effect the same purpose. These implements are highly spoken of by those who have used them, and we all want an implement that will destroy our thistles the most effectually.

Raising Calves.

The time of the year has arrived when our markets are filled with veal of a very doubtful character,—indeed, to be plain, the greater portion is nothing better than carrion. The sale of this class of meat is brought about by the high price of butter at this season, and also the low price of veal. The butter-money of the farm is generally claimed by the women, and also the calves are relegated to their charge to feed, and the consequence is, in plenty of cases the calves are sold at a few days old, or kept, at the most, a couple of weeks. It is almost needless to inform our readers that veal, at this age, is not only not nutritious, but it is positively unhealthy and unfit for human food. From the large quantity of this class of meat which is every year exposed for sale in our markets, it is high time the authorities took measures to stop the sale of this carrion meat. However, it has often been a wonder to us why proper meat inspectors are not appointed by our local authorities. In London, Eng., and in nearly all the large cities of Great Britain, a law has been passed prohibiting the sale of veal under four weeks old, under penalty of seizure, and the imposition of a heavy fine. Of course, the public, to a certain extent, are to blame for countenancing the sale of this carrion by purchasing such; but poor people, cook-shops and boarding-house keepers are the ones that patronize the trade,—the first through want, and the second through greed. Besides the sanitary aspect of this calf question, however, there is one of vital importance to our farmers at large, and that is by this indiscriminate slaughter of calves, our country is becoming decimated of stock, and our farmers are losing money. Look at the price of all kinds of stock at present, and then look at the price of hay and straw. In conversation with some farmers in the northern counties of Ontario—of which there are no better lands in the country—we found hay was only selling for \$6 a ton, and spring calves in the fall sold for \$15 to \$17 a piece.

With the present development of the great wheat-producing areas of the West and Northwest, the older settled portions of Canada will find that stock-raising will form one of the most profitable branches of farming. We have a ready market with all parts of Great Britain, and well-fed beef for foreign shipment will always command a high price. Instead of our farmers selling their calves at the age they do, let them keep more stock, and of a better quality. For instance, a well-bred Durham grade at two years old may be made to weigh as much as a scrub would at four years;