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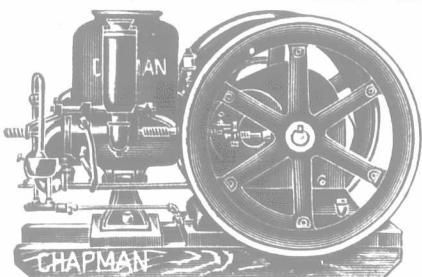
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holds premier place in the discriminating markets, and at the present time when small cuts are in favor Southdown mutton meets with ready sale. As a feeder the Southdown is considered superior. They adapt themselves tolerably well to conditions, in breeding qualities they are about average, but as producers of wool the breed occupies a subordinate position. Another general-purpose sheep is the Shropshire, which is heavier than the Southdown, and almost equals it in quality of mutton. Cross-bred or grade Shropshires are most common on the market, which proves the adaptability of the breed to different localities, and substantiates the claim that they do well when crossed upon ordinary farm flocks. Like the Southdown the "Shrop" matures at an early age, and this combined with easy-fattening qualities and a good wool clip explains the popularity of the breed. The Oxford Down satisfies the farmer as to the weight of the annual wool clip, which tends to coarseness and length of staple, and in the amount of mutton. The size of the individual Oxford recommends it to many for they are among the largest; they also rank deservedly high as feeders. They are prolific and have met with favor for crossing on common sheep. Another medium-wool breed almost as large as the Oxford is the Hampshire Down. It occupies a superior position on account of its ability to produce early lambs, and although not reputed to be exceptionally prolific the breed ranks high in this respect. In England they adapt themselves to grazing in small areas; they pasture closely with the whole flock often formed in a semi-circle. The Hampshire has been mentioned relative to the production of early lambs, but in this regard the Dorset Horn occupies an unchallenged position. Not only will they breed twice a year, but they often give birth to twins and sometimes triplets. The lambs grow rapidly and appear especially suited for the hot-house lamb trade. As a grazer the Cheviot demands the most attention of the English breeds, and the Suffolk Down is noted for fecundity. These two breeds are not largely patronized in Canada, but they have established themselves in the favor of many farmers. Of the long-wooled breeds the Leicester, the Cotswold and the Lincoln are supreme. They meet the desire of the farmer for size, and in this respect perhaps the Lincoln leads. These three breeds require abundant pasturage, but in return they yield heavy fleeces of long wool and good carcasses. As yet the Merino has not been mentioned, but for the finest quality of wool and for grazing propensities superior to those of any other breed we must go to the Merino. Their great stronghold is on the ranch where they herd in large numbers and endure many hardships.

SWINE.

The hogs seen in Canada and the United States differ in one essential. To the South they breed and feed the lard or fat hog, while our market demands bacon and toward that end breeds are chosen. We do have the Chester White, however, as a representative of the lard breeds, but the Yorkshire, Berkshire and Tamworth hold sway in Canada with a herd of Hampshires, Duroc-Jerseys or Poland-Chinas, to be seen on occasional farms. In England, Ireland, Denmark and Canada, where bacon is produced, the Yorkshire or Yorkshire grade is perhaps the most common. It is considered a prolific breed, and will furnish a 200-pound hog at six months on fair feeding. The Tamworth was introduced into the Canadian industry on account of the quality of the bacon which it produces. In it there is no excessive fat; the sides are long and the admixture of the fat and lean meat is very acceptable. The fecundity of the Tamworth is also a striking feature and so is their ability to rustle. The Berkshire, in the eyes of Canadian breeders, is a compromise between the extreme lard and bacon types. They mature early, are good feeders, and when young the pork is found very acceptable on the market. Some stockmen have been successful in topping Yorkshire sows with Berkshire boars. The prolificacy of the dam is thus made use of while the pigs combine some of the good features of each breed.

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