

the risk of having him destroyed without legal recourse. This results in most cases in the dogs being confined during the night. Still it is a lamentable fact that hundreds of sheep are annually destroyed in this way. In the Township of Whitby, in Ontario County, I understand that, during the past year, a sum exceeding five hundred dollars has been paid out of the fund provided for this purpose for the protection of sheep. An increase in the number of sheep means an increase of wealth, and sheep are, I assume, a necessity. Dogs add no wealth to the country, and at best must be considered as a luxury. In my judgment, therefore, they ought not to be allowed to interfere with the development of this great industry.

Again, if sheep husbandry in this country is to be developed as much as is desirable, the attention of those engaged in it must be turned towards the necessity of furnishing the market with a regular supply of the best mutton. It will not do at certain seasons of the year to depend for a supply only upon old and worn out animals. One crop of lambs ought to be handled by the producers in such a way that from those a supply may be afforded until another crop begins to be offered on the market. If this were done, those who wish the finest quality and who are quite willing to pay for it would always be able to secure it. The habit of rushing all the lambs on the market during one or two months of the year results in demoralisation in two ways:—First, the prices at these seasons are almost sure to be brought down to such a low point that producers become discouraged, and declare that the business does not afford a proper remuneration. Secondly, the supply of the best article is thus in a short time exhausted, being forced on the market when perhaps it is not all wanted, so that later on in the season it cannot be had, and the attention of the consumer is turned from this valuable meat product to some other which can more readily be supplied. As a remedy for this, attention should be drawn through the press and otherwise to the desirability and necessity for these animals being held for a greater length of time by such of the producers as can afford to do so. By this means a larger sum per head would be realised. Already during this season those who decided to hold their lambs are reaping an excellent profit by so doing. This will doubtless continue for some months. It may be that everyone en-

gaged in this business cannot do this, but let those who can, give attention to it because they will be certain, if they have suitable buildings and plenty of feed, to reap a good reward by doing so. By the experiment carried on at the Experimental Farm last year it will be seen that, should the American market be fully supplied, there is always open a good market for a good article in Great Britain.

There can be no doubt that our Canadian climate gives us a decided advantage in the production of good mutton. The butchers' carts in New York and other large American cities bear abundant testimony to this by carrying in bold lettering through the streets the words, "Canada Mutton," which is taken to mean by those who read it that Canada mutton is superior to any other mutton consumed in those cities.

The intelligence, skill and industry of our people will supply all that is needed in addition to a good climate, and will, we hope, eventually put our Canada, and especially our Province, in the front rank in sheep production.

The President's Annual Address at the Experimental Union.

BY ELMER LICK, OSHAWA.

GENTLEMEN,—Again we meet in the capacity of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union. Swiftly has the year 1891 passed by with its successes and failures; already we have advanced considerably into the year 1892. When we realise how swiftly time passes and consider our position as farmers, students and ex-students of the Ontario Agricultural College; and when we also consider the serious nature of the competitors against which we have to labor, we are brought to the stern necessity of assisting ourselves in every way possible.

Other countries are striving to supply the same markets on which we rely, and it is only by careful and thorough systematic work that we can expect to keep the markets we already have. We must experiment in the best ways of marketing our products, so packing, grading and labelling them that they shall go on the market in the best possible condition. Experimenting in marketing is, I take it, not in line with the work which can be most thoroughly and profitably carried out