

SHEEP A PROFITABLE STOCK FOR THE CANADIAN FARMER.

A Very Careful Review of the Different Breeds—The Competition of One Breed Against Another a Mistake—A Lesson in Farm Manners.

A great many of the farmers of Ontario have given up raising sheep, and claim it does not pay to raise them; but take an average farm of 100 acres of good land and it will carry a flock of twenty ewes under good management, and the profits will run from \$100 to \$200 per year from wool and mutton. Ten acres of clover and peas will, with a few roots, be all that is required for their winter feed, and there is a gain in growing these crops, as peas and clover enrich the soil and relieve the necessity of growing so much barley at the present low price, (with no prospect of improvement for coming years, it being a crop which tends to impoverish the soil and makes a very small return in manure).

There are many different opinions as to what kind of sheep are the most profitable to raise. This I believe should be regulated by the quality of the soil. The Cotswolds some years ago were awarded the medal at Toronto Industrial against all breeds for the best pair of fat sheep for exportation, which was won by ewes weighing 345 pounds each. Again recently at the London Provincial show the Cotswolds were awarded first prize against all others, although it seems to be a mistake—the competition of one breed against another. The Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association could make a change in this particular satisfactory to all interested. The real value of Cotswolds is in crossing on other breeds or on grade flocks.

Mr. Russell, Sr., of the Agricultural College Farm at Cirencester, Gloucestershire, England, showed me a flock of sheep, two of every kind in Great Britain, which he had collected together that he might compare their feeding qualities. He remarked at the time that a great many of their Cotswold rams were used in England to cross on Down ewes, to improve their feeding quality, and no doubt the mutton sells for Down mutton on the English markets. The gain in using Cotswold rams in Canada is to get size for shipping purposes, as we all know it is the weight that brings the profit. I can only give my own experience in breeding Leicesters, Lincoln, Cotswolds and Shropshires. A few years ago I fed in one pen two pairs of first prize Cotswold ewes at the English Royal, and one pair of Shropshire ewes, first prize winners at the H. S. Show in Scotland; raised pure-bred lambs from them all, and find the Cotswold will produce the heaviest lambs, and in shearings again I find the Cotswold will shear about three pounds to two of the Shrops. Canada has only been a resting place for the Cotswolds on their way to the west, even as far as Colorado. The wool dealers injured the reputation of the Cotswolds, as they fancied every coarse fleece was a Cotswold when not one in five hundred was from pure-blooded Cotswold sheep. The demand for Cotswolds in the west at present cannot be supplied. This goes far to show that no other breed will replace them.—James Russell, Richmond Hill, in Farmer's Advocate.

A LESSON IN MANNERS.

Uncle Theodore Has an Encounter With Farmer Tumbledown.

At one of the farmers' institutes, Theodore Louis, the veteran teacher of hogology, had been relating to an interested audience of farmers how he bred, fed and marketed his hogs, giving minute details of the work, tending brood sows, cooking squashes, cleaning out the pens, supplying bedding and everything pertaining to the business. As he came down from the platform a farmer with unkempt hair and beard, a slouched hat, greasy frock and overalls, the latter tucked into a pair of dirty, coarse boots, met him and said:

"Mr. Louis, do you pretend to say you feed your own hogs?"

"Oh, yes! When I am at home."

"And clean out the manure?"

"Certainly," said Mr. Louis, with a smile.

"Well," said Farmer Tumbledown, with a sneer, "when a man with a stiff hat, a black suit of clothes, a gold chain and shiny shoes tells me he feeds hogs and cleans out the pen, I don't believe him."

This rather nettled the good-natured champion of improved "swine husbandry," and he said:

"My friend, did you learn anything new of me, to-day?"

"Oh, yes," said Tumbledown, "all you said about breeding and feeding was good, but I don't believe a man who dresses like you ever feeds hogs."

There was an interested group of listeners gathered by this time, and, with a twinkle in his eyes, Uncle Theodore said:

"Now, my friend, let me teach you something else. If you want men to respect you and your calling, you must show some respect for it yourself. You ought to have enough ambition and self-respect so that when you go to town or to attend an institute you would black your boots, put on a decent suit of clothes and clean yourself up."

The crowd seemed to appreciate the situation, and Tumbledown had business some where else.

It is not the farming but it is farmers like Tumbledown that cause some people to speak lightly of farmers. There is nothing in the business of farming that needs to make a man of a man. The day is passed when dirty hands, greasy clothes and muddy boots are to be accepted as an index of occupation.—Chamman's Rural World.

A Startling Statement.

At a New Hampshire institute the statement that a ton of butter contained but 43 cents worth of fertilizing material, while that in a ton of cheese was valued at \$20, created an unusual degree of interest.

To Ease Competition Effects.

Competition is the great trouble in the way of us farmers. And there is but one way out; reduce the cost of production, by better methods and growing more per acre.—T. B. Terry.

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J. W. GREEN, Editor.

A WORD IN SEASON!

As this is the season of the year when the head of the family and the prudent housewife are looking about them to ascertain where they can purchase their fall supplies to the best advantage, we desire to place a few facts before you for your consideration.

The lowest priced goods are not always the cheapest, for inferior goods are dear at any price. Neither is the dealer who is constantly cutting his prices to you the one who will give you the most value for your money in the end.

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