

in our present monetary system has altered our already extensive real property into available capital for the employment of our native industry, who knows I say but this very sheep husbandry may in the home manufacture of woollen, open up a source of employment to a new food-raising population, which may be the chief consumers of our own produce, we may then perhaps be proud of teaching the land of freedom the way to use free trade, for we should be in a very different position had we only a small proportion of our breadstuffs to offer for sale, to a neighbour who required them, instead of begging a market for our present large surplus. We should then be prepared to force that reciprocity now so eagerly desired, as were we not driven into the market by our own necessities, the purchaser would have himself to pay any amount of duty he might be fool enough to impose.

My view then of the present subject is that a considerable extension of the culture of sheep in our present mixed husbandry, might be with advantage effected, partly as diminishing the excessive supply of wheat in the market, partly as enabling us to raise that wheat at a lower cost, by the cheaper mode of preparing the land with clover and root crops as substituted for bare fallows. As affording a class of investment in which our farming capital will be more moveable, affording an opportunity of carrying on along with our present principle of small profits, that of quick returns, at the same time that it will be bringing our stocks gradually into a preparedness for the only state of things which I think at all compatible with our future prosperity, an increase in our home manufactures, an advance in which must cause a proportionate advance in the home demand both for wool and mutton. A moderate increase of this husbandry affords the means of taking advantage of our position in employing a larger extent of land with less of the at present costly article of labour, while a less proportion of the labour will be of that severe and hurried character so trying to every farmer in Canada.

My view of the class of sheep best fitted for our purpose having been already pretty decidedly expressed, and this paper having said of itself somewhat beyond the usual bounds, I will leave for another meeting that part of the matter which takes directly hold of the management of our sheep stock, and I hope some more experienced shepherd among us, will see it his duty not to let the subject drop, but endeavour to enlighten us on a point on which I am sorry to find there is generally too little known among Canadian Farmers.

Mr. Wright was of opinion that the Leicester, or a cross between the Leicester and the Teeswater, was the best breed of sheep for us at present, judging from his own experience; but from what he had read he thought the Southdown a very valuable breed of sheep; he did not approve of short woolled sheep, although they were in favour with the manufacturer, yet he thought two pounds of Merino wool was not equal to six pounds of Leicester wool; thought that Burs and other weeds were seriously injurious to the wool,

and hurt the sale of it; that there was a good demand for mutton in this neighbourhood, and that our little market would compare favourably with much larger towns; had been in Rochester, Kingston, &c., and our own market showed finer mutton than any of them, which said a great deal for the farmers in this neighbourhood; from his stock of ten breeding ewes, he had cleared in lambs and wool, £22 16s., which was 200 per cent., and which was a very good return; had sold some ram lambs at a good price, which made the return larger, but thought that in an ordinary way, allowing a lamb and a half to each ewe, and a fair price for wool, they would double themselves each year.

Mr. Page said he knew very well that his friend, Mr. Hume, would not be content to wash and dip, and feed and shear, but that he would do his work thoroughly; and dye, and spin, and wear, and dress, and press, and finish it completely; he thought the sheep one of the most useful animals the Almighty had committed to our race; that it supplied his wants of food, and raiment; the first want of man was food, which it supplied of an excellent kind—their raiment as clothing, nothing can be more comfortable than flannel, and all the different cloths made of wool—and thought it did not directly supply fuel, yet, as we must often substitute light for heat, it might be said to supply that also—then the skin when tanned furnished material for the shoemaker, the bookbinder, &c.

Mr. Bourn was endeavouring to have a cross between the Leicester and the Southdown; he found their mutton more approved of than the pure Leicester—the lambs would weigh when three or four months old, about 50lbs.; found the wool of this cross finer than the Leicester; thought it was not much approved of at the Factory.

Mr. G. Underwood had long been accustomed with a breed of sheep which he had hardly heard mentioned here—the Cheviots—he thought they would make an excellent breed for this country, as they were both hardy and fine woolled. In the South of Scotland, where he came from, a cross between the Cheviot and the Leicester was considered the very best feeders—they put Leicester rams to Cheviot ewes, and had known the lambs sell for, from 20s. to 22s. a head.

Mr. Hume had thought a good deal about the Cheviots, as he believed that he came from a farm where they kept the finest blooded Cheviots in England; had found a cross between the Cheviot and Leicester very profitable; but thought that on our fine pastures we might as well keep larger sheep. Should fine wool continue in favour, it might be worth while to try the Cheviots.

Mr. Radcliffe was glad he had come, as he had heard some very valuable information, thought the Cheviots were not so much domesticated as the Leicester, were wilder and more restless, and would be often to break over fence than the quieter Leicester. When he was in Scotland, they divided their sheep into three lots, and their old ewes sold for 35s. a head. Said the Butcher gave us too little for our lambs, thought it was better to keep them till they were a year old, found the burrs a very great nuisance.