

Leicester.

The Leicester was one of the first breeds to be imported into the province and it is still very popular in some sections, although many districts are replacing Leicester blood with that of Down breeding. The Leicester has a wonderful spring of rib and carries remarkable width and strength along the upper part of the body. The bone is of excellent quality and the body is uniform throughout. Viewed from the side the Leicester appears slightly long of leg and shallow of rib. They have, however, an excellent constitution. The head is clean cut with a sharp angular appearance and rather small for the size of the body. The ears are long and pointed, being carried partially erect. The poll is long in appearance with no tendency to coarseness and this, with a clear eye, a fine nose that is slightly Roman, and black lips and nostrils gives the Leicester head its characteristic appearance. The fleece is heavy, evenly crimped and



COTSWOLD EWE.—Winner of many prizes in Quebec, in 1916



A prize winning LINCOLN RAM LAMB in 1916.

possesses a special lustre which gives Leicester wool its distinctive value for the manufacture of rather heavy, smooth, highly colored garments. Leicester wool grades as lustre combing. The fleeces average from seven to twelve pounds in weight. It is important that the Leicester fleece extend well down to the knees and hocks. Bareness at the neck, flanks and tail should also be guarded against.

The Leicester is inclined to carry excessive fat and on this account the mutton does not rank as first class. Owing to the open character of the fleece, Leicesters are not among the hardiest of breeds. However, their early maturing qualities and good constitution along with size and fineness of bone make the Leicester ram an ideal for crossing on grade flocks for the production of commercial lambs. The Leicester-Cheviot cross is perhaps one of the most popular.