

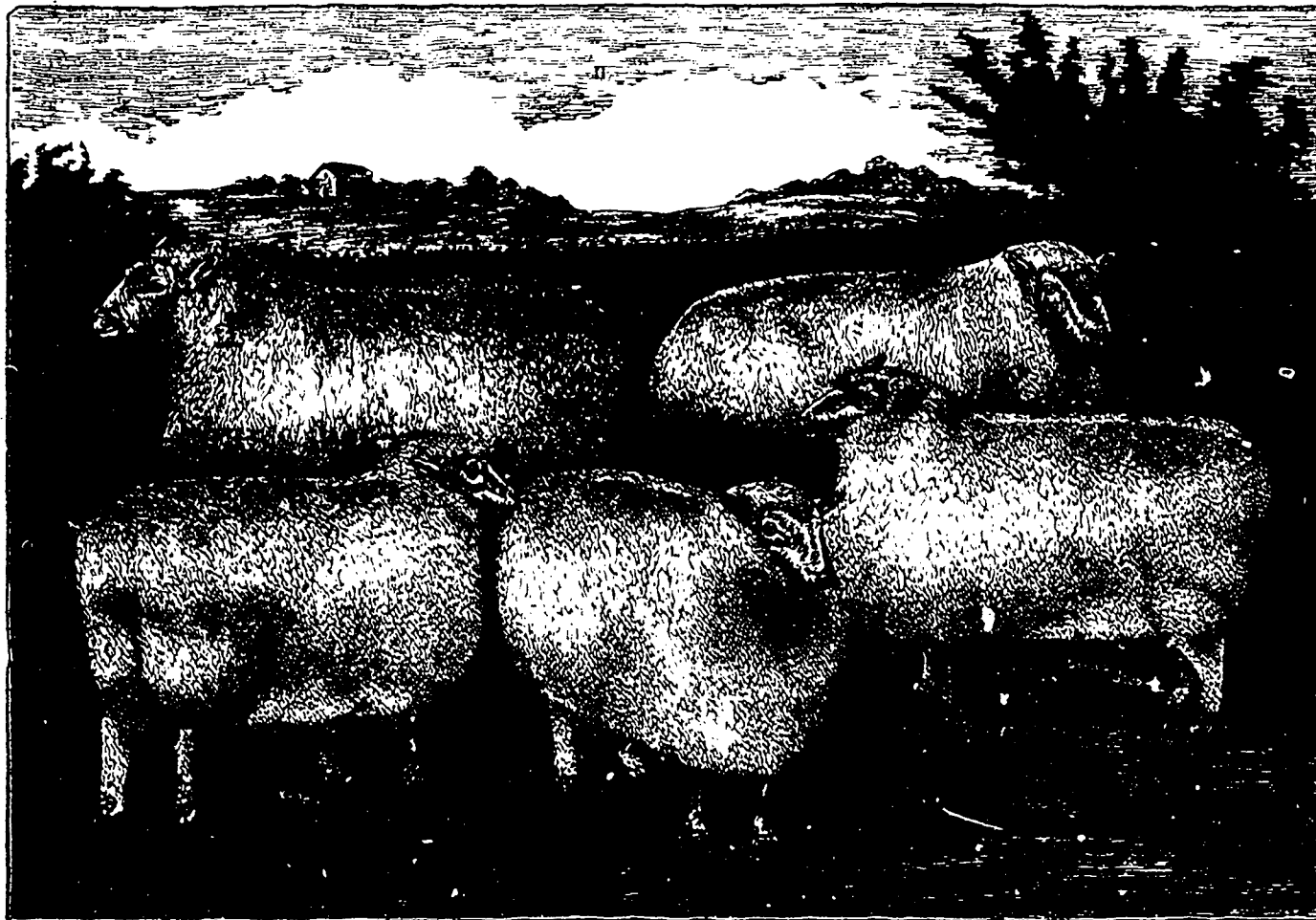
CANADIAN STOCK-RAISERS' JOURNAL

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Davis. Robin Hood. Hogg. Lord Boyle. Professor.

GROUP OF GRADE WETHERS, WINNERS OF SWEEPSTAKES, CHICAGO, 1883.

Exhibited by Mr. Geo. Hood, Guelph, Ont.

THE accompanying sketch, by our American artist, represents the five fat grade wethers awarded the Marshall, Field & Co.'s Prize, at the recent Fat Stock Show, Chicago. This handsome prize was a sweepstake, and amounted to \$125 00 cash. It was offered for the best five grade wethers in the show.

This show was open to the world. It must be gratifying to reflect that the great sheep prize of the American Continent came thus to the land we love to call our own. To preserve in live-stock story the remembrance of their achievement, as well as to stimulate our countrymen to greater effort, and also to throw light in regard to the inquiry of a former number on the subject of grade sheep, we concluded to have them sketched and to gather facts regarding them, which are subjoined below.

They were exhibited by Mr. Geo. Hood, of Guelph, who also won many other prizes at the same fair.

Our readers will be pleased to know that three of these sheep were bred at the Experimental Farm, Guelph. Professor Brown has favored us with the facts given below in regard to them. They were all two shears. One of them, "Lord Boyle," an Oxford

Down Grade, weighed 365 pounds at the time of the farm sale, 28th September last, and is from an Oxford Down ram and a common ewe—that is, a grade ewe with a Leicester foundation. This sheep, represented as lying down in the sketch, was an animal of great substance with massive proportions.

"Professor," standing on the right, is a Shropshire Grade, from a Shropshire Down ram and a common ewe. His weight was 292 pounds.

"Robin Hood," standing on the left at the top of the cut, is a Leicester Grade, from a Leicester ram and a common ewe, with a weight of 290 pounds. The fleeces weighed respectively at the last clip 13, 12 and 14 pounds unwashed, with a corresponding value of \$1.56, \$2.08 and \$1.71. This, Professor Brown gives also as the averages of these breeds at the farm.

The other two of the group, "Hogg and Davis," were bred by Mr. Matthias Kirby, of Armstrong's Mills, County Wellington, Ont. They represent a cross of a Southdown ram with Cotswold ewes. Their weights about 1st October last, were in the neighborhood of 280 pounds. Mr. Kirby only fed grain to them from weaning time and onward.

The weight of Oxford Down Grade "Lord Boyle" is somewhat unusual, as the averages at the Experimental Farm for some years past have been for the shearings—Oxford Downs, 170 lbs.; Shropshires, 165 lbs.; and Leicesters, 180 lbs. Reckoning these at 5½c. per lb. live weight, and adding the worth of fleece as given above, makes no very material difference in the value of the three crosses respectively. To settle the question as to which is the best cross we require further experiments, taking into account also the nature and amount of food used. We had purposed saying much more on the subject of grade sheep, but where so little is settled, it is safer and wiser to wait for light than to go on in the darkness.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., Dec. 27, 1883.

DEAR SIR:—I accidentally, through a friend, saw the November and December issues of your journal, which I like very much. If you can succeed in educating the farmers of the Dominion to the necessity (in order to procure good stock) of breeding from pure bred males, instead of patronizing animals of mixed and uncertain breeds, you will accomplish one of the most desirable changes in the whole of agricultural reforms. Yours truly, CHAS. C. GARDINER.