

Cotswolds or New Oxfordshire. The Teeswater is an old and favorite breed, in some parts of England, and we think well adapted to Canada.

I shall now proceed to the subject of Sheep Husbandry as it concerns ourselves. The question has often been put to me, "is it profitable to keep sheep?" My answer to this question is in the affirmative. My opinion is, the keeping of sheep is profitable directly, and indirectly more profitable. When we take into consideration that the land of this Province, by a continued succession of cropping, becomes exhausted of its natural fertility, we ask ourselves, how is it to be prevented? what is the remedy? The answer is, keep stock to consume the produce on the premises, and return to the land that which you have taken from it. A fair proportion of this stock should be sheep. Sheep will convert an immense quantity of coarse fodder into valuable manure, if properly managed, and I think our farmers would find it more profitable to appropriate a greater portion of their farm to the feeding of sheep, than they now do, by subjecting the land to the continued operation of the plough, and the growing half crops of grain.

The last two years must surely have led farmers to see the advantage of paying more attention to stock farming. My opinion is, that under any circumstances a mixed husbandry is the safest, for it will not in any year entirely disappoint the hopes of the farmer. He cannot suffer so serious a loss as the farmer who depends altogether on his grain, should his grain be blighted or burnt up with drought. It is scarcely probable that a total destruction of live stock, wool, and grain would occur in one year. We need not be afraid of raising too many sheep, for our neighbours on the other side of the Lake are prepared to buy all we have to spare, since brother Jonathan has become so fond of English mutton. The 15th of November is a good time to put the tup with the ewes, the time of generation being about five calendar months, the lambs will come about the last two weeks of April, and the beginning of May. If the lambs come much earlier than this, the ewes require a great deal of attention and expensive feed, otherwise they will get low and out of condition.

In conclusion I may remark, that of the various animals given by a bountiful Providence for the benefit of man, there is none of greater utility than the sheep. The sheep affords us food and clothing; and in the manufacturing their wool, persons may be employed in productive labour, in the winters of Canada, when they would otherwise, perhaps, be unproductive consumers. Sheep should constitute a material part of a farmer's live stock and profits, in this Province, and I believe that nothing will pay the farmer better for kind and liberal treatment, than the sheep. When a man cultivates a farm or a field, the amount of produce is generally in ratio with the amount of labour bestowed, manure applied, and quality of seed sown; so it is with a flock of sheep, if you turn them on the roads in summer, and feed them on nothing but straw in the winter, it is unreasonable to expect that they will yield much in return.

I have not said anything about the qualities or the properties of the Merino sheep, because I know very little about them experimentally, but being natives of countries much milder than our own, such as France and Spain, I think they are not so well adapted to the long and severe winters of Canada, as the long-wooled sheep; they are not very handsome or attractive to look at, but they ought not to be despised on this account, for doubtless they are very useful on account of their wool, and I would remind my brother farmers, especially those belonging to the younger class, that we should be careful not to despise the useful for the sake of the beautiful.

If I have in reading this paper, shown anything like enthusiasm on the subject of Sheep Husbandry, I hope you will excuse it, for I assure you that I am much attached to it, and if circumstances demanded that I should occupy anything like a menial position on a farm, and I had my choice, it would be that of a shepherd.

But before I close, allow me to express a wish, that I hope the time is not far distant, when, instead of selling our wool to be carried out of our neighbourhood or out of the country, we shall sell it to be manufactured at Port Hope, and that the beautiful and powerful stream that runs through the town, which has been made tributary to the working of a great amount of machinery already, will be applied still further to yield the motive power required for a Woollen Factory.

I may state that a building is erected at Port Hope, possessing every convenience for the above purpose, as soon as a person or persons can be found who have the necessary capital and enterprise to work it.