

allowed to prevent a proper decision in this matter. There are hundreds of our people who are adhering to one particular breed or another simply because they are prejudiced either for or against. In this enlightened age a man ought to be willing to throw aside any prejudices and look at the matter entirely from an independent and unbiased point of view.

There are two things especially which will be needed by those who wish to carry on this industry in the future :—First, good judgment; and second, good care and management; the latter of course will include good food for the animals. Now, these two things we hope to give those in attendance at our O.A.C. If we fail in this, we fail certainly in one of the essential reasons for the existence of this institution. The students who take the full course will always hold a decided advantage over those who have never enjoyed this privilege.

Because in our Province we have different soils and to some extent different climates, it becomes necessary in an institution such as our O.A.C. to provide, for the purpose of education, specimens of the different breeds of animals for the inspection and study of the students who may be in attendance. Thus by constant observation of the peculiar habits and special characteristics of each, everyone is able intelligently to decide as to the suitability of any given breed for his own locality.

It is clear that those who follow this industry in the future will be compelled of necessity to study the best methods that can be adopted to cheapen production. The object must not be to produce the heaviest animals but to produce on a given area the greatest number of pounds both of meat and wool at the least possible cost. If three sheep weighing 150 lbs. each can be produced at less cost than two sheep weighing 200 lbs. each, then it is clear that it will be to the advantage of the breeder to produce the smaller sheep. This is a matter which needs constant observation and investigation, and if some of our pet breeds must be lost sight of because of this fact being made clear as against them, let it be so.

We must remember that in the future, even more than at present, we shall be compelled to meet in an open market the results in this particular department of the best intelligence and skill of the whole world. My

judgment, however, is that with the advantages which our excellent climate affords, if our people will but pay attention to the points suggested as to quality and a lesser cost of production, we shall be able to hold our own against all comers.

There is no one who has studied the sheep statistics of our Province but is clearly convinced that there is abundant room in Ontario for much greater development in this important branch of agriculture. Most of us deplore the fact that our population during the last forty years has increased at so small a ratio; yet a reference to statistics will show that the increase in the production of sheep falls far behind what might be expected from the actual increase in population. In 1851 in the Province of Ontario our population was 952,000. In 1891 it had increased to 2,112,989. The number of horses and cattle during that period, according to the last statistics of the Bureau of Industries, has multiplied by three. The number of swine has also increased in about the same ratio, but I find that the number of sheep has only increased by about half, the number being 1,050,168 in 1851 and 1,693,751 in 1891.

None of our domestic animals are more easily handled or produced with less labor and as little cost as sheep. Indeed a few sheep may be kept on every farm without the farmer being cognizant of much additional expense. This cannot be said of any of our other domestic animals, but notwithstanding this, the industry has not grown as we should like to have seen it.

It appears to me that, if we are to succeed in developing this industry in the future, two things are necessary :—First, our farmers must have the opportunity to sell both mutton and wool in the best market that can be found. This subject is considered a political one, and perhaps ought not to be mentioned in a paper of this sort; yet everyone must feel the force of the statement. So long as we are hampered in disposing of these products where we could do it to the best advantage, so long will our farmers find reason in that fact for refusing to increase their flocks.

The second thing which seems to be necessary is more stringent laws for the protection of sheep against ravages by dogs. The present law is certainly in advance of that which formerly existed, inasmuch as a man who allows his dog to run at large at night runs