

appearance. After the birds were uncased I hung one, to find how long it would retain its bright appearance, and found that it became milky white in color as soon as the bird had dried out of the chilled state. To-day, five days later, it is as nice-looking as a fresh-killed bird. I think the price obtained will both please and pay you. It is a fair market price, and on a par with the present rates for Surrey chickens. For small weekly arrivals I venture to think the price could be maintained, but anticipate that large consignments would bring the figure down to seven pence (14 cents) per pound."

There was a howl the other day, in one of the U. S. agricultural papers, against "the cruel practice of castrating fowls." By all means let all emasculating of male animals, such as ram-lambs, boar-pigs, bull-calves, and colts be given up too, and a nice men we shall soon find ourselves in! We believe that in some of the States the spaying of heifer-calves and sow-pigs has been made illegal! Can anything be more ridiculous than such pseudo-sensibility.

Profit in feeding lambs.—We extract the following from *Farming*:

"About thirty of the lambs were well-bred Cotswolds and ten were Shropshire grades. My experience tells me that the Cotswolds are far ahead for winter feeding. After weaning, the lambs had a small patch of rape. When this was done they were turned on clover till the snow came, when they were taken under shelter and fed lightly for a couple of weeks. On December 8th they were weighed, averaging 105 lbs. each.

The lambs were then fed for eighty-five days on the following: clover hay, $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. per lamb per day or 106 lbs. for the period. This at \$5 per ton would be $26\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each lamb; grain, ground, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per day per lamb or $127\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. for the period, worth at 80 cents per cwt. \$1.02. Turnips 10 lbs. per day per lamb or 850 lbs. for period, worth at 6 cents. per lb. 85 cents per lamb.

From this I deduce the following:

Cost of feeding one lamb eighty-five days.

106 lbs. of hay at \$5 per ton	\$.26 $\frac{1}{2}$
127 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grain at 80 cents per cwt.	1.02
850 lbs. of turnips at 6 cents per bus.85
Total cost,	\$2.13 $\frac{1}{2}$

Adding to this the cost of each lamb \$2.50, we find the total cost to be \$4.63 $\frac{1}{2}$.

At the end of the fattening period the lambs weighed $134\frac{1}{2}$ each and the price I received was 5 cents per lb. or \$6.72 $\frac{1}{2}$ each and, therefore, the profit per lamb was \$2.09 and on the 40 lambs \$83.60. From this the price of pasture for probably two months should be deducted.

I find it profitable to cut the hay. In feeding in racks the lambs pick off the leaves and heads and waste a great deal of the best feed, but when it is cut they eat it up clean.

I find that sheep are the most profitable part of farming, and if in answering your letter I have been of any service to you I shall be very much pleased indeed.

WM. RICHARDSON.

Vandorf, Ont., Dec. 23rd, 1898.

Sheep-dung.—Professor Roberts, of Cornell University, says that the manure of a sheep is worth \$3.17 a year. Well, that depends upon circumstances. If the sheep are kept *on the land*, and not allowed to lie about in the ditches, in the roads, on banks, and in the bush, we have no doubt that Mr. Roberts' calculation will come out all right. But just look for a moment at the facts. The truth is, the dung and urine of the sheep is, as a rule, more than half wasted. No; fold your sheep, in summer, on your green-crops, and, in winter, keep them under shelter on well bedded layers, and you will find the English saying come true, that "the sheep's foot produces gold." An acre of fallow land folded over by sheep, used to be valued in England to an incoming tenant at £3.10. The sheep ran on the pastures—*down-land*—winter-oats, etc., all day, and were folded on the fallows, in preparation for wheat, from 6 p.m., till the dew was off in the morning. This went on till the wethers were 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old, when they were sold to the farmers of the lowlands to be fattened. Thus, none of the manure, liquid or solid was wasted.

Experiments in Iowa and Pennsylvania seem to show that crude petroleum or oil can be used as a valuable adjunct for roadmaking. After the dirt road has been prepared and smoothed in the ordinary manner it is claimed that the application to the surface at the rate of one barrel to 100 feet of road twelve feet wide, will cause the surface when dried to become hard and impervious to rain.