

belongs to the domain of the special pleader, rather than to that of the practical agriculturist. The point of Professor FREAN's argument appears to be this—that, having for long suspected that ryegrass was much more prevalent in permanent pastures than men of a certain "school" of thought were prepared to admit, he subjected the question to a practical test, and found what anyone who will walk over a meadow at grass-mowing time will find to be true—namely, that perennial ryegrass is a constant and most important plant in all good pastures.

As to its hardness in this climate, I can only say that the Messrs. Ewing, seedsmen of Montreal, after writing to me in 1884 to express a doubt as to this grass standing the winter of the province, very shortly after sent me a communication to this effect: We have just received a parcel of ryegrass seed grown in the neighbourhood of Owl's-head mountain.

Kohl-rabi.—I have always rather objected to their root on account of the quantity of roots it produces, and of the consequent difficulty in pulling it. But a suggestion I have lately met with seems to be a useful one: cut off the roots with an instrument like a carpenter's adze. The tops can be given to the cows, like cabbages, as long as they are good, and the bulbs can be stored like swedes or mangels. As for the kohl-rabi being an exhaustive plant, that is immaterial, as of course they will be consumed on the farm. One thing is worth notice: even two bushels a day given to a cow will not make her milk taste.

Cost of growing roots.—An extract from an English exchange shows that the cost of growing roots in Wales is no higher than in other parts of the United Kingdom. Exclusive of manures, the following is the outlay for growing swedes on the farm of "Pembrokeshire," a correspondent:

Ploughing, cultivating, &c.....	\$5.00
Drilling, horse-hoeing, &c.....	2.50
Hand-hoeing twice.. .. .	2.00
Seed, &c.....	0.50

\$10.00

See English Agricultural Gazette, December 24th, 1888. —The average product, "Pembrokeshire" adds, is from 20 to 25 tons, say, 900 to 1,000 bushels, at a cost therefore for the labour of ploughing, hoeing, &c., of about one cent a bushel! The manures used were, 5 cwt. (gross) 36 % soluble phosphate at \$10.00 = \$2.50 and 112 lbs. nitrate of soda = \$2.55; in all \$5.05, which makes the cost for manure equal to half a cent per bushel. To this we must add the cost of storing the crop, unnecessary in Wales, as it would be fed off by sheep where it grew.

The price—\$2.00—for handhoeing is for singling and edge-hoeing afterwards, and would be probably, if divided for singling, $\frac{1}{2}$ and for edge-hoeing, $\frac{1}{2}$, but the job is usually taken at one price for the two operations.

Southdowns.—Here is a nice chance for any one desirous of starting a flock of Southdown sheep: The celebrated flock of Southdowns at Streetly-Hall, Cambridgeshire, belonging to Mr. Henry Webb, will be sold without reserve during next summer, in consequence of the expiration of Mr. Webb's lease of the farm.

Mr. Henry Webb is one of the sons of the late Jonas Webb, of Babraham, the great originator of the modern Southdown. The last time I saw him he was a boy, passing all his time in the sheepfold, except when he was driven, almost forcibly, to school. That year, 1852, I was present at the letting of the Babraham rams, when upwards of £3000

worth were disposed of. I do not think I am wrong in saying that the flocks of the Duke of Richmond, Lord Walsingham, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Colman, and Mr. Gorrington, are indebted for their form and size, entirely to Jonas Webb, and I do not think that the stock is likely to have degenerated in the hands of his son.

Weights of sheep at the Smithfield-club.—The following are the weights of the best pens of three sheep at the late Xmas show in London:

WEIGHT OF SHEEP, BEST PENS OF THREE.

	Under 1 year.			Under 2 years.			Over 3 years.		
	c.	gr.	lb.	c.	gr.	lb.	c.	gr.	lb.
Hants	5	3	8	7	2	0	6	7	2
Ootswold	5	2	14	8	2	4	8	1	1
Suffolk.....	5	2	6	7	2	16	7	1	12
Dorset	5	1	10	7	0	14	7	1	1
Oxfords.....	5	1	8	8	1	3	8	0	3
Kents.....	5	0	2	7	1	6	8	2	24
Lincolns.....	4	3	21	9	0	26	9	2	14
Southdowns .	4	3	15	6	1	9	6	0	3
Leicester	4	3	7	7	2	6	8	2	20
Shrops. Downs.....	4	0	14	7	0	3	6	1	22
Cheviots.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	12

AVERAGE WEIGHT PER HEAD OF EACH PEN IN LBS.

	Under 1 year.			Under 2 years.			Over 3 years.		
Hants	207 $\frac{1}{2}$	279 $\frac{1}{2}$	287						
Ootswold	200	318 $\frac{1}{2}$	308						
Suffolk .	197 $\frac{1}{2}$	284 $\frac{1}{2}$	274						
Dorset.....	189 $\frac{1}{2}$	265 $\frac{1}{2}$	270						
Oxfords	188 $\frac{1}{2}$	309	300						
Kents.....	177 $\frac{1}{2}$	272	326						
Lincolns.....	174 $\frac{1}{2}$	344 $\frac{1}{2}$	359						
S. Downs	172 $\frac{1}{2}$	235 $\frac{1}{2}$	224 $\frac{1}{2}$						
Leicesters.	169 $\frac{1}{2}$	281 $\frac{1}{2}$	325						
Shropshires	144	261 $\frac{1}{2}$	240						

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF EACH BREED (ALL AGES) OMITTING FRACTIONS.

	lb.		lb.
Lincoln	293	Suffolk.....	252
Ootswold	265	Dorset.....	241
Oxfords.	266	Shropshire.....	215
Kents }	258	Southdown	211
Leicester }	253	Cheviots	—
Hants	253		

Observe the early maturity of the Hampshire-downs, and the gigantic size of the Lincolns, which latter, according to our rule of a horseman's stone (14 lbs.) for a Smithfield one (8 lbs.) must have yielded upwards of 50 lbs. of meat per quarter, about the weight of a whole carcass of Ellman's Southdowns fifty years ago. The Shropshires do not seem to improve in early maturity, but they advance rapidly in their second year. There is great improvement visible in the weight of the Southdown lambs. I hope Mr. Casgrain will remark this list.

Folding sheep.—I cannot exactly flatter myself that Major Alvord has done me the honor of reading my oft-repeated articles on sheep-folding, but really one would be tempted to think so by the annexed paragraph:

Among the many practical points brought out in the discussion of profits from sheep at the late meeting of the Massachusetts board of agriculture were the following: It is not best to grind grain for sheep, as they prefer to grind it them-