

the object contemplated, the present state and past history of similar institutions, the branches of knowledge to be taught, and the expense and general outline of the institution.

It seems necessary for this committee now, only to present a few brief considerations, which seem called for by the nature of the bill which they ask leave to introduce.

The committee with entire unanimity assent to the correctness of the conclusions arrived at by the said commissioners, that such an institution as has thus been called for by so wide spread a public opinion, should be established, and that the same should be founded by the State. The necessity for its existence is found in two very important facts, the first is, that two-thirds of the entire population of the State is engaged in agriculture, it is the great occupation of our citizens and the primary source of our wealth, and must so continue through all future time. Whatever adds to the value or the dignity of labor, tends to the elevation in comfort and respectability of the great body of the people. A very slight increase throughout the State of the productions of the earth, will *annually* return to the people more than the entire amount which will be expended on the proposed institution, should that sum even exceed any contemplated bounds.

The second ground for its necessity is found in the most remarkable fact, that while a very large majority of the inhabitants of the Union are engaged in agriculture, while it is everywhere regarded with respect and held in the highest favor, there is not upon the continent a solitary institution where a thorough scientific and practical knowledge of agriculture can be obtained. Millions have been expended in founding institutions to teach law, medicine, theology, and the higher departments of science and literature; and even the blind, the insane, and the deaf and dumb have not been overlooked and forgotten. But that great science which lies at the foundation of all others, and is paramount in importance to them all, has been left to struggle along as best it might, guided by the flickering light of an uncertain experience, and unaided by the fostering care of the government which it sustains.—The results of modern improvements, and the progress made in the present century, in the science of agriculture, demand at the hands of the State the most favorable consideration of this subject, and that this great desideratum should be supplied without further delay. The great farming interests of this State have too long been overlooked and forgotten, or sacrificed to the interests of more artful or more clamorous bodies. But now when their wants are understood, and their requests are duly presented to our consideration, they are too reasonable to be longer postponed."

STANDARD FOR SAXONY SHEEP.

BY THOMAS REED.

At a meeting of wool growers at the state fair of New York, it was agreed that the judges of Saxony should publish a description of what they considered a complete specimen of Saxony sheep, for the benefit of young wool growers. The other judges desired that I would give a written description to Mr. Peters, the editor of the *Wool Grower*, to which I at length agreed.

Perfection should be the aim of all; and as the Saxony sheep have been brought to the highest state of perfection, as producers of fine wool, it is my desire to make the description so plain that a young wool grower who observes these rules, in buying or selecting for breeding, will soon have a good flock.

First comes the description of a pure blood Saxon

buck. He should be of medium size, [and I consider a medium sized buck to be 3 feet 9 inches from the nose to the root of the tail,] around the body 3 feet 2 inches; around the flank 3 feet 6 inches; from the breast to the hip 2 feet 6 inches; in height 2 feet 3 inches; he should be a little longer than a Merino and not quite so heavy built. The back almost straight; broad over the kidneys; body round; the neck starting almost level with the tops of the shoulders, tapering and becoming round towards the head. The head small, and neatly set on; no loose skin on the under part of the neck, or very little; the hoofs short and pointed; well quartered, strong, active, and spirited; his eye bright; pleasant countenance, and tame; the skin smooth and healthy looking. When walking with his side to you he should look finished and gay. He should look and feel woolly, not stiff or hard, but soft. The same rules should be observed in selecting ewes, only they are a size less.

The next comes the description of his wool. Fine wool on his forehead; wool on his crown, fine, short, downy looking wool on his cheeks; the under part of the neck as fine as possible and crimped. The wool on the body to be as even as possible all over, and should be crimped twenty-four to twenty-eight crimps to the inch; the crimps should run plain and evenly across the sample and up to the top resembling crape. It should be soft, fine, thick set or compact on the sheep; it should be so that it will stand straight out, showing small strands or divisions on the surface of the fleece: the belly well covered with fine wool; the hip wool soft and crimped. The wool should be a clear white or cream color; moderately yolked and the surface of the fleece a little dark. There is a very good kind of wool that is very fine and close, in which you can not trace the crimps—you must decide by the smallness of the fibre. The fleece when shorn, its felt properties should keep it united when spread resembling a spider's web; it should be soft and easy rolled; the length of the wool after it is washed and shorn is from one and a half to two inches.

When a young wool grower goes to select, he should keep the above described sheep or some other model sheep before his mind; it would help him to have precisely one-fourth of an inch marked on his left thumb nail, to lay the sample on and count, and if they count six or seven crimps in that space they are very good. You should cut the samples with scissors for pulling them injures the wool and the sheep both.

When the wool is well crimped it is superb. Sheep that are soaked and washed under a water fall until the wool is pure and clean will average two and a half lbs per head—if washed in the old way they will average three lbs per head. You can have your sheep exquisitely fine, or fine and heavier fleeced just as you select them to breed from. Then why not breed an American sheep equal to any in the world, or one that will suit our notions?

Remember "like begets like." Be careful to guard against the following faults: Coarse, hairy faces; coarse hairs or uncrimped wool on the under part of the neck; stringy on the top of the shoulders; bareness of the belly; coarse hip wool; and coarse hairs on the inside of the thighs; the skin pale or covered with spots; slab-sided, poor on reasonable keeping; sunk in the neck; a little coarse; low on the side.

By observing these rules in selecting and breeding, my wool of 1843 passed for the best American wool at Davis & Aubin's depot, at Boston; my wool of 1849 passed at H. Blanchard's depot, Kinderhook, N. Y.—980 lbs super, 438 prime, all in the two grades. In conclusion, try to have your sheep with as many of the good marks as possible, and very few of the bad ones.