

ally disgusting to see the way so many people, women especially, jerk their horses' mouths. If the poor thing goes to sleep over his work, draw your whip across his back, but keep his mouth free from all unnecessary interference. Ed.

"Consumption of food."—What very rash statements one sees sometimes in the papers. A writer in "The New-England Homestead" says:

"A pasture that will carry a herd of ten cows through the summer, will carry a flock of 20 sheep with the cows and be all the better for it."

No doubt the sheep will find food enough in the pasture to keep them going, but it will be gained by their nibbling out the heart of the clover and other bottom-plants, of which we have none to spare on this side of the Atlantic. Of course, we know that the great graziers in the rich feeding pastures of Leicestershire, Buckinghamshire, etc., in the old country, run sheep on their feeding-ground after the big beasts have been marketed, but that is a very different thing. Here, grow rape, vetches, etc., and keep the sheep on the arable land.

"Green-fodder."—We have always advocated thick seeding for green-meats: two bushels of oats, one of pease to the imperial acre; but Mr. Glurny the "Market-garden," editor of the "Eng. Ag. Gazette," who ought to know, though he sows the same number of bushels to the acre varies in the sorts, sowing 3 bushels of vetches and one of oats to the acre.

#### **HON. SIDNEY FISHER.**

In our exhibition number we had the pleasure of recounting in a somewhat brief manner a few of the important features of the work of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa during the Hon. Mr. Fisher's tenure of office. By the return of the Government to power on Wednesday last Mr. Fisher will, no doubt, continue to be the Minister of Agriculture for the next five

years, and a short review of his earlier life and fitness for the position may not be amiss at this juncture.

Mr. Fisher is a Canadian by birth and descent, his great-grandfather having come from Perthshire, Scotland, and settled in Quebec somewhere about 1790. He is the son of Dr. Arthur Fisher of Montreal, and was born on June 12, 1850. He was educated at the High School and McGill University and afterwards went to Cambridge University, England, where he obtained the degree of B.A. in 1872. After completing his education, Mr. Fisher returned to Canada, and in the following year purchased his present farm at Knowlton, Que., familiarly known as Alva Farm. At that time he had very little practical experience and no training for the work. But by devoting all his ability and energy to the business, he was able in a very few years to make a great success of it. He made a specialty of live stock breeding, and went into the making of fancy butter, a feature which he always considered the highest development of the business.

Starting in with little knowledge, he purchased common cows and a thoroughbred bull as good as could be found according to his judgment at that time. First he purchased an Ayrshire, then a Jersey and in 1885 a Guernsey, eventually retaining the last named breed as the most satisfactory for his purpose. His first Guernsey bull was purchased from the well-known herd of the late Sir John Abbott, and he afterwards purchased several females from the same herd. Finding that there was no great choice of the breed in Canada, Mr. Fisher went to the States in 1889 and bought a bull and four females from the celebrated herd of Mr. Morton, who was at that time vice-president of the United States. He then began to build up his herd of Guernseys by cross-breeding these two strains with most gratifying success. For several years previous to becoming Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Fisher's young stock carried off valuable prizes at the leading fairs in his own district. Since going to Ottawa he has not exhibit-