

be retained from the grants to the County Societies as heretofore, or whether it is to be received directly from Government, out of the amount of the Annual Grant for Agricultural purposes, prior to the apportionment of the grant to the Agricultural Societies.

There are some other minor changes in details, as to days of holding meetings, &c., which it is not important to mention at this time.

The delegate who may be appointed by your Society is requested to consider fully these proposed, alterations in order that he may be prepared to express his opinion upon their desirability or otherwise, or to propose others which he may think preferable, at the meeting here on the 30th inst.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

HUGH C. THOMSON,

Secretary.

Winter Management of Sheep.

[The following article is taken from that excellent monthly, the *American Stock Journal*, and will be found to contain many useful hints to all who keep sheep in these northern regions. While fully endorsing the writer's views of the necessity of affording sheep shelter during cold and stormy weather, we would caution the reader against confining them too closely. None of the domesticated animals, perhaps, suffer so much from a want of ventilation, and from close confinement, as sheep.]

1st. *Sheep should be sheltered.* That sheep require a good, clean, dry place, wherein they can be sheltered from storm, must be apparent to all who will reason a moment upon the subject. Storms, where the wool becomes saturated with water, not only impair their health, but wash out the natural yolk of the wool, necessary for its continued growth. All good wool raisers are agreed in this, and shelter and keep dry their sheep, especially in winter. The farmer will find himself abundantly rewarded by taking a little pains in this particular. And even if he has no sheds for his sheep to continually occupy in case of a storm, it is a good plan to turn the flock in upon the barn floor until the storm is over. It will richly repay him for his trouble.

In fact, I would rather my sheep should be up twenty-four hours, without food, than exposed to a long, cold storm.

By examining the fibres of wool upon sheep's back, you will find them to be hol like the hair upon our heads. If these fibres are suffered to collapse by means of exposure to the snows and rains of winter, the growth of the wool is retarded, and it will take a time, with the best care and treatment, for nature to re-open the fibres, and produce a that natural health and vigor.

Says a prominent wool-grower, "the advantages of housing sheep are manifold. 1st. Large percentage of deaths are avoided. 2d. Much less food is consumed. 3d. A heavier and better fleece is obtained. 4th. The flock comes through the winter in a much better condition. 5th. The lambs are more vigorous and likely to live. In short, reason, economy and humanity, all conspire to teach the important lesson—*provide suitable stables for sheep.* And he who can, and will not debar himself to sleep barefooted and alone a couch of straw, with open windows, and under a leaky roof, where the winds go piping and reering through every crack of his cabin, for months at least, until he shall have learned to sympathize with the dumb beasts God has committed to his care and keeping.

2nd. *Sheep should have water.* Many people say that sheep can get along very well without water in winter, especially if they can get something to eat. This is another very great mistake. Sheep do not drink large quantities at a time, but require it often; especially if they are fed with roots. Just observe the operation of your sheep during the day, when fed with hay. They will run to the trough and take a few swallows of water, and then back to the hay, a number of times during twenty-four hours; and that too when the ground is covered with snow, showing that they prefer water to snow. Sheep undoubtedly will winter without water, but common sense teaches us that they cannot do as well without as with it, for fluids of the system must be supplied to keep a healthy organization. In Vermont, where water is plenty for all, and within the reach of all, that farmer who neglects this most important suggestion, should be considered an apology for a wool-grower, and should be compelled to go without himself a short season sufficiently long to teach him that water is necessary for health and well-being.

3rd. *Sheep should be fed with roots.* Sheep require some kind of green or succulent food for winter use, I have demonstrated to my satisfaction. For a few years past I have fed potatoes and turnips to a portion of my flock, and I know they have done much better than those which have been wintered without.

I raise some three hundred bushels of potatoes and one hundred of turnips, and which I cut up together, and mix in a little