

Stock Department.

The "Maple Shade" Flock of Cotswolds.

Our United States-neighbours have long overlooked the merits of the long woolled and mutton breeds of sheep, and have given the greasy little Merinoes a monopoly of their affections. Lately, however, a gratifying change of opinion has been observable, and here and there enterprising sheep-men have begun to patronize the Cotswolds, Leicesters and Downs. The foundation of a number of flocks has been laid and we expect in a very few years that Canadian flock-masters will have to mind what they are about, or they will find themselves outdone by their spirited neighbours, in the breeding of long-woolled sheep. Among those who deserve honourable mention in this connection is Mr. John D. Wing, "Maple Shade" farm, Washington, Dutchess Co., New York. This gentleman has got together a fine flock of Cotswolds, consisting of selected animals from the best flocks of thorough-bred sheep in England. They are strictly pure, without a cross, and every sheep has a reliable pedigree. Mr. Wing has neither spared expense nor trouble, his object being to form a flock of choice blood second to none in the world. Most of the sheep composing his flock were bred by Mr. Wm. Lane, of Broadfield, a name that stands among the highest on the list of breeders on the Cotswold Hills. Others of these choice animals were supplied by Messrs. Garne, of Aldsworth, Hewer, of North Leach, and Fletcher, of Andoversford, all of whom are known as careful and successful breeders. Along with his imported sheep, Mr. Wing brought over an experienced Cotswold shepherd, who has charge of the flock.

The sheep from this flock have never been shown that they have not carried off the highest honours, and the prize ram, "Golden Fleece," (whose picture is seen above) was shown at the New York State Fair at Saratoga last year, where he won the first prize, also at Dutchess County Fair with the same result, and at the Auburn Fair of the New York State Sheep Breeders' and Wool Growers' Association in May, 1867, when after taking the first prize in his class, he won the sweepstakes prize. He sheared on this last occasion twenty pounds of wool. He was bred by Mr. Wm. Lane, sired by "Cotswold King" (the highest priced Cotswold sheep ever sold—viz. \$1200 gold), and his dam was winner of the prize of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. He is the stock ram, being used in the flock at present, and his lambs are very promising.

Mr. Wing's farm, "Maple Shade," is at Washington, Dutchess Co., New York, about six miles from Dover Plains on Harlem railroad, and sixteen miles from Poughkeepsie on the Hudson River railroad.

More about Fast Trotters.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—As farmers have by this time selected the stud horses they intend patronizing during the present season, were it not that the CANADA FARMER will exert an influence for years to come, I should drop the question of trotting horses as stallions. Under the circumstances, it is perhaps better that it should

be more thoroughly discussed, so that if there are really 'two sides both may be seen.

It seems to me "X" has changed his opinion to some extent since his letter in the CANADA FARMER of May 15th. At that time he did not seem to think that trotting qualities, either *fine* or *fast*, were desirable in an agricultural stallion. He now agrees with me that it is very desirable that a horse should trot square and lofty; but he must not be able to go fast, for that would be an evidence that something was wrong. I feel highly encouraged to go on writing, and have no doubt but that I shall be able to convince even "X" that *fast* trotting is also a good quality. It should be remembered that the question at issue is not whether the English or Canadian taste is the proper one to cultivate; but taking those tastes into consideration, whether it is better to select a fast trotter to breed from or not. "X" admits that Canadian farmers and gentlemen have a penchant for fast trotters. This is really admitting it is desirable to breed them; for who does not want to breed

degree of appearing disproportionate. The chest is narrow, and the fore-quarters light, a point likewise characteristic of speed. The neck is straight, rather than gracefully arched, and the pasterns very long, and generally oblique." Lawrence, speaking of the trotting of the English thorough-bred, says: "They soon become weary, and their legs and feet are too delicate for the rude hammering of the speedy trot."

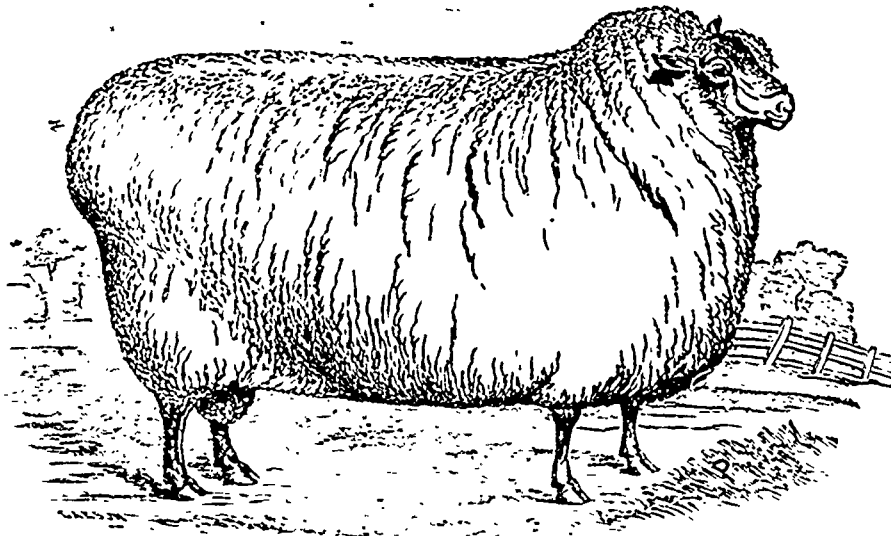
The amount of it is, we require different shaped animals for the distinct purposes of trotting and running. The hind-quarter must be powerful, but the fore-quarter must be equally so. The very fine and supple legs of the race horse will not stand the severer test of trotting. He must be able to bring his hind legs well forward, not both together, as in running, but one at a time. The shoulder must be oblique, or he cannot get his fore legs forward. I frankly admit my ignorance with regard to the Frisian horse. I never heard of him till I read the letter of "X" in your last issue. If he really does possess those defects which have led "X" to believe that all trotting horses must be deficient in good qualities, and is still among the fastest trotters of the world, he differs from all the horses I ever had the good fortune to look upon.

What has "X" to say to the Morgan and French? I referred to them because almost all Canadians have seen some of them. There is another breed of horses celebrated for their trotting qualities; the Norfolk phenomenon, originating seventy or eighty years ago in the county of Norfolk, England. An imported horse of this breed is now travelling near London, Ontario. The general model of this breed resembles very much the American Morgan horse. I would like "X" to point out the deficiencies in those breeds which I have named. Will he be kind enough to tell me what bad qualities they possess which cause them to trot fast? W. C. Spooner says: "We obtain from the thorough bred horse the small head, lengthy quarters, powerful thighs, and extended stride; but it is from the Norfolk trotter, the old English hunter or hack, descendants to some extent of the ancient Spanish horse, that we derive the oblique shoulders, elevated withers, good forehead, safe walk, and fast trot, accompanied by a larger and wider frame, greater bone, and more powerful digestive organs, than the blood horse generally possesses."

A writer well qualified to judge has said of the Morgan horses: "The distinguishing characteristics are neatness and compactness of form, hardness of constitution, with general soundness of limb, strong digestive organs, enabling them to live on a little food, good action, making them fast travellers particularly as all-day horses." Y. Z.

Mr. John Hayden, a N. Y. wool manufacturer, says old wool takes color much better, works better, wastes less, and makes firmer cloth than new wool, and that if wool is two or three years old it is all the better.

Good Cows.—Mr. James Armstrong writes as follows to the St. Thomas Home Journal:—In my statement of the product of my cows for the month of May, I promised to give a statement of the month of June also. It is as follows:—I delivered in the month of June last—twenty-five week days—19,726 lbs. the milk of twenty-three cows, at Mr. York's Beaver Cheese Factory, which is 34 7-23 lbs. per day for each cow. Four of these cows have averaged 50 lbs. of milk per day each, and my best cow has given 324 lbs at a mess.



COTSWOLD RAM, "GOLDEN FLEECE."

horses that are saleable? However, I am perfectly willing that this discussion should take a wider range. Let us look at "X's" beau ideal of a horse. It is not hard to tell to what breed his favourite belongs: it is a Cleveland bay. The horse which the Yorkshire breeder endeavours to produce is one of lofty appearance, with a good coat, a color which attracts the eye, and showy action, with no speed. The use to which he is applied requires no powers of endurance; he is wanted more for the purpose of making a display than anything else; a few hours exercise in Hyde Park is all that he is asked to perform. One of this breed was imported and bred in the township of Whitby some years ago. Crossed with our mares he produced long-legged, soft, worthless animals, not at all capable of enduring the hardships of an agricultural horse in Canada.

"X" tells us that, because the English race horse, which has been bred for centuries with one sole object in view, and that object fast galloping, does not trot fast; and because the Frisian horse does, and the former is a good, and the latter a bad specimen, it follows that all good trotters are bad horses, and vice versa. Let us consider the English thorough-bred for a moment. Eclipse's model has been declared by many competent judges to be the nearest to perfection for running of any yet produced. We are told he was taller at the rump than at the shoulder or withers. His hind-quarters were so much stronger in proportion than his fore, that when he walked or trotted he had a kind of wavering or side motion. Professor Low says: "The form of the racer corresponds to the conditions required. The length and depth of the hind-quarters—a point essential to the power of making long strides, are extended to the