

lambs of Hampshire-down blood have, almost invariably, taken the first prize at the annual Exhibition of the Smithfield Club in London.

The ewes of this breed are usually put to the ram about the middle of August, having previously been brought pretty forward on a diet of rape and other forcing food, so as to bring them into season as nearly all together as can possibly be done. Lambing down about the middle of January, the lambs are usually fit to be weaned in May, and indeed often wean themselves by that time, as they are not stinted in food, but have small creep-holes in the hurdles that fence in the ewes so that the young ones can run forward into fresh food, as yet untouched by their dams. Professor Wrightson's account of the weight of his ram-lambs, given in another part of this periodical, will astonish a good many people who have never seen a seven-months-old ram-lamb of the Hampshire-down breed. So great is their progress during the first months of their life, that it is the common practice of breeders to put their ewes in lots of 40 with ram-lambs, shearlings being considered to be not so regular in service. We have bred Southdowns, and Wiltshire-downs, as well as Hampshire-downs, but were we to begin sheep-breeding again, we should unhesitatingly embark in a flock of the lass.

The crops.—We have just received the Bulletin on the state of the crops in the province of Quebec this summer, issued by the Department of Agriculture of that province. The change that took place in the weather after the late and cold spring must of necessity have greatly modified the reports made in the early summer. The general opinion seems to be, according to the notes gathered by the Director of the Ottawa Experiment-farm that the hay-crop throughout the Dominion is but very moderate. In the maritime provinces there will not be two-thirds of an average, and in Quebec it will be less than usual, except on new meadows or on old ones recently re-sown. Many farmers, in Quebec and elsewhere, keep their meadows down too long for them to give the best results. Hay, in Eastern and Western Ontario is less abundant than usual. At the Ottawa Experiment-farm, the crop is good, but not so good as usual. A great drought in Manitoba and Eastern Assiniboia caused the almost utter failure of the hay-crop; in Alberta,

on the contrary, it is good. On the whole, hay will be scarce and dear in Canada this year. (To which we may add, the finer qualities will be almost entirely wanting.)

A fine crop of spring-wheat, but a poor one of fall-wheat in Ontario; poor wheat in Manitoba, about half a crop, as well as in Assiniboia, but fair in Alberta and Saskatchewan. On the whole, the Dominion crop of wheat will be inferior.

Oats look well in the maritime provinces, and in Quebec and Ontario; in Manitoba and part of the territories the crop is fair. The straw generally very short.

Barley good in the Eastern provinces, but in Ontario the straw is like the straw of the oat, too short.

Corn is doing well. None grown in the western territories or in British Columbia.

Root-crops too late-sown; but potatoes will be good (if the rot keeps off.)

A fair crop of apples in the Eastern provinces and British Columbia; pears and plums vary a great deal; peaches in Ontario will be very plentiful.

RAIN IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Rain in inches.

	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	Average 40 ans
May....	2.68	2.14	5.14	3.55	2.41	1.41	3.17
June...	5.23	1.52	2.56	6.14	3.81	3.97	3.64

SEASONABLE NOTES.

Price of Wool and Sheep.

I notice that at York the top price for wool was 9s. per 14½ lb., or about 7½d. per lb., while prices generally ruled from 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d., or slightly over 6½ d. per lb. Southdown wool and Devizes, for a fine lot of Southdown ewes and wethers, was 1s. 1½d. given by Mr. Wyman, while the general average was 11½d. per lb. Hampshire Down wool, mixed ewe and teg, has been making 10½d. quite freely. Prices for these latter wools are 1d. per lb. higher than last year, and 2d. per lb. higher than the year before, so that there is no reason for Down breeders to complain of wool. On the other hand, longwools appear to be selling badly, so that at Driffield, in Yorkshire, very little trade is passing, and prices stick at under