

failed to take the same prize when we have exhibited since. We have only missed showing sheep a very few times. JOHN MILLER & SONS.
Ontario Co.

Why the Southdown is a Money Maker.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I am indeed pleased to notice the deserving increase in the circulation of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and hope it may continue to spread its usefulness with the growth of our country in the future as it has done in the past.

Although feed for sheep with us was scarce and of rather a poor quality, I am really surprised to see our flock of over one hundred Southdowns now on the grass looking so fine. The demand for rams last fall was so good that we sold off very short, but we have some nice shearlings now. We have twenty-five shearling ewes. I doubt if their equal can be found in America. We never had so good a lot; most of them fit to show anywhere. Our this season's crop of lambs—a good many of them sired by old Norwich Beau, the winner at the World's Fair—are a good lot.

Owing to the depressed condition of the market, both for wool and mutton, it has set farmers to look closer into their business in order to ascertain what cross they could make that would return some profit for the food consumed. What has given, perhaps, the best satisfaction where the ewes had a good deal of the Leicester type about them has been to cross them with a pure-bred Southdown ram; the lambs mature early (a great factor in feeding for profit); they are of good quality and weight that just suits the demand, and are sure to bring the top prices per pound; again, the fleece is a fair weight, of fine quality. In fact, a sheep of this cross will stand good feeding and pay for every pound they eat, or they will endure a good deal of hardship and exposure without serious loss to their owner, being a smart, hardy, healthy sheep, ready to work for a living and "lay up for a rainy day."

I have noticed that sheep are generally looking well, notwithstanding the extreme drought of last summer and scarcity of feed during winter, while all other stock as a rule look very thin.

JOHN JACKSON.

"Woodside Farm," Lincoln Co., Ont.

The Dorset Preferred -- Superior Grades.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—My flock of sheep, some 300 in number, came through the winter in the best shape I ever had them. They are fat, their wool is good, and they have been most prolific in the lambing season. A great many of them have two lambs, and several have three lambs, and are raising them all. I have sold out of my yearlings very largely this season, but I still have about forty yearling ewes and twenty yearling rams. I am having a great many enquiries for sheep already, and I think the outlook is promising. I am sure that sheep raising might be with profit to the farmer carried on to a much larger extent than it now is throughout the various Provinces. I have about 150 breeding ewes of the Dorset family and no other. There are more Shropshires in our county than any other kind, and next to them the Cotswolds are most numerous, and we have a few Leicesters and a few Southdowns, but only a few. In the vicinity in which I live the Dorset grade is the best of the grades. They make larger and finer looking sheep than the Dorsets. Asking my opinion as to what class I think the best, I may say that inasmuch as some years ago I was experimenting in Dorsets, Shropshires, and Cotswolds, I preferred the Dorsets to either of the others, and hence my reason for confining my attention entirely to that class of sheep.

Ontario Co.

JOHN A. MCGILLIVRAY.

More Sheep Should be Kept in Nova Scotia.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—We do think our farmers could increase their flocks in this vicinity to a large extent, which would prove a valuable investment. We think Shropshire rams crossed on our native ewes do well.

J. E. PAGE & SONS.

Cumberland Co., N. S.

Why the Lincoln is Preferred.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Our flock never came through the winter in better shape, which is rather surprising to us. We had no clover hay; very little hay of any description. Pea straw, with corn fodder, fed on the snow; oats and bran a month before lambing; roots added to this after lambing was the feed of the ewes. The lambs came very strong. The ewes would have had more milk had they had some clover hay; they are now on good grass; the lambs growing finely.

Our bunch of thirty shearling rams are an extra lot; have had several tempting offers for them. One American said he offered dollars a head more for them than any bunch of rams had been sold for this season.

While the prices of both mutton and wool are low, it would pay to raise more sheep in some sections of the country.

In this district the Leicester was the foundation of most of the small flocks. Some years ago a number of the farmers bought and used Down rams. They were told they would get more money for their lambs; experience tells them they get less, for the reason that the lambs won't weigh as

much. While a butcher may like a small lamb, he will not give as much as he will for a larger one in the same condition. When he has done cutting he has done weighing. And from the ewe lambs they keep for the flock they neither get the wool nor the mutton.

For my part, I believe a Lincoln is just as good mutton as a Down, if killed under one year; both to be fed the same way on the same kind of feed. If the rich men in the Old Country want mutton four or five years old, they want the Downs. We don't want any mutton that age here, and few could afford to pay for it if we did.

For my section the Lincoln or Leicester are the breeds that will pay the best, taking both mutton and wool into consideration. Those farmers that did not put in the Down cross have some fairly good ewes; by breeding a Lincoln ram on these ewes some of the best of the ram lambs will sell for more than a butcher can give for them. We often have enquiries for this class of ram lambs.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

J. T. GIBSON.

"Heavy Weights at an Early Age."

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

My flock of Oxfords have come through the hard winter in good shape indeed—a long way better than I thought possible after such a severe drought last season. We did not have any hay and very little pea straw for the quantity of sheep. I fed heavier on roots and grain than usual; found the ewes do all right, but the yearlings not so well as if we had had plenty of good clover hay. I wintered between two and three hundred head; have at present about four hundred head on the farm—one hundred and fifty yearling rams and fifty yearling ewes; the balance are store ewes and lambs. Raised over a hundred and fifty per cent. of lambs, and they are coming on fine; the season has been favorable every way. Since spring opened there has been plenty of splendid pasture. I think the prospects will be fair for next season's trade, at moderate prices. The Oxford rams for crossing for mutton purposes are largely used in this district, as people find they are hardy and come to maturity early, giving heavy weights at an early age.

HENRY ARKELL.

"Farnham Farm," Wellington Co.

Good Sheep Prospects on P. E. I.—Exercise--The Leicester Popular.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—My flock of Leicesters go to grass this spring in better health and condition than I ever had them go before. I finished shearing the flock yesterday, and I can say that it is the best wool clip I ever had. I had but one matted fleece, and that was clipped from a ewe that had her leg broken about six weeks ago, and I attribute the matted fleece to her losing flesh so rapidly after the accident. My crop of lambs is coming along in good shape; they are all strong and vigorous and show the good quality of their sire to a marked degree. Although 70 per cent. of the number are twins, their dams have suckled them so well that they are going to the fields in fine form. The reason I ascribe for my flock being in better form than usual at this time of year is that they had more exercise in the open air during the winter season than during any previous winter. On fine days they were allowed to run out as they wished, and on stormy days they were forced to take exercise by being driven around the yard for a short time each day. I consider exercise for breeding ewes a necessity in this Province during the long and tedious winters we have here. If well-fed ewes are kept housed continually, long before winter is over they pine for the fields, and it is exceedingly hard to get them through the trying month of April in anything like good shape. As to shearlings of either sex for sale this season, I have none. The demand for rams was so brisk last fall that I sold all my ram lambs, while of ewe lambs in '95 I had a very small crop, only enough for myself. I am confident that the number of sheep kept by the farmers in this Province might be materially increased with profit. Though the products from the flock have sold low in late years, the same may be said of nearly all other farm products. Still we think, considering the cost of production, that there has been a snug profit in the sale of wool and mutton of late years, and now, with an increase of about 25 per cent. in the price of wool over late years, the prospect is all right for the sheep raiser, especially if he is raising long-wooled sheep. Then, for maintaining the fertility of our farms, which is so highly necessary, every farmer knows there is no other way to compare with sheep husbandry for that purpose. The outlook for the sheep raiser and the breeder of pure-bred sheep for this season is good; in fact, the sheep raiser in this Province feels better this spring than for several years. As for myself, enquiries have been coming in already for breeding stock for the fall trade. The principal breeds bred in this Province are the Leicesters and Shropshires, while the Leicester is much the most popular breed of these two. Leicester rams crossed on the ordinary sheep of the country produce the best lambs for both farmer and butcher. For the farmer, the lambs from this breeding mature early and fatten rapidly; for the butcher, there is no waste or coarseness of carcass, while the pelt is worth 25 cents more than that of a lamb sired by a short-wooled ram, and the butcher considers even that item as so much profit.

WM. CLARK.

P. E. Island, May 21st.

The Care and Feeding of Sheep.

SIR,—After a year of unprecedented drought my ewes came up in grand form for the winter. As I do not rely upon grass alone for sheep feed, I had eight acres of rape last year; four acres that I sowed first, on the 10th of June, did remarkably well, as the few plants I took to your office measured 45 inches in length. No sheep man can do without rape for a fall pasture, take one year with another. I had no clover hay, so, for the first time, I had to feed my sheep all winter on corn fodder, and I am very well satisfied with the results. My sheep never came out of their cotes in better trim. My corn fodder was of the Southern Sweet kind, sowed thick in drills three feet apart and fed to the sheep cut up with a cutting box at the rate of three pounds per head per day. I find it has a binding tendency on the ewes, and bran or oil cake ought to be fed with it. I would prefer oil cake at present prices.

As for the business of sheep raising, in spite of the low prices, I want to know what pays better on the average farm? Beef and pork, cheese and butter are also low, but sheep properly handled will give good returns even at present prices, and with far less trouble than any other kind of stock.

In the management of sheep there is one point that I find greatly neglected with the average farmer, viz., the necessity of dipping the sheep in one of the many sheep dips in use now for killing ticks and other parasites that are natural to sheep. I keep on an average 200 sheep and lambs all summer, and have often told buyers that I would give them a ewe if they could find one tick on them. I dip my sheep three times a year.

As for the cross to make the best general purpose sheep, it is hard to say; we all have our fancies. It is enough for me to say that the more care and attention you give sheep, the better they will pay. The right season for ewes to drop their lambs must be determined by various conditions, such as the locality. If you can sell early spring lambs to advantage, and have suitable buildings for ewes lambing in severe weather, let them come early. You require lots of the best food for your ewes to keep up their supply of milk and so force your lambs along when they will be worth as much at from two to three months old as they would be at six and seven. In districts some distance away from a market for early lambs, the middle of April or beginning of May is a good time. The careful shepherd will see that his ewes and lambs get shelter from the spring rains. I have had a very large increase of lambs this season; on an average I had nearly two lambs to one, and I hear most of the breeders reporting about the same story.

South Middlesex, Ont.

W. S. HAWKSHAW.

[NOTE.—With characteristic reserve, Mr. Hawkshaw does not proclaim his favorite breed—the Shropshire—with which, as is well known, he has been so pre-eminently successful.—EDITOR.]

Shropshire vs. Southdown.

SIR,—Replying to Mr. John Campbell's letter in your issue of May 15th, I desire to say that in writing about the sale of lambs from the Iowa Experiment Station I merely gave the figures and called attention to the fact that the Southdown lambs brought the highest price.

The prime object for which this test was made was as to their mutton qualities. They were sold for mutton and not for "wool," and the Southdowns, though less in weight than the Shropshires, brought the higher price; their mutton was the best, that is all there was of it.

The fact that the percentage of loss in dressing was greater in the Southdown, even though it was small, is the more evidence that their mutton was better than others. As Mr. Campbell calls special attention to the fact that Shropshire yearlings "out-distanced all by making 62.3 dressed percentage," it may also be noticed that these yearlings weighed 176 pounds and the Southdowns weighed 115 pounds; hence the latter, though 61 pounds less in weight and with a greater dressing lossage, brought \$4.75, while the Shropshire yearlings brought \$4.25. Could there be better evidence of the superiority of the Southdown mutton?

As to "filching the Shrops. of their world-wide reputation," it may only be said that something cannot be filched from them that they never had, viz., the reputation that their mutton is superior to Southdown. JNO. G. SPRINGER, Springfield, Ill.

Old London's Meat Supply.

Some idea of the enormous quantities of meat consumed in London, Eng., and the source from which it comes, may be found in the annual report, to the Corporation of London, of Mr. N. Stephens, the clerk and superintendent of the Central Markets. He states that during last year 347,283 tons of meat were received there, being an increase upon the supplies of the previous year of 6,326 tons, and yielding an equivalent increase of toll (at a farthing per 21 pounds) of £702. The total toll had been £38,587—viz., from railway companies and their carriers, £24,957 on 224,617 tons; £319 from shipping companies on 2,872 tons; £7,191 from salesmen and slaughtermen on 64,723 tons; and £6,118 paid at the gates on 55,069 tons. The tolls show an increase of no less than 171 per cent. on those received at the opening of the markets in 1869. In regard to last year's tolls, £6,946 was paid in respect of American meat, and £7,441 Australian meat. The supplies were divided as follows:—Country