

which the shearer kneels, but the lazy or brutal shearer who lets his leg rest directly on the neck, soon provokes that struggle which the animal is obliged to make to free itself from severe pain, and even, perhaps, to draw its breath!

Good shearers will shear on the average, twenty-five merinos per day, and a new beginner should not attempt to exceed from one-third to one-half that number. It is the last process in the world which should be hurried, as the shearer will soon leave more than enough wool on his sheep to pay for his day's wages.

It has been mentioned that but enough sheep should be yarded at once, for half a day's shearing. The reason for this is, that they shear much more easily, and there is less liability of cutting the skin, when they are distended with food, than when their bellies become flabby and collapsed for the want of it. This precaution, however, is often necessarily omitted in showery weather. It is very convenient to have the outside pen which communicates with the 'bay,' covered. On my farm, it is one of the regular sheep-houses. If it is showery over night, or showers come up on the day of shearing, a couple of hundred sheep may be run in and kept dry. And they can be let out to feed occasionally during the day, on short grass. If let out in long, wet grass, their bellies will become wetted. Wool ought not to be sheared, and *must* not be done up, with any water in it.

**SACKING WOOL.**—When the wool is sold, or when it must be sent away to find a market, it is put up in bales nine feet long, formed of 40-inch 'burlaps.' The mouth of the sack is sowed with twine, round a strong hoop, (riveted together with iron, and kept for the purpose,) and the body of it is let down through a circular aperture in the floor of the wool-room.\* The hoop rests on the edge of the aperture, and the sack swings clear of the floor beneath. A man enters the sack, and another passes the fleeces down to him. After covering the bottom with a layer, he places a fleece in the center and forces down others around it, and so on to the top, which is then sowed up. Each fleece should be placed regularly with the hands, and then stamped down as compactly as possible, so that the bale when completed, shall be hard and well filled in every part. The bulk of a given weight of wool will be greatly affected by the care with which this process is performed.

Those who do not expect buyers to come and look at their wool, sack it immediately after shearing. A temporary scaffolding is erected near the wool, as deposited by the tyer, and one man tosses up fleeces to a second, who catches them and passes them down to the man in the sack. A light frame, to suspend the sack, and *part way up it*, a standing-place for the catcher, would be a convenient appendage to the establishment of a wool-room. With a set of stairs up to his midway standing-place, an active fellow would keep the trader supplied, without any assistance.

**DRINK FOR A COW AFTER CALVING.**

RECIPE

For a draught given to a cow that was so weak as not to be able to stand, after having had two calves this spring.

Tea made from one handful of mint, put into three pints of boiling water.

Two glasses of brandy, and one piece of butter the size of an egg.

Mixed, and given warm from a bottle.

*Proved to be good, as the cow is perfectly recovered.*

May, 1846.

*Communicated.*

\* It is to secure this convenience, that the wool-room is best placed on the second floor.

**PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.**

*President's Address to the Agricultural Societies, Farmers, and other friends of Agriculture, throughout Upper Canada.*

GENTLEMEN,—It is my duty, as President for the present year, to address you upon the subject of the state and prospects of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada. You are aware that the Provincial Exhibitions have been held at Toronto, Hamilton, and Cobourg. The next one is appointed to be held at Kingston, during the third week in September next, provided the necessary funds can be obtained. Before I ask you again, however, to step forward with your accustomed liberality, it is right that you should have a statement of the financial matters of last year.

The sum received from the several District, County and Township Societies, and from individual subscriptions, was £715 19s. 4d., and from all other sources £405 11s. 5½d., making in all £1055 10s. 9½. The sum total of our expenditure was £981 8s. 6½; leaving a surplus of £74 2s. 3d., which was paid over to the Treasurer of the Association at Toronto. To carry out the exhibition this year, it is estimated that at least twelve hundred pounds will be required from all sources. Two gentlemen have been appointed by the executive committee at Kingston, to call upon the several Agricultural Societies throughout the Province, as well as upon individuals; and it is for you, Gentlemen, to consider whether that call shall be liberally responded to, or otherwise. It is for you to reflect upon the consequences which must result to the great interest involved, as well to you as to the province at large, from the annihilation of the association—which must be the result of a lack of funds to meet our engagements. Hitherto, by your liberality, all the liabilities of the Association have been promptly met, except those contracted at the Exhibition in Hamilton, and which, it is hoped, will soon be discharged; leaving the Institution free from incumbrance.

I notice the newspaper report that the Legislature has granted us £250 for this year's operations, for the purpose of expressing my fears that there is no good foundation for believing that such grant will be made during this Session. (See Editor's remarks, p. 168.)

In the consideration which you will be called upon to give to the subject, it must be borne in mind, that you receive five thousand pounds from the public funds annually; and that it has been urged by some influential parties in the Legislature, that one thousand pounds of this money should be taken out of the present grant, and given for the support of the Provincial Association alone. In this view of the matter, I, for one, cannot nor shall I, concur, as long as the various Agricultural Societies continue the support which they have hitherto afforded. This arrangement would, of course, enforce the burthen upon all *equally*, but, on the other hand, it might produce an estrangement between the general and local societies, which of all other things should be avoided. I could, therefore, regard it as an alternative only to the total extinction of the association. It is much more seemly that the members as a body, should be the distributors of the funds necessary for the support of what is emphatically *their own association*. The Earl of Elgin will be invited, and if the public business will permit, we shall be honoured with his company.

Our exhibition takes place one week after that of the State of New York, which is to be held at Syracuse, at which place Professor Johnson, one of the most eminent agriculturists in Great Britain, is expected, and I cannot doubt if such be the case, that he will honour us with a visit. I think it probable, too, that the committee will publish a separate premium list for the competition of