

were each passed over the scales, the heaviest "kicking the beam" at 310 pounds, a cross between a Cotswold and Lincoln, the property of Mr. John Rutherford, of Roseville, who exhibited twenty four head. This gentleman took large drafts from his flocks to the recent Chicago Fat Stock Show, and swept the board, to the astonishment of our American enemies, performing a somewhat similar feat at Toronto with most of the same sheep. One of the lot contributing greatly to the success was a Hampshire lamb weighing 172 pounds, which had actually gained ten pounds since it was shown at Chicago. This breed of sheep are great favourites in Eng'and, principally owing to their early maturity. Messrs. Laidlaw & Jackson, of Wilton Grove, were also extensive exhibitors, securing many prizes.

The swine were not numerous, and rather disappointing. Some nine head were the total number in this section, all animals of good quality; but there was nothing out of the common, as might have been expected at a fat stock show.

The display of dressed poultry was splendid, all made by one man, Mr. J. Tomlin, of Brampton, a dealer. There was nothing extra large, with the exception of a cockerel, a cross between a Light Brahma and a Plymouth Rock, which weighed nine pounds, ready dressed for the table. Twenty-eight pounds was the weight of the heaviest turkey, a two-year-old gobbler. The manner in which all the birds in this exhibit were plucked and dressed was a lesson which the majority of our farmers' wives could profitably imitate.

The giving of handsome, wide and long satin ribbons, instead of the time-honoured tickets, was a feature pleasingly commented on by all visitors, and is worthy of imitation.

It was the unanimous opinion of breeders that with better accommodation a much larger exhibit will be made in the future, so we trust the Agriculture and Arts Association will not let the city authorities rest until such is provided.

KEEPING UP FERTILITY.

Experiments with manures carried on at the Pennsylvania State College appear to show that with oats and corn, when the land is in condition to produce an average crop, the use of commercial fertilizers fails to return a profit in the first one or two crops following their application. The profit only comes in preventing the land from becoming exhausted, so that the capacity for crop production is kept up from year to year. On soils that are much exhausted, however, the fertilizers seldom fail to produce a marked effect if the right kind is used. This is also the case with farmyard manures, and it is well to remember that with land as well as with the man who tills it there is a limit to the capacity of production.

The result of two years' experimental work at the State College Station, with fertilizers on wheat, corn and oats are, that the most profitable returns are to be

looked for with wheat, and the least profitable with corn; and also that of the principal ingredients used—nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash—phosphoric acid produces the most prominent effect. As to fertilizers commended for the proportion of nitrogen which they contain, it is the opinion of the director of the station that American lands seem able so far, along with the help they get from rain water, to supply almost all the nitrogen that crops need.

A POULTRY MARKET.

The little town of Smith's Falls, in the county of Lanark, has become famous for its Christmas poultry market, which we believe had its beginning in this way. Several years ago the vicinity of the town was visited with a plague of grasshoppers, which ate up almost every green thing on the farms. Some one suggested the breeding of turkeys as a means of exterminating the plague, and in the following summer many broods of young turkeys were hatched out. The little fellows in their turn fell upon the grasshoppers, and it was not long until the latter were visibly thinned out. The turkeys fared sumptuously, and the farmers of the district rejoiced not only in the disappearance of the plague but in the possession of large flocks of turkeys in the finest condition for Christmas tables. But it really seemed that the market was going to be glutted, and such would undoubtedly have been the case were it not for the suggestion that a poultry fair be opened in the town somewhat after the manner of one of the old fashioned cattle fairs of the country. Arrangements were made accordingly, and to the agreeable surprise of farmers buyers were on hand from Montreal and two or three American cities. The fair was a great success, good prices were realized, and one or two car loads of dressed poultry were shipped to New York. Next year the stock of turkeys was largely increased, and so also were the stocks of geese, ducks and hens. Three years ago some ten car loads were shipped from the little town to New York, Boston and other towns. And so the Christmas poultry fair of Smith's Falls has continued to expand until now it has reached what may fairly be considered immense proportions. An Ottawa despatch of 16th December gave this account of it:

A train of twenty-one cars loaded with turkeys for the New York market passed eastward over the Canada Atlantic Railway last night. The train load was valued at \$35,000. The turkeys were purchased in the neighbourhood of Carleton Place, Smith's Falls and Perth.

Just think of that! A shipment of turkeys from one county equal in value to the crop of 3 000 acres of fall wheat, at the average of yield and market price in the past year.

The last report of the Maine Experiment Station gives among many other valuable things the result of a first experiment in poultry feeding. It was made with