

Rinderpest in Sheep.

In an editorial on the Cattle plague, which appeared in our issue of Nov. 16, we directed the attention of our readers to a letter addressed by Professor Simonds to the Clerk of the Council, in which it was stated that a disease similar to the Rinderpest had appeared among a flock of sheep in Norfolk. The opinions of practical farmers in Britain were divided as to the trustworthiness of this report. A series of careful experiments were, therefore, conducted in Edinburgh and Glasgow, with a view of proving whether or not the ovine, as well as the bovine race, were liable to the fatal plague. Notwithstanding the severity of the tests applied, the experiments proceeded without the sheep exhibiting any of the ordinary symptoms of the malady. Public confidence was, therefore, in some measure restored; and the immunity of sheep from the fatal rinderpest has been not unjustly regarded as one of the redeeming features of the present crisis in Britain. Agriculturists have accordingly been busily engaged in introducing sheep for the consumption of the turnip crop; and in districts where the disease has proved particularly fatal, and where the pole-axe has been in full swing, this change has been going rapidly forward. Unfortunately, a case has recently occurred in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, which renders the immunity of sheep from the plague not only doubtful, but absolutely groundless. The facts are briefly as follow: In a lea-field in the neighbourhood of that city some 260 three-parts bred lambs were pastured. Turnips were regularly supplied to them, and the same carts which were used to convey the turnips were employed in carting cow refuse from the town byres to a manure heap, in a corner of the same field. No precaution seems to have been taken to disinfect, or even properly clean, the carts after being filled with manure, before they were used for turnips. The animals soon began to manifest unmistakable symptoms of the plague. Some thirty or forty died, and the remainder, after veterinary inspection, were slaughtered.

Of the nature of this attack there appears to have been no doubt. All the pathological symptoms of the plague were present, and on dissecting the deceased animals the well-marked traces of the fatal disorder were unmistakably revealed. It now only remains for agriculturists to accept the fact—that sheep are not exempt from rinderpest. The best European authorities have emphatically declared that the ovine race is liable to its ravages. The careful experiments before mentioned, taken in conjunction with the virulent attack near Edinburgh, seem to prove that sheep are less subject to the disease, and that it is less fatal in them than in cattle. The whole subject however, demands a more thorough investigation than has yet been given to it. The world-wide interests of agriculture entail a responsibility on scientific men, who have the opportunity of ascertaining correctly the facts, bearing on this outbreak of rinderpest in a flock of sheep.

RODDEN'S PATENT SNOW SHOVEL.—This useful implement deserves to be more generally known. Light, cheap, and effective for its purpose, every householder and especially every man of business ought to have it. It is scraper and shovel in one, and enables you in a very short time to obey the By-Law requiring the removal of snow from the front of your house or shop. For cleaning off skating rinks also, it is just the thing. It may be had of any hardware merchant in our towns and cities, or from the patentee W. H. Rodden, Toronto.

IMPORTED STOCK.—We are informed that Mr. John Snell, of Edmonton, has purchased from G. M. Bedford, Esq., of Paris, Bourbon Co., Kentucky and imported to Canada, the short-horn bull "Duke of Bourbon." Calved December 31st, 1864; got by Clifton Duke, 3760; dam, Queen Mary 4th, by Duke of Air-drie, 2743. Also, a three-year old cow, Queen Mary 5th, by Grand Duke, 2953; dam, Queen Mary.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Notes of an Agricultural Tour.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—Having just completed an agricultural tour in the County of Brant, and addressed the various agricultural societies, on subjects relating to the improvement of their important pursuit, a few remarks relative thereto may be interesting to some, at least, of your numerous readers. I met and addressed the members of the following societies:—South Dunfries, Burford, Oakland, Onondaga, and Brantford, and enjoyed the pleasure of much private and social intercourse with the leading agriculturists of the county. The meetings on the whole were well attended, and while I have obtained much valuable information, there is reason to hope that a stimulus has been given to these societies that will be productive of some good. My chief objects are to bring clearly before the minds of farmers, the provision made by our Provincial University, and the Board of Agricultural, for the study of the science of agriculture, and the veterinary art; to impart a new life, and open up a wider field to agricultural societies, by inducing their members, in addition to their annual exhibitions, to hold stated meetings during the comparative leisure months of winter, for mutual improvement, and the discussion of such subjects as have an immediate bearing on the improvement of their local agricultural practice. I am also desirous of collecting material for a Provincial Agricultural Museum, as ample provision has already been made by the Board in providing the necessary accommodation.

Although the soil of the County of Brant is necessarily various, the prevailing characteristic is a light loam, in some places, as in parts of Burford, approaching a dry, poor sand. Limestone gravel extensively prevails, with a good depth of vegetable mould, forming the most valuable and easily cultivated land for general purposes, and requiring little or no artificial draining. The soil over large areas is rich in both carbonate and sulphate of lime, and large beds of the latter, of superior quality, are worked in different localities. The oak plains, which so extensively prevail around Brantford and Paris, formerly attracted no notice—being regarded as comparatively worthless—are now among the most productive lands of the Province. This land is easily cleared and cultivated, and produces an excellent quality of wheat, and the more valuable agricultural grains, roots and clover, and is consequently well adapted to sheep husbandry, which is extensively followed. I was particularly struck with the well cleared up farms and good homesteads, where the wilderness prevailed only thirty years ago; and the finished appearance, with thrifty orchards, good roads, and here and there some ornamental planting, indicate the taste and comfort of the people.

This county has been distinguished from its earliest settlement, for its grain raising capabilities, especially wheat, with which extensive areas have been frequently cropped. Experience begins to show that this practice has been carried too far, as in other parts of this Province, and the most intelligent farmers are now devoting more attention to cattle and sheep, as a means of better sustaining or increasing the fertility of the soil. The prevailing breeds of sheep are the Leicester and Downs, with here and there the Merino. The cattle have generally a dash of pure blood, principally of the Durham, and many of them are large and useful animals. The Hon. David Christie, who has long farmed very extensively in this county, has already formed the nucleus of a Shorthorn herd, which bids fair in a few years to occupy a foremost rank, not only in Canada but on this continent. He has spared neither pains nor expense in procuring specimens of the best British stock, which have attracted so much attention of late

at our Provincial Exhibitions. Mr. Christie contemplates the formation of a flock of pure Cotswold sheep, and he is decidedly of opinion that less grain and more live stock is the sure and only practicable way of permanent agricultural improvement. In this manner root crops will be more extensively cultivated, and as much larger quantities of manure will be produced, a farm may be made by cultivating and manuring a smaller area more liberally, to yield as much grain in the aggregate as under the former and more exhaustive system.

These and other topics were brought under notice at our meetings, with regard to which there was, on the whole, a striking unanimity of opinion, and there can be no doubt that our hitherto exhaustive system of cultivation is about to receive a salutary check. The light which scientific researches have of late thrown on these matters, is already aiding practical experience in bringing about a better state of things. I had much pleasant intercourse with many of the leading farmers, at their homes, from whom I received both information and encouragement.

The West Brant Agricultural Society have now perhaps, the best grounds and permanent buildings for exhibition purposes, of any county in the Province. Some fourteen or fifteen acres, situated in the flats immediately contiguous to the town of Brantford, were purchased a short time since, and a convenient and capacious building erected, and the enterprising directors are about adding another five acres adjoining, which will make their grounds not only more extensive, but likewise more complete and picturesque, by including a larger amount of undulating surface, and some fine old forest trees. The Grand River forming the Eastern boundary of the grounds, adds much to their beauty, besides supplying cattle with an abundant supply of pure water. The town Council, I believe, afforded assistance to the Agricultural Society in procuring these grounds, which are thrown open to the public free, for holding pic-nics and other pleasant and health-giving exercises. But during the Exhibitions of the Society, a small charge for entrance is imposed on all but members, and the handsome sum of six hundred dollars was thus realized by the last autumn show. These facts, it is hoped, may prove useful as suggestions to other societies. Agricultural Exhibitions certainly admit of great improvement in their management, and from want of sufficient attention to arrangements, and by being made too cheap, they are frequently but imperfectly appreciated.

I had the pleasure of spending some time with Mr. Chas. Arnold, of Paris, who for many years has devoted himself to horticultural pursuits. He has been for several years experimenting on grapes, and among a number of new varieties, Mr. Arnold has produced a few which promise to be better adapted than those hitherto cultivated, to the climate and wants of Canada. One of the more promising of these was figured and described in a recent number of THE FARMER. His great object is to produce a grape hardy enough to endure our climate, a good table fruit, and sufficiently sweet to make palatable wine, without the addition of any sugar, an object which he seems in a fair way of speedily obtaining. Mr. Arnold's garden and nursery are situated on an elevation above the Grand River, the soil being dry and calcareous, produces exceedingly healthy trees, and therefore well adapted to the purposes of transplantation. His flower garden and ornamental grounds are quite unique, and are situated on the slope of an embankment, and beautifully worked into terraces and winding paths, which give to the whole a neat and picturesque appearance. It is a pity that our older residents do not begin in earnest to surround their dwellings by a little ornamental planting, and by laying out with taste the grounds by which they are encircled. It is pleasing, however, to observe here and there, in passing through the country, evidences of progress in this direction. I observed in various parts of the County of Brant, a number of