

seems to accomplish this purpose best. It is useless to send these lambs to the New York market unless they are fat. Thin ewes are sold to any one who will give a few cents a pound. The financially able classes will have fat ones or none. The large hotels and many wealthy citizens employ special butchers to purchase for them the best stock as it comes in. A New York country-produce reporter for a Boston paper said, about Feb. 18, that some of these 30 to 35-lb. lambs were retailing at \$5 a hind quarter and \$3.75 to \$4.50 a fore quarter. A former New-York butcher who resides near me said he had sold many 6 to 8 lb. quarters every season for equal prices; that "wealthy people will not have them unless they are fat, and the price fat, too." I enter into these particulars to impress on the mind of M. the absolute necessity of shipping none but fat lambs and under eight weeks of age. The most skillful growers "ripen" them in six weeks. M. keeps his lambs now four or five months and gets \$4.80. With less expense, as I think, he could get nearly twice the money in less than half the time, and that makes an enormous difference.

E. B. M. has trouble to get his ewes to breed at the time he desires, and I see the causes of it. The ewes had been dragged down by suckling lambs perhaps four to six months, and had not had time to recuperate and get in breeding condition any earlier. Ewes that have been dry several months are the ones to select for this service. Such should be chosen and be put in good pasture where there is sufficient shade, and pure, cool water. For two weeks before turning the ram with them they should have a light daily ration of corn, and the ram, confined elsewhere meantime, should be liberally grained; then when he is turned in all will be in "condition." (1) The grain ration is continued until all, or nearly all, are served. A better way, but one that causes more bother, is to keep the ram confined and drive the ewes up every morning and place him among them, and see that a ewe gets but one service; and as fast as served, turn them into a field by themselves and withhold their grain ration. It is a good plan to number them as fast as served, from one up. (2) Then when brought to the fold for winter, as it is best to divide them into pens, those to drop lambs about together can be penned together. This saves examining every pen every time one goes into the fold when lambs begin to drop. E. B. M. may not regret that many of his lambs will drop later than he desired. Sale for them at the large prices continued till into May last year, and the demand was brisker then than in January, and it bids fair to be so this year. It is a trade that pays to watch closely.

GALEN WILSON.

Tompkins County, N. Y.

#### SOME NOTES ON SHEEP BREEDING.

To the Editor of the

FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

DEAR EDITOR.—I have read the *ADVOCATE* with a great deal of interest; I think it is an excellent paper, and ought to be in the hands of every farmer. I noticed in one or two of the *ADVOCATES* a few practical hints on

(1) Three weeks on rape is the English plan to get ewes into season and together. We have known 40 ewes tupped in one night by one ram, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of them stood. Ed.  
(2) We always ruddle the ram's brisket, and a real shepherd, knowing every ewe in his flock, has no doubt about the time each is due to lamb.—Ed.

sheep raising. I thought I would add my experience to theirs; perhaps it may be useful to others. Now, while I have not raised a sheep in Manitoba, I was an extensive breeder in Ontario.

After trying the effects of different kinds of feed on my sheep, I came to the conclusion that there was nothing better than good pea straw (half threshed), with a little ground grain in spring. My sheep did well on it, they were in good condition in the spring. They gave me less trouble in lambing, and the lambs were large and healthy.

When I first started to raise sheep I noticed that several ewes had twin lambs every other year. I came to the conclusion that by care in mating, I might have a pair of large, healthy lambs each year from each of my ewes. This was my plan. I selected the largest and healthiest twin ewe lambs for breeding purposes; then I secured as large a twin ram as I could get, I mated them, and the result was that I had two large, healthy lambs from each ewe every year.

I found, by selecting the largest lambs each year, my sheep increased in size instead of becoming smaller. I received the highest market price for my sheep and lambs. I might say that I started with Cotswold ewes and crossed with a Lincoln ram, by so doing I got a fair amount of wool of good sample, and a large boned, fleshy sheep.

I intend securing a few good sheep, and my plan shall be the same in this country as in Ontario. I shall go further and select ewes that give the largest amount of milk. I also believe that, with care in selecting, I can have ewes that will give me three and four lambs each year, and large, healthy ones at that.

Yours truly,

Virden, Man.

PRACTICAL.

#### RAPE AS A CLEANING CROP AND FOR FATTENING SHEEP.

BY J. O. SNELL, EDMONTON.

My experience with rape in the last three years, both as a cleaning crop and for fattening sheep, has been so gratifying to myself, I feel constrained to tell it to the world through the *Advocate*. The cultivation necessary to secure a crop is very simple. The land plowed in the fall need not be touched till late in June, or after all the spring seeding, including that of turnips, is over. A couple of plowings and thorough pulverisation by the use of roller and harrows is all that is required. Sown in drills 24 to 30 inches apart, about two pounds of seed per acre, kept clean by the free use of the horse-hoe, the cleaning process is quite as effective as a summerfallow, and the amount of feed produced is, in most cases, marvellous. It may be sown any time in June or July. I think it a mistake to sow earlier than June 25th, as the fly is apt to take the plants, and if it does get an early start it is liable to wilt and turn yellow in the dry spells we so often have in August. In clean land it will do very well sown broadcast, but better in drills with cultivation. (1) Stock should not be turned on it till it is about 12 to 15 inches high, as the stronger the stalks become the better feed they make. Care is necessary when stock is first turned into it. They should not be put on it while wet with dew

(1) We prefer broadcasting 5 to 7 pounds, as labour is too high here to admit of hoeing by hand. All our best East-England men sow thus.—Ed.

or rain for a few days, and a pasture field should be accessible, so that they may have the run of both grass and rape for two or three weeks, when they may safely be confined upon it. Sometimes there are considerable losses from stock becoming bloated or scoured, and I have known cases where the ears of sheep became swollen and they have lost part of their ears, but in the last three years, with from 5 to 12 acres, I have not lost a single animal, have had no mishap, and my sheep have done wonderfully well on it. Last fall I had 25 Cotswold ram lambs on rape that had never been fed anything since they were put on grass in spring, and, on rape alone, many of them weigh from 150 to 175 lbs. each, and have backs as broad as a board. A good feature about rape is that its feeding quality seems to improve with frost, and the sheep will relish it and continue to improve on it right up to winter, or until it is covered by snow. (1) Young cattle also do well on it, but it is not well to let the milking cows have it, as it taints the milk. In addition to its usefulness as a cleaning and feeding crop, it goes without saying that the feeding of sheep upon the land makes a fine preparation for future crops. With rape for the sheep, and fodder corn for the cattle, we ought to keep twice as much stock, and have them in twice as good condition as we find them throughout the country.—*Farmer's Advocate*.

#### ABORTION IN SHEEP.

A correspondent of one of the U.S. papers wants to know the reason why his ewes lamb prematurely. This is rather vague, as no notice is given of the duration of pregnancy, &c. The food the ewes in question get seems to be "ground corn and-cob, and plenty of fodder." The want of nitrogen in the food of in-lamb ewes is the main cause of all the troubles that beset them; therefore, give pregnant ewes plenty of pease-straw, clover-hay, pease, linseed-cake, and other nitrogenous foods, in addition to their roots, silage, or other succulent foods. The ground corn-and-cob may do to fatten sheep, but is utterly insufficient for the support for the ewe and the fetus. We regret to say that, in many instances, we see breeding sheep of good quality treated as if they were the mere scavengers of the farm, and made to subsist on the weeds and rubbish they pick up. No wonder they are not a favorite stock where such treatment prevails. Ed.

#### Horticulture.

##### ITS POSSIBILITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

This branch of rural economy has so far been neglected in a great measure, to say the least, especially in the rural districts. Farmers as a rule despise a garden, saying they have no time to attend to it and a thousand and one other excuses. Now if they would only think for one minute of the advantages to be gained by a well cultivated plot of land, even if of small dimensions, they would change their minds.

The fresh vegetables that can be grown with only ordinary care will be a constant source of pleasure and profit. Doctors all agree that nothing is so conducive to health as a supply of good, sound, fresh, well matured fruit and vegetables and these can be pro-

(2) As we have often mentioned, we kept our lambs, at Sorel, on rape till December 7th.—Ed.

cured in all their sweetness and perfection in no other way than by growing them at home and using or cooking them immediately they are gathered. Then and there only they possess qualities which fade away with the morning dew, and may be said to be their very life. Only those who have enjoyed a dish of green peas, asparagus, or spring cabbage, gathered and cooked the same hour, can justly appreciate the difference between these and such as have been gathered for several days, wilted, heated in a load, or exposed for some time on the market. As to the profit of a garden, there is no portion of the farm that will yield half as much. If the farmer who is wise enough to cultivate one were to keep a strict account of the produce, and *per contra*, the bread the boys would have eaten if that had not been there to partially supply its place, he would be convinced of the economy effected. So much for the domestic view of the matter. Now we will merely glance at the commercial aspect of the case, and there are great possibilities in this respect for those who have land in the vicinity of cities. With the increase of population there is an increased demand for all sorts of garden produce and this demand is further increased by the supply, and people's tastes are changed by the mere fact that certain articles are offered to them. It is only a few years since that celery was not much used, and now the public taste for it has been fostered and encouraged by its more abundant production and exposure for sale until it is looked upon as a necessity by many and is a most delicious and health preserving article of diet.

The impetus given to the production of vegetables for canning and pickling is another important factor in the possibilities of realizing profit, by well managed horticulture. The quantity of fruit and vegetables thus used is enormous and increasing annually and the local supply, even near Montreal, is by no means equal to the demand.

As to small fruit, the markets might be better supplied and if more were exposed for sale and nicely displayed as to packages or baskets made with taste, the public would be induced to purchase at remunerative prices—in much larger quantities than heretofore. We have a great deal to learn in this respect, for however choice and good fruit may be, its attractiveness can be marred by carelessness in placing it before the public. This applies to all articles exposed for sale, as the windows of our dry goods dealers, jewelers, grocers and the like testify, but in the matter of edibles, which one would suppose should more especially be set off to the best advantage, this rule is too often entirely overlooked or neglected.

It is the duty as well as the privilege of occupiers of land to make it yield all that untiring industry, skill and intelligence can produce, and to neglect opportunities to do so from a fancied idea that time occupied in the culture of small fruit and vegetables is wasted is almost a criminal mistake—at least those making it are certainly blind to their own interest. The *modus operandi* of culture is easily learned and the principles governing the science of agriculture and horticulture are so nearly identical, that a little reading of the current literature, so freely and cheaply disseminated, so as to gain instruction as to certain details, should make a fair gardener of a farmer who knows his business. Where there's a will there's a way.

GEORGE MOORE.