

Shropshire Sheep.

THE PROPERTY OF MR. H. H. SPENCER, OF
BROOKLIN, ONT.

The accompanying drawing was made by our artist, Mr. P. Hunt, of this city, and engraved by Messrs. Beal & Bridgen, of the Toronto Engraving Co. The drawing was made from sheep exhibited at the recent Provincial Exhibition held in the city of London; the background was added as relief by the artist.

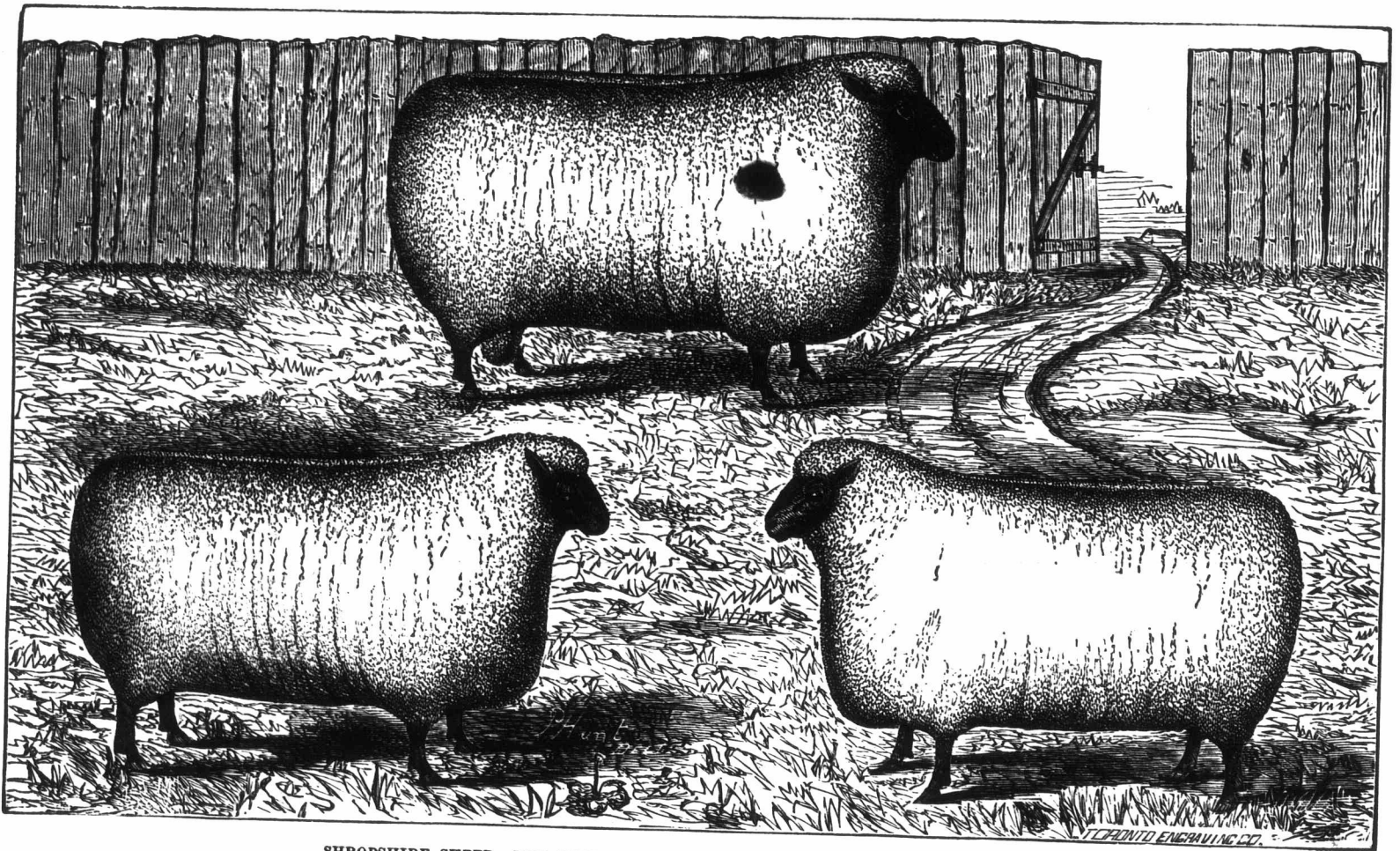
Mr. Spencer is the most extensive breeder and importer of this class of sheep in our Dominion. He is not only a careful breeder and importer, but a deserving prize-winner, as the list of honors gained by him will indicate. He actually bred and sold stock that beat his own in the show ring. This is what breeders will seldom do, but he has such a good reputation that he aims to raise the best, and considers the laurels won by sheep from

yet procurable is so small in comparison to the large supply of Merino, Leicester and Cotswold, that very few Americans have ever had a chance to test a prime piece of mutton in their lives. As soon as they do, and a supply can be had, you may expect to see or hear of prices being paid for legs of mutton such as you never dreamt of; for Americans, as soon as they really know what is the best, will not spare money to have it on their tables. We are now having a turkey mania, but roast beef and roast mutton will in the future, as in the past, stand pre-eminent on the festive board; that will be as soon as Americans know how to raise the best and to cook it properly after it is raised.

Another great reason why this class of sheep is likely to become popular is the fact that they are more hardy and more prolific than the long-wooled sheep. Shropshires have a thick, close, compact

sheep will increase faster with moderate care. This class of sheep is becoming more in vogue in England than they have been. One of our exchanges reports a ram of this class as having the past autumn sold for upwards of two thousand dollars.

There are several other breeders and importers of this class of sheep in Canada. In due time we hope to call attention to their flocks, as we feel an interest in the introduction and spread of the different classes of stock that we think of most benefit to our readers. Had we time and means to spare, we know of no class of farm stock that we should more prefer to spend our time among than a good flock of sheep. When a child we used to have our numerous pet lambs, but the labor of attending to this journal prevents us from living so much among the pet animals of the farm as we would wish. We have tried and tried again to



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his raising add as much honor to him as when exhibited in his own name.

The Shropshires are looked on as the coming sheep for Canada. The demand for the long combing wool is not at all equal to what it was a few years ago, and the demand for wool of a finer quality is now rapidly increasing, and it commands much higher prices. Not only is the increasing demand for finer wool the only reason why this class of sheep deserve more attention, but the quality of mutton of all the Down sheep is superior to that of the Leicesters, Lincolns or Cotswolds; and the real judges of good mutton will and do pay higher prices for this class of mutton than for the large, heavy, tallowy mutton. One or two cents per lb. used to be the difference in price when we resided in England. English people have not become less fastidious, and this demand for the best will assuredly spring up in every city on this continent as soon as we have enough of such to give Americans a taste of really good mutton. The quantity of Down mutton as

fleece on their backs, and if you turn one up you will always find a good warm covering under them. They do not get bare-bellied, as many of the long-wooled sheep do. They keep a good coat all over them. This keeps them warm and hardy, and fits them to stand more exposure than many other sheep. They are rather larger than the Southdowns, and rather more open in the wool. They appear to be the medium class of sheep that offer to be most suitable to our present requirements. They are not destined to drive all other classes of sheep out of use, but they are destined to receive much more attention in the future than they have received in the past. We do not pretend to say that as a class they are as symmetrical as many other breeds of sheep. They have not, as a general thing, as pretty a head or level a back as the Southdowns, neither have they the lordly appearance of the Cotswolds, but they have a decidedly sheepish appearance, and we want a sheep to be a sheep. They are excellent mothers, so hardy and so careful that we doubt if any class of

secure a good, efficient agricultural editor to aid us, but the lack of health has recently deprived us of one whom we had hoped to have been able to take control. Inefficiency and the desire to run into party or personal influences has caused us to discharge others. A really unbiased agricultural editor is a most difficult person to find. In fact, agricultural editors are the most difficult to obtain of any class of editors, while political writers are to be found in every village; and we regret to say that some writers who contribute to this journal occasionally draw so much party into their writings that they often have to be rejected.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is the best value for the money of any agricultural journal I have ever seen.
JOHN MORTON, Thorold P. O., Ont.

Our subscribers when sending in their renewals will be sure to send in a new name or two and win some of our attractive prizes mentioned in another part of this issue.