

Province are driven from the show ground, for want of rules to prevent over-feeding. I heard Mr. Snell's shepherd state on the show ground that they would cease showing ewes, as they could not do so without injuring them by over-feeding. I heard also one of the Provincial long wool judges, who was looking for a ram to purchase, observe that he wanted one which had not been destroyed by over-feeding. At the same time the principal breeders, in advertising their stock for sale, state that they are in breeding condition. A number of rams are to be seen every year on the Provincial show ground, scarcely able to walk, a condition which must greatly reduce their value, as no experienced breeder will use them.

The judges at the late exhibition recommended a long wool class. What is understood to be the style and quality of a Leicester shep? It is a well known fact that, without a cross, the old kind of Leicester can do nothing on the show ground. We see one of the largest importers selling imported Leicester ewes for less than half the amount for which he sells improved Leicesters, as he styles them, at the same time stating the improvement is a cross with a Cotswold ram. A cross in the flock of a first class breeder is styled "Improved," while in an ordinary flock "Half-bred" is the name applied. Again, we see gentlemen who act as judges of sheep at Agricultural shows, looking on and saying they are the finest blue-headed Leicesters they ever saw, while the owner acknowledges they are half-bred Cotswolds.

The Leicester, Lincoln and Cotswold, are all mixed together to produce what is now shown as Leicester. Is it not possible to describe, for the information of both judge and exhibitor, the quality and description of a Leicester sheep, and not leave the exhibitor liable to be thrown out from competing through the whim and fancy, it may be, of judges who are not experienced breeders? At the late Toronto Exhibition, there were sheep on the ground that could not be got out to show, on account of all the different classes or breeds being judged at one time, and those attending stock being denied admittance at the gates in the morning for sometimes more than an hour. All of which difficulties ought to be remedied. J. R.

MARKHAM, April 10th, 1867.

LAZIER'S DOMESTIC SPINNER.—In reply to various enquiries we give Mr. Lazier's address, which is Belleville, C. W.

TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR.—On page 120 of the last number, under the head of "a Manure Experiment" for "67 (loads of manure)" read 6 or 7.

SHEEP QUERIES.—We have received several enquiries about sheep affected with various symptoms of disease, but the descriptions have not been sufficiently detailed or explicit to enable us to offer any advice or opinion respecting the cases in question.

SHEEP SHEARING.—"A subscriber" sends us the following from Thornhill:—"I saw in the *Globe*, of 29th of March, that the Board of Agriculture had met and disposed of the sheep-shearing question, which they say has occasioned considerable difficulty. It was resolved that all sheep to be exhibited at the next Provincial Exhibition must be closely shorn after the 25th day of April next. Now, Sir, this assuredly is bad management. It was generally taken for granted that the first day of April should be the time when sheep intended for Exhibition were to be shorn, and as this new resolution was not adopted until the 27th day of March, and did not appear in the *Globe* until the 29th day, allowing only two days' notice, and the *CANADA FARMER* is not issued until the first of April, consequently the notice could not appear until after that date in this paper—hence the majority of the farmers could not obtain the notice until the close of the first week in April. By that time most of the sheep would be shorn. Is two days sufficient notice to give on so important a question, and which has occasioned, as they say, considerable difficulty?"

EWES DISOWNING LAMBS.—A correspondent from Peel county sends us the following, though rather too late to be of much service during the present season. He says:—"Horace Matiger's article on the management of young lambs is excellent, but I have a plan for making a ewe take with her own or any other lamb, which I think rather better than his, which

should be known to all sheep breeders. Drive a staple with a few links of trace-chain attached into the side of a smooth wall, about fifteen inches from the floor, and far enough from the corner or any projection, so that the ewe cannot dash the lamb with her head. Then with a hame strap tie the ewe up, giving her room to lie down and no more. During the first day the ewe will have to be held for the lamb to suck. This any boy can do by putting his hand under her lower jaw and holding her nose up. I have used this plan for the last twelve years without a single failure, when a ewe lost her lamb, and I have another that has twins. If they are two or three weeks old, it makes no difference; as long as the lamb will suck it is all right. Two days is the common time required. I never recollect a case that took more than three until the last that came under my hands, which I let go after four days' confinement; she is now as fond of the lamb as if it was her own. The ewe and lamb must be put away from the other sheep while she is tied up.

SEVERE WINTER AND SCARCITY OF FODDER IN THE WEST.—"T. R." writing from Sycamore (Illinois), under date April 12th, informs us that the winter in that section of the country has been very severe, with an unusual amount of snow. Up to the date of his letter very little ploughing or sowing had been done; but in another week, with favorable weather, these farm operations would become general.

Much inconvenience had been experienced from the scarcity of fodder; for, as the principal dependence of the farmers for fodder was wild hay cut in the low places, or sloughs, in autumn, and the wet weather had greatly interfered with gathering this crop, which was consequently very deficient, and as the reprehensible practice of burning all the straw as soon as thrashed, is still commonly practised, a great many people had found themselves very short of feed for their stock, and numbers had been obliged to gather up for fodder straw that had been left for manure. Perhaps the lesson may be of use for the future. Our correspondent informs us that he is about to be engaged in setting out and tending osage orange fences, and promises to communicate to us the success of his operations. We shall be interested in hearing the results, though we do not expect that the osage orange can ever be serviceable as a hedge plant in Canada.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, MAY 1, 1867.

The Season.

SPRING this year has been somewhat later than usual in its arrival. At the date of our last issue, the plough could hardly have been said to have started, even in the most favoured parts of the country, and only now can it be said to be in general motion. Drained farms have had a decided advantage over undrained ones, in their speedy readiness for the plough, and it would seem as though by drought, wet, and lateness of spring, year after year was commissioned to teach us the importance of drainage, as the grand lesson, yet unlearned, of Canadian agriculture. Though the season is rather late, the winter has been one of comparative mildness, and the usual point of cold has not been touched. In consequence of this, fruit promises well, the buds having escaped injury. The prospects of a peach crop in the Niagara district this year are, we learn, exceedingly good. From the prevalence of snow most of the winter, the ground has been well covered, and both fall wheat and clover have been well protected. Hence they promise a good yield, should the weather prove favourable during the growing season. Farmers are in for a hurrying time, and never needed the aid of an orderly, systematic plan of work more than they do the present year.

The Late Rev. Samuel Smith and the Lois Weedon System of Wheat Growing.

By the late English papers we notice the death of the Rev. Samuel Smith, of "Lois Weedon," Northamptonshire, England, originator of the "Lois Weedon" system of husbandry. Mr. Smith was a clergyman of the Church of England, greatly beloved in his neighbourhood, and of a most persevering and energetic nature. His experiments in farming, particularly in the growing of wheat, have been most pleasantly embodied in several pamphlets which have passed through many editions, and contain much original and valuable matter. We cannot give a better obituary of this worthy and respected man, as well as enlightened agriculturist, than by recounting in short the operation and result of the system which is now so intimately connected with his name. Mr. Smith's experiments extend over twenty-one years, and the results of these experiments have been most carefully noted and agreeably set forth in his writings.

Mr. Smith started with his experiments in the growth of wheat with the maxims enunciated by the great originator of English improved agriculture, "Jethro Tull," namely, that strong clay land, when properly cultivated by exposure to the influence of the atmosphere, contains within itself sufficient elements of fertility for the continuous growth of wheat, without the addition of farm yard or any other manure; and not only so, but that the wheat so produced from such unmanured clays is both a better, heavier, and more certain crop, than when manure is added to such soils; or, in other words, that clay land, properly exposed to the air, sun, and rain, will imbibe from these elements the best possible constituents for the most fertile and certain growth of wheat. Mr. Smith commenced with a piece of strong clay land, which lies on the formation known in England as the Oolitic clay. It was in a meadow. He removed the entire surface by paring off the turf, which he carted off, and started on the absolute stiff clay, without any ameliorating influence whatever in it except the staple, which had been ploughed off five inches deep. He first tile-drained it, and led the tiles into a deep ditch to carry off the water. The ditch he most carefully preserved, in order to show in future years what the soil was like on which he commenced. And this ditch, with its original stiff yellow clay, was always shown to visitors after they had inspected the wheat-growing portion of the property. The first summer he sowed the land to oats, then winter vetches—and then commenced his system of growing wheat. He dug over the whole land with the spade, bringing a few inches of the yellow clay subsoil to the surface; then commencing at the edge near the ditch, he drilled and dibbled in three rows of wheat, ten inches apart. He then left a space of forty inches, then drilled and dibbled in three rows more of wheat, ten inches apart; then left a space of forty inches, and so on through the field; so that the field presented the appearance of a series of beds of three rows each of wheat, parallel to each other, with a space of thirty inches between the beds. The wheat came up evenly, and looked strong and well in the spring. As soon as the ground was dry enough in the spring, the spaces between the beds of wheat were dug with the fork—bringing up a few inches of the yellow clay subsoil; the spaces were cultivated with the horse hoe until the wheat was high, and just in blossom. At this time, with a light plough, he turned a furrow from the space up towards the outside row of each bed of wheat, in such a manner as to afford support to the wheat without burying it: he thus guarded against the straw (which was very high and strong) being laid by the wet and the winds, which prevail to so great an extent in England. So the matter remained till harvest, when the wheat was reaped and found to be a good crop, at the rate of thirty-two bushels per acre of the