Overgrown Fall Wheat.

A number of enquiries having reached this office asking for advice as to the best treatment to be given fall wheat which has grown too heavy a top and will be liable to rot under the snow during the winter. We have referred the question to a number of practical wheat-growers in different sections of Ontario, and the replies received so far we publish below:

"As to the best means to adopt in cases where the fall wheat has attained too rank a growth: In my experience there is very little gained in pasturing it. Sheep eat it too close to the ground in places, and those places are sure to get killed by the frost in the winter, and to turn on horses or cattle, they being so heavy, much of it would get destroyed on account of the soft condition of the land at this time of the year. Calves or turkeys would be better than either of the above, but would not be practicable where any quantity of wheat is grown. Mowing wheat in the fall has proved a failure, with me at least. I have been taught by sad experience that it is not safe to sow fall wheat until the 1st September, and if summer-fallow, from the 5th to the 10th.

SIMPSON RENNIE."
York Co.

"I have never done anything to remove the growth of wheat during the fall, neither would I if I lived in regions where the snowfall was light. If it is desirable to remove some of the growth, I think the best way, perhaps, is to pasture it with calves and young cattle, and if the weather and soil is dry any kind of cattle will answer. I have seen sheep on fall wheat, but there is an objection to sheep: they eat it too close to the heart of the plant.

JAS. TOLTON."
Bruce Co.

"I have known wheat as large as you say, but never knew of any bad results. The only trouble is, where heavy falls of snow occur and remain through the winter, it is liable to smother, and if a long, wet spring follows sometimes rots off at the ground. Would, where practicable, prefer pasturing off close in winter, as the frozen ground would prevent stock leaving deep tracks in the soil. Would also be a good practice where stock is kept confined through the long winter. Have seen it mown, but the cut blades should be taken away unless there is weather to dry up the mulch.

W. G. BALDWIN."
Bruce Co.

"In regard to fall wheat, I like a good heavy growth before winter, as long as it spreads down, but when it shoots up very high I would turn on calves or some light animals that won't poach the ground.

A. B. SCOTT."
Middlesex Co.

Maritime Notes.

THE NEEDS OF SHEEP-RAISING.

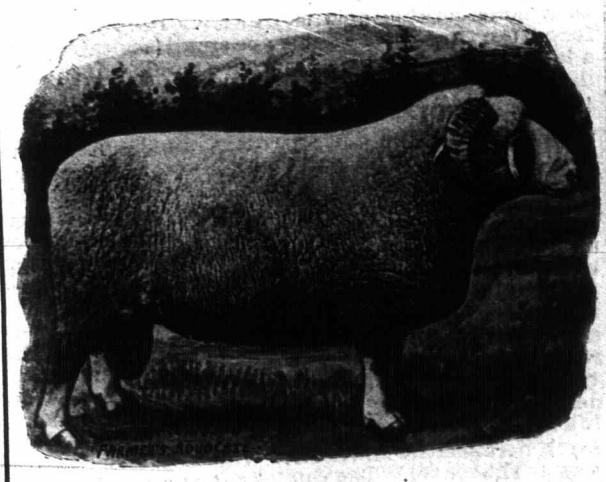
In the market reports of your last two issues the price of lambs is quoted at from 4 to 4½ cents per pound. This is in marked contrast with here, where 2½ cents is the ruling price and 3 cents the outside. This last is received only in exceptional cases when a buyer wishes to complete a carload in a hurry. This, it seems to me, is just the reverse of what it should be. The closer we get to the best markets the higher the price should be. Yet here we are, close to the sea and good shipping ports, and not a single animal of ours ever reaches the English market. Our buyers all cater to the United States markets, which entails a long railway haul and the payment of a heavy duty. No attempt is being made to reach that best of all markets—the English. I think it would pay Upper Canadian sheep buyers to visit the Maritime Provinces in the fall, during September and October; that there would be money in it for them, and that in the course of a few years it would result in an immense improvement in our flocks and methods of management. It is a fact that at the present time our sheep are mostly scrubs and that it is hard to pick up an even-looking lot. Some are white and some are black, while others are a mixture of both colors; some have horns, some have none; while a few show signs of good breeding. While there are a good many small, light lambs, the majority are of good size and weight, and, which should partly offset their many faults, they are exceptionally fine eating. Improvement is greatly needed, but so long as our present market is our only one improvement is bound to be slow. Nothing so tends to retard progress in any branch of farming as a poor and indiscriminating market. Given a fair price, and a market that discriminates closely between good and bad, and improvement is bound to be rapid, as only those who will cater to its demands can obtain a share of its trade. The easiest and cheapest way to improve our present flocks is by the use of pure-bred rams. By keeping the best of the ewe lambs for breeding purposes and changing the sire every third year a flock can in a few years be made practically pure-bred. A great fault in our present system of management (or lack of system) is that we leave the lambs too long with the ewes and that we market them too early, thereby losing the increased growth they are capable of making. A much better way would be to take them from the ewes about the first of September and give them the run of a good piece of grass or clover, and if a piece of rape or turnips could be added so much the better. Two months of such feeding should give a very substantial gain at a very small cost.

NEW BRUNSWICK DAIRYING.

In view of the fact that cheese factories have proved such a failure in this county it is interesting to read the following, which appeared in the *St. John Sun*, and refers to Sussex, in King's County, New Brunswick:

"The development of the dairy has done much for Sussex. There are now over twenty cheese factories within a radius of twenty miles, and the farmers are generally paying much attention to this new source of revenue. Farms that twenty or thirty years ago carried only six or eight or ten cows are now stocked well up to the hundred. One illustration told to the *Sun* by a resident of Sussex on Saturday is right to the point. Seven years ago, in consequence of the changed conditions of an estate, it became necessary to look closely into the value of its securities. Among these securities were mortgages on eight farms that, as things then stood, would not realize the face value of the claim. To-day, however, these very farms are clear of incumbrance and are valuable pieces of property. A few years ago, said another gentleman, you could buy all the cows you wanted for $8 to $12 a head. Now you will have to pay from $20 to $40 each for them, according to quality. All roads that lead into Sussex pass through fertile territory, and herein Sussex has the advantage over the great majority of maritime towns which lie on the border rather than in the center of a rich farming region. Take the case of Waterford, which when the lumber business dropped out had apparently nothing but a hard future before it. Thanks to the advance in dairying, it has now the largest cheese factory, save one in King's County, and its bleak hillsides afford the very best pasture. There are three times as many cows in Waterford to-day as there were four or five years ago."

What has made this great difference in results—failure in one case, success in the other? It would



Prizewinning Dorset Horned Ram.

Dorset Horned ram, Lord Nelson, No 355, Continental Dorset Club; bred by Mr. H. McCalmont, Bishopwood Estate, England. Lambed autumn of 1896, and imported by his present owner, R. H. Harding, Thorndale, Ont., 1898. He won second premium at Toronto, being beaten by the Royal (Eng.) winner, and first at London exhibitions.

be a splendid lesson if the working of the factories in the two districts could be compared. In Sussex, I believe, the factories are worked on the co-operative system; here the milk was purchased outright by the manufacturer. This last is a poor system to begin with, yet it might have succeeded if both manufacturer and patron had co-operated to make it a success; but the manufacturers tried to make cheap cheese rather than good cheese cheaply, and the patron, through bad farming, did not keep the supply of milk up to what it should have been. The consequence was that the cheese sold low and the manufacturer lost,—the price of milk was cut down, and the farmer kicked.

THE APPLE TRADE.

The first shipment of nearly 10,000 barrels of apples from Nova Scotia to the London market netted the shippers from $4 to $4.50 per barrel, and advices state that winter apples will be higher than at any time in the history of the trade. If this be so, this will be the exceptional year for which the Annapolis Valley fruit-grower always prays but which he seldom gets, viz., one that combines a large crop and good prices. As the fruit trade of Nova Scotia increases, Ontario buyers are bound to have a share of it. Mr. Onderdonk, of Ontario, is now buying in the Valley, and Mr. Sewart, representing Williamson & Carmichael, of London, Ont., is there in the interests of his house. They have sent out buyers and are to build a cold storage warehouse at Richmond.

AGRICOLA.
Antigonishe Co., N. S.

The returns to the British Board of Agriculture show that during the week ended October 15th there were 31 outbreaks of swine fever, involving the slaughter of 396 pigs, against 23 and 367 in the corresponding week last year. The number of outbreaks of anthrax was 7, attacking 7 animals, against 7 and 14 last year; and of glanders 11 outbreaks, attacking 22 animals, against 19 and 32 in 1897.

A Day at the Iowa Agricultural College.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In response to an invitation issued by the President and Board of Trustees, a large crowd gathered at the College, Ames, Ia., on Oct. 4th, 1898. Ames is a thriving town situated about the center of the State, and is connected with the College by a steam motor line. The College and farm lands embrace some 900 acres, 100 acres of which are used for a campus, walks and groves. There are over 500 students in attendance at the present time. Similar to other institutions in the U. S., the college has departments of literature, science, agriculture (including horticulture, dairying, and live stock), veterinary medicine, domestic economy, engineering, and music; in fact, the Iowa State College is one of the strongest pieces of evidence that the people of the great Republic are firm believers in technical education; in fact, the great object here is to turn out well-trained, brainy working men and women. The large crowd wandered through the various fine, well-equipped buildings which dot the campus. Margaret Hall, the School of Domestic Economy, is a fine new building where the girls get a thorough course in needlework, cooking and preparing of dietaries, and other branches of domestic science—all from practical and scientific standpoints. The Mechanical Department, from whence are turned out engineers and electricians, was also inspected. This Department has a large equipment, the electric light plant, which illuminates the various buildings and offices, being under the control of this department. In the Veterinary Department are fine laboratories and anatomical models, with a hospital equipped to date. It is, however, in the Agricultural Department, along with the Experimental Department, where the chief interest lies. Besides the college proper, there is a large creamery in connection with this department. There are the necessary classrooms, etc., and a variety of live stock which leaves nothing to be desired. Horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs—different breeds of each—are here handled and tested, affording a splendid observation-ground for the students. The teaching is done by experts, such as Curtiss and Craig in live stock, Mackay and Eckles in dairying. Probably as good a criterion of the work done at the I. S. C. is the record of her students. In engineering, national distinction has fallen to her graduates. Most of her veterinary graduates are enjoying good positions, either as inspectors under the Federal Government or else as State veterinarians or teachers in colleges; while in dairying the collection of gold medals and other trophies won in strong competition is irrefutable testimony of the excellence of the training afforded here. The writer was particularly struck when passing through the stock barns with what might be called "dual purpose" cattle, and for the benefit of your readers I subjoin a few of the individual records placarded in the barn for the benefit of the visitors. *Cow No. 1*, a Shorthorn, tested for thirteen months, gave 9,136 pounds of milk testing 3.79 butter-fat, yielding in the thirteen months 404 pounds of butter; cost of feed, $25; average cost of one pound butter, 6.2 cents; *net profit, $43.60. Cow No. 2*, a Shorthorn grade: Duration of test, eleven months; milk given, 6,164 pounds, testing 4.71 butter-fat; butter yield, 338 7 pounds; cost of feed, $20 68 cents; *net profit, $35.43*—pretty good for a grade, you will say. *Cow No. 3*, tested eleven months; milk obtained, 7,464 pounds, testing 3.59 per cent. butter-fat; cost of feed, $20 50; average cost one pound butter, 6.8 cents; *net profit, $28.60. Cow No. 4*, tested for twelve months; milk yield, 7,113 pounds, testing 3.71 per cent. butter-fat; butter obtained, 308 pounds; cost of feed, $27 62; average cost of butter per pound, 8.9 cents; *net profit, $27.73*. These figures refer to Shorthorns and their grades. Probably if I had scanned the special dairy breeds something larger would be the result. The records stated were not specially selected by the writer. The following will give an idea of the feed, and cost of it, given to Cow No. 1. This cow, a pure Shorthorn, yielded over 400 pounds of butter in thirteen months, and makes up into beef condition when dry.

ONE WEEK IN JANUARY—STABLED.

	Amount.	Cost.		
Hay	56 lbs.	$ .112	Dry matter	21.5
Sheaf oats	63 "	.157	Nutritive ratio	1:8 5
Snapped corn	82 "	.14	Feed left, 12 lbs. hay.	
Barley meal	28 "	.098	Milk, morning, 99.5 lbs.	
Sugar beets	35 "	.017	" night, 95 "	
				194.5 lbs.
Cost of feed		$ .524		

Milk tested 4 % b.-f.; Butter obtained, 9.07 lbs., worth $1 50; cost of 1 lbs. of butter, $ .058; profit, $1.01.

ONE WEEK IN MAY—PASTURE.

	Amount.	Cost.	Milk obtained—	
Bran	8.5 lbs.	$ .029	Morning	76.5
Gluten meal	8 "	.04	Night	84
Pasture		.231		160.5 lbs.
			Testing	4.4% b.-f.
Cost of feed		$ .30	Fat yield	7.06 lbs.
			Butter	8 23 "

Cost of 1 lbs. of butter, $ .036; value of butter, $1 045; profit, $ .745.

Various tests are being conducted in field agriculture, live stock, and dairying. The make of the creamery is shipped to Great Britain, where it sells, and sometimes outsells the best Danish butter. Our Canadian dairymen have their work cut out for them to beat the dairymen here, and it will not do for Canadians to rest content with laurels won in cheesemaking. Iowa is fairly swarming with creameries, and as a consequence her butter is uniform and of good quality, and is called for in the markets.