

tors, who are appointed to superintend and give instructions to the different persons in charge of farms. Spanish Merino Rams have been sold in Hungary for £1,000 and upwards.

The French Government have expended large sums of money at different times in importing Sheep from Spain and other countries, to improve their flocks, hence the superiority of the French Merinos at the present time; these facts are mentioned to show that great importance is attached to the breeding and keeping of Sheep, almost in every country of the civilized world.

When Sheep are kept in such large numbers as I have spoken of, it is for the sake of the wool, not the mutton; the mutton is a secondary consideration, in fact, a matter of little importance; they are pastured on land that cost the owners but little or nothing, the greatest expense being the paying of shepherds to take charge of them.

Sheep are kept in pretty large numbers in some parts of England and Scotland; these take what we may term a middle stand, the wool and mutton both being very valuable. The Sheep are bred and pastured on land commonly known as Moor Lands, or Gorse Commons, or Heather; those lands are almost worthless but for the pasturing of Sheep; these are kept by the breeders until they are two or three years old, when they are sold to farmers and graziers who live in more favored localities, fatten on the rich pastures or turnips, and sold to the butcher, and go to feed the million. We then come to another description of Sheep, viz., the Long Wools; these are generally bred and fattened by the same individual, never changing hands until sold to the butcher. These Sheep form the minority, but I think it is by far the most interesting part of Sheep farming.

We could dispose of any quantity of that breed of Sheep. There is always a good demand for Wool at prices which may be considered remunerative: taking the average of the last few years, it will be found to be about 25 cents per lb., for coarse Wool. I have always found that the cash realized from the sale of Wool comes in quite opportunely, being at a time of the year when the Canadian farmer has very little else to dispose of. As to the class of Sheep best adapted to our country, I suppose there is a variety of opinion. Of the English breeds, we have the Leicesters, the Teeswater, Lincolns, Cheviots, and Southdowns, French and Spanish Merinos, and I suppose some others of the fine wool breeds. All these different kinds have their admirers and advocates. We have some of the old stock, the Canadian, but this class is getting small, most of the sheep throughout the country being crossed with one or other of the imported breeds.

We now come to a very important part of our subject, viz., the cross breeding of Sheep.

There are but few, comparatively speaking, of our Canadian farmers, who possess the means to import stock from England or other places where the pure breed can be obtained, and there is a less number still who have the disposition to do so, this being attended with great expense and risk of capital. But there is a great number of farmers who wish to improve their stock of Sheep by purchasing those animals which have been bred from Imported Stock. While it is beyond the means of some individuals to import, it is within the means of the majority of farmers to purchase those which have been bred from imported stock, especially male animals.

If an individual farmer thinks he cannot afford to pay 20, 30, or 40, or more dollars for a Tup Sheep, he could join one or more of his neighbors to do so, as one Tup would serve from fifty to one hundred ewes.

Much has been spoken and written about crossing Merinos with Leicesters, the Native with Merinos, Southdowns and Merinos and a variety of crosses, but I confess that I have no faith in it. A very useful class of Sheep may be obtained, by crossing a Canadian Ewe with either a Leicester, Cotswold or Teeswater Ram. The produce of the cross will be a good plump carcass, with a fleece weighing five or six pounds of clean washed wool. I wish here to correct what I consider a prevailing error; that the first cross is the best. It's true, the change may be more apparent, but no certain degree of excellence can be obtained, unless the female is equally well bred with the male. This, however, is impossible to be obtained under present circumstances. We must endeavor by crossing and selecting, to improve our breed of Sheep, and this we can accomplish by care and attention. Our motto should be "Excelsior," still higher. At the end of every two years a Tup should be introduced into the Stock from another family of Sheep, so that there be no in and in breeding, and that should be a better one than you had for the past two years, if it can be got.