

By the bye, we see in the Agricultural Gazette, that Henry, a son of Mr. Wm. Rigden, has just sold off his flock of Southdowns, by which sale the blood of the Webb, the Goodwood, the Ellman and other leading flocks will be dispersed all over the county, and doubtless some of the rams will be seen in the Dominion.

Mr. Henry Webb's flock, consisted of 472 breeding sheep; they realised £2,229.6s., an average of £4.14s.6d., little enough for a flock that, to say the least of it, could trace its pedigree back to the first French Revolutionary days. For the modern Southdowns all came from Ellman's flock and the improved are in the last resort, due to Jonas Webb, whose rams fecundated the ewes at Hove, at Goodwood, at all the great Norfolk breeders' farmsteads; the Ellises, Colmans, all trace the descent of their sheep to "Webb of Babraham."

The very moderate average the sheep of this highly descended flock sold for may be accounted for by the following facts: first, rivals: Hampshire-downs, the lambs of which breed weigh two-thirds as much in December, at the Smithfield Club show, as Southdowns, at 18 months. Secondly, fashion: the rage everywhere is for Shropshires.

Still, we must confess that, if we could not get Hampshire-downs, we would keep Shropshire, for the Southdown is too small for anything but the West-End of London Trade. Somehow or other, we have only seen one report of the Hampshire-down ram-sales; that of the well-known Chalderton flock, belonging to Mr. H. G. Stephens, M. P. Those offered were all ram-lambs, and were some let for the season, and the second-class sold, the former averaging £16. 2. 1.

We remember well that, at the ordinary farmers' sales, when, at Michaelmas, farms were being given up by the tenants, one of the auctioneers' favourite recommendation of the ewe-flock was that the ewes had "gone to fold" every night during the summer. Poor things! They were enclosed on the fallows

with nothing to eat from 7 p.m. till the "dew was off" in the morning, and then driven to the downs, where they picked up what they could get—it was not much—and all the time they had to provide milk for their lamb, or lambs, besides clothing their own poor bones! Those were the days of "6-tooth" mutton, i. e., three-year-old wether sheep, and wonderfully good it was, far better than "doe-venison," which was the only venison to be had in the winter months. The Royal parks supplied all Her Majesty's servants with "a buck and two does a year," and we remember well the scorn with which we boys refused to eat the haunches of the does the "Queen's Advocate" received, infinitely preferring our own down-mutton.

*Stubble-cleaning.* — We looked out very intently, during our walks this August and September, to see if any steps were being taken to clean the land during the long drought. Not one attempt did we see!

*Vetches.* — A correspondent of Hoard's Dairyman writes to that paper, asking for information about vetches. Among other things, he would like to know "how much rye should be mixed with the vetches, to sow an acre of land?" We should be very loath to sow any rye with vetches, as oats are a far more suitable accompaniment to that plant. Our favourite mixture for green fodder is, as every reader of the Journal knows, 2 bushels of vetches, 1 of pease, and one of oats: the cutting to begin as soon as the pease and tares are showing for bloom, and the land immediately after the crop is finished, to be broken up and sown with rape. Of course, this green fodder is to be sown in successional patches, and is intended for spring seeding. If, however, the "climate conditions" of New York will admit of winter-vetches doing well, we should recommend 2½ bushels of vetches to one bushel of wheat.

So much superior is the quality of the winter-vetch fodder to that of the larger, that is, the spring kind, that many of our best East of England farmers sow the winter kind in spring.