

keep your flock of thorough-breds up in the race of yearly competition, it is not such a difficult task to improve upon our natives, and bring them up to an astonishing point of excellence in a very short time. It is with pleasure that I have it to say that great improvement in sheep has been effected within the circumference of the New Glasgow Agricultural Society during the past few years. For instance, the flock of Mr. Alex. McKay, (Squire's son) is worthy of notice. They are undoubtedly good. I am satisfied he can show fifteen to twenty ewes, one to two years old, that will clip to-day, if put to the test, from twelve to fourteen pounds of unwashed wool; and I am safe in saying that five years ago, it would have troubled him to have produced one to clip eight pounds. Last summer he sold lambs that at four months old dressed thirty-five to forty pounds of meat. I myself saw a flock of one hundred sheep last season, and I have good reason to know there was not a solitary one in the lot that would produce as much meat as Sandy's lambs, and some of them were as many years old as the lambs were months. I have taken Mr. McKay's flock as a sample. There are others the same; and, although not in sufficiently large numbers, yet enough to prove to us that by using thorough-bred rams with our native stock, we can produce that class of sheep, so much sought after by the buyers for the markets of the old world.

The above is a fact I would like to bring before the notice of our County Councillors, fearing that in making their award to the District Exhibition Fund they overlooked it.

Now to finish. There are, say, 5000 farms in the County. Let us say there are seven sheep on each farm just for argument's sake; that would give us a total, in sheep, of 35,000. Let us suppose we have 35,000 lambs next spring, old stock; that of the lambs we kill 10,000, the remaining 25,000 we allow for yearlings. We will make up a statement in their behalf. Supposing them to be natives, it would be about as follows: 25,000 yearling ewes, sheared, average clip of unwashed wool each, six pounds, 150,000 pounds, at 18 cents per pound: \$17,000; 10,000 lambs killed, weighing each 30 pounds, dressed meat: \$18,000; 10,000 lamb-skins, washed, 30 cents each: \$3,000. This would give us for the year \$38,000. Now, let us take 35,000 improved grades bred from the first cross, and divided into wool and mutton. 25,000 fleeces of wool, such as Mr. McKay's sheep yield, or a little less, say, ten pounds of unwashed wool to the fleece: \$45,000; 10,000 lambs weighing 35 pounds dressed meat: \$21,000; 10,000 lamb-skins, 50 cents: \$5,000.

In the second year, from improved breeds, it would be to our credit: \$71,000; by the old system it would be: \$38,000; adding to our yearly income as farmers: \$33,000. If I am right in my calculations, and I think I am, it would be well for the gentlemen, who gave such an adverse opinion in the County Council, on exhibitions and there being a benefit to the farmer, to study them up, and the causes of the improvements that have been made so far in our flocks.

The above is possible, and would be a probable fact in the near future, if we would only bestir ourselves, and work sharply. It would be well for us to inform our representatives in the County Council, that, while we admire retrenchment and care in not allowing us to be drawn into financial difficulty, we would like them to exercise their retrenchment on some things of less vital importance to their constituents than the cent and a fraction award made to the District Exhibition. At the first blush of thought, Short Line Railways and land damages may seem of more importance to waste time on, than does the slow but sure and true methods of exhibitions to improve the first and lasting industry of a country; and from the present appearance of things—full factories and no markets—agriculture is the only sure source of labor to look to for a few years, until our glutted markets of manufactured goods are emptied.—FARMER JOHN in *Eastern Chronicle*.

On 22nd January Dr. Fowles, Cairnes Lodge, Cupar, Scotland, opened his silo, or, to speak more correctly, displayed his silo and ensilage, as practically it has been opened for several weeks past. A large number (nearly 100) of the principal farmers of the district and some proprietors assembled, on Mr. Fowles' invitation. Previous to inspecting the silo they met in the house, where the Doctor read a very able paper on ensilage in general, and gave a description of his silo in particular. We note the following particulars regarding the silo. The Cairnes Lodge silo is of the most simple and inexpensive character, and is simply dug out in a bank close by the standing. One end is flush with the ground, and the other end made up to the level, the soil excavated being used for that purpose, and the made-up portions being lined with a few battens. This is the only outside expense incurred, the excavating being done by the farm hands during slack time in summer. The soil being of dry firm clay, no building or cement was used, though we believe it is the Doctor's intention to brick a part of the silo before next season. A drain 18 inches

deep was laid below the floor, and 3 feet deep on each side to catch surface water. The silo is 14 feet long, 9 feet wide, and 7 feet deep.

Clover aftermath was the substance used, and the silo contains twenty-three heaped cartloads, estimated to weigh a ton each. The silo was filled at three separate fillings, with a week's interval each time. Eight cartloads of dry grass were first put in, and when this had sunk sufficiently seven loads of soaking wet grass, and then six loads nearly dry; and latterly other two were added. It is stated that in all 14 feet of firmly trampled grass were put into the silo, and now, as a result of the great pressure and fermentation, this has sunk to 5 feet of firm ensilage. The grass was not chaffed, but put in as it came from the field, spread in thin layers and well trampled, eight people being employed, and also a horse when near the top; 1 ton of railway sleepers, 2 ton of pig iron, and 15 inches of earth were then put on, and the silo allowed to settle. After three months it was opened, on January 2nd, and the dairy cows have used it since. The cows are very fond of it, and to-day, when feeding on it in the open paddock, they were offered whole turnips, the bunches were placed on the top of the ensilage; but they put them all out and stuck to the ensilage. The yield of milk has increased about 15 per cent., and the cows are in nice bloom. The quality of the butter is most excellent, equalling, if not surpassing the very best summer make; being rich in color, soft in texture, and very pleasant tasted. When a portion of the silo was uncovered to-day, there was but the very faintest trace of mould, and the whole had a dark brown color and a rich, malty flavor. It was stated that the portion put in wet was hardly so good, but there was little apparent difference.

Much interest was evinced by those present, and although doubts were expressed as to its general use here, where turnips are so successfully grown, still everyone seemed to regard the present experiment as a very successful one; and everyone appreciated the tea and scones, with the excellent butter, the produce of ensilage, with which the Doctor entertained his visitors.—W. MORTON in *Agricultural Gazette*.

If the question, what is milk? were put to the first hundred decently-dressed people whom one chanced to meet in a street the probability is that they would answer in some such fashion as this: "milk is a white liquid, which is produced by cows and other animals, and which is used for mixing with tea and coffee, making puddings, feeding babies, and other domestic purposes." And underlying this sufficiently practical definition we should probably find, if we pursued the inquiry further, the impression that milk