

SHEEP AND SWINE.

THE COTSWOLDS.

Mr. Stone, of Guelph, claims to have been the first in his section of country to introduce the Cotswold sheep. He had, he says, at first a difficulty in inducing anyone to look at them, but by degrees that prejudice vanished, and now no sheep has among its breeders more enthusiastic admirers than the Cotswold. Mr. Stone is a man however, who looks at everything in a most practical manner, and is no more prejudiced in favour of his Cotswolds than of his beautiful white-faced cattle. As regards wool, he says:—

"We find it difficult to keep up the same quality of wool here as they do in England; our climate is too dry and hot. I fancy that the Southdown would keep up its quality of wool better than the Cotswold in this country. If the farmers would use a Cotswold ewe with a Shrop-

shire or Southdown buck I think they would have better wool.

for a medium wool very favourably coincides with the requirements of the market for mutton.

Mr. Douglass, of Percy Township, Northumberland, keeps both pure-bred Cotswolds and Leicesters. He says:—

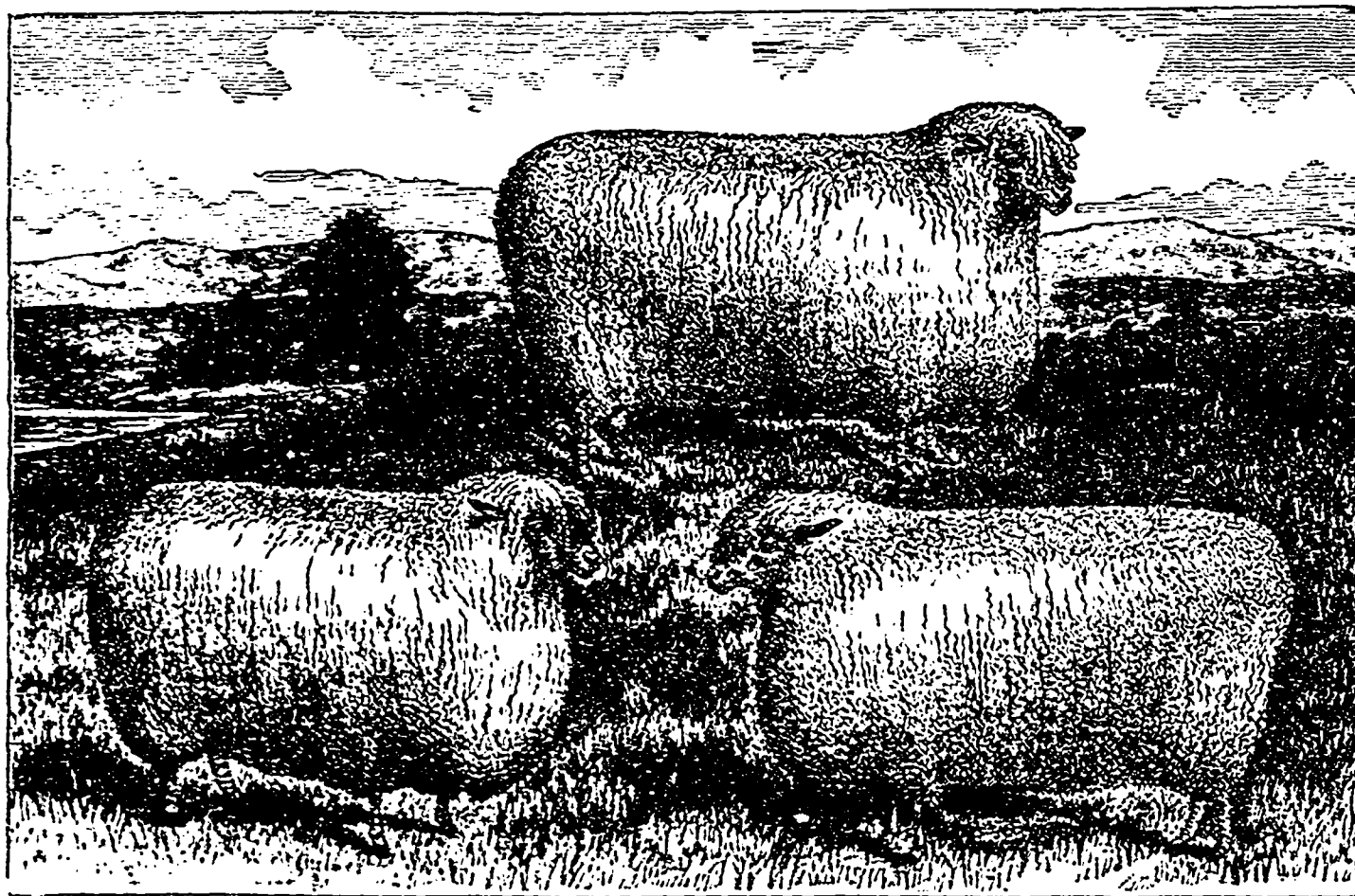
"I generally get a clip of ten pounds washed wool from Leicesters or Cotswolds, though I have a Cotswold ewe which sometimes gives sixteen pounds. The Cotswolds give a little more wool than the Leicesters, and we get about the same price for the wools. The Leicesters of my flock are the Border or large Leicester breed."

Mr. Smellie, of Vaughan (York), says of the Cotswold:—

"From the Cotswold I get seven or eight pounds of wool. I have always been able to sell my wool, but not at a very high figure. This year after clipping time was over, I think it was twenty-seven cents I got for mine, and last year the price was not so high. Of course if the sheep are better fed the wool is more abundant."—*Report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission.*

SWINE RAISING.

Pure air helps to make pure blood, which, in the course of nature, builds up healthful bodies. Out-of-door pigs would not show so well at the fairs, and would probably be passed over by judges and people who have been taught to admire only the fat and helpless things which get the prizes. Such pigs are well adapted to fill lard kegs, whereas the standard of perfection should be a pig which will make the most ham with the least wast of fat, the longest and deepest sides, with the most lean meat; it should have bone enough to allow it to stand up and help itself to food, and carry with it the evidence of health and natural development in all its parts. Pigs which run in a range or pasture have good appetites—the fresh air and exercise give them this—hence they will eat a great variety of food and much coarser than when confined in pens. Nothing need go to waste on



COTSWOLDS.

shire or Southdown buck I think they would have better wool.

"But now there is not so much demand for wool of the length that there formerly was. With the machinery now in use, wool four or five inches long can be worked as well, provided it has the same texture, as that eight or twelve inches long. I am quite satisfied that if I had a large quantity of wool from a cross of a Southdown on the Cotswold, I could command three to five cents a pound more for it than for the very coarse wool of the other breeds.

"I don't think that cross reduces the quantity very much. I have seen some fleeces in which the wool, though not so long, was thicker. The weight was pretty nearly the same. The quantity of wool depends very much on the weight of the sheep.

"The tendency of the market is at present towards shorter wool; there is a better demand for Southdown wool now than there has been for some time."

This points to two conclusions. First, that, no matter what the demand for, or increasing popularity of, the Downs, the Cotswolds may still, even from a wool dealer's point of view, be bred to advantage; and, secondly, that the present demand

IMPORTANCE OF USING GOOD BOARS.

December is the month when the coupling will mostly be done for next spring's crop of pigs, and next winter's crop of fat hogs. Their value will depend in a great degree on the quality of the boar by which they are sired; and if he is well bred, well shaped and prepotent, he will do much to overcome defects in the sows, and beget pigs of good form, stamens and uniform excellence—and the latter is really all the "uniformity" worth anything. If the boar is of mixed breeding, doubtful quality, and has a good deal of daylight under him, some of his pigs will inherit one or more of his shortcomings, and some others, or all of them, no two of which will be like, except in worthlessness, the results will be in no wise satisfactory, from the time they are farrowed to the day when they are weighed up to their—in too many instances—unfortunate purchaser or consumer. In hog raising, the only way to go right, is to start right, and no man can do that with a poor, or so-called "cheap" boar.—*Live Stock Journal.*

the farm for lack of a market. They will consume all the refuse fruit, roots, pumpkins and all kinds of vegetables, which will make them grow. By extending the root patch, and planting the fodder corn thinner, so nubbins will form on it, and by putting in a sweet variety, the number of pigs may be increased in proportion. A few bushels of corn at the end of the season will finish off the pig. The pig pasture will be ready the next year for any crop, and ten times the advantage accrue to the farm than if the pigs are confined in close pens, for, as pigs are usually managed on the farm, but little manure is ever made from them.—*Col. F. D. Curtis, in American Agriculturist for October.*

An old and distinguished breeder of sheep of all improved breeds says it has been his unvaried experience that a yearling lamb is less useful and profitable than a lamb or two-year-old sheep. Having bred sheep for years, our informant is in a position to know. He prefers a good, strong ram lamb, to a ram of any other age, and believes that the product of the former will prove better than the latter.