

exclude from our shores sheep bred in other countries; nor will it be done by the declarations of governments intended to deprive us of the privilege of choosing the best wherever it may be found. It will rather be done by giving to enterprising individuals the right and privilege of going anywhere the world over wherever they may secure that which will enable them, not merely to hold their own, but to improve on that which they already possess. Let the best man win. We do not say that there are no other good breeds of sheep, but we do say that no breed has in so short a time been scattered over so wide an area in the civilized world as the Shropshire has; and we do say further that no breed to-day has secured so strong a foothold or more numerous and more ardent admirers in every state and province on the American continent than this popular breed. As proof of this I have but to draw your attention to the fact that the 6th volume, now being published by this Association, contains no less than 7,500 pedigrees, a number, I believe, in excess of all other breeds combined. Their invaluable qualities have only to be brought to the attention of a discerning public to at once merit constant admiration. Every lover of this country is interested in the continued progress of this breed of sheep. Their product is required and will be sought after by those who wish the choicest mutton and the best grades of wool which can be produced in this country. We believe that no breed of sheep has done so much to produce a demand for choice mutton as has been accomplished by the importation of the Shropshire sheep to this American Continent. We believe that the demand has but commenced and that it will grow and increase as the years go on, especially if our breeders and farmers will only continue to produce that which our best customers desire to buy.

#### The Guelph Fat Stock Show.

This annual show was held the 10th and 11th of December, under the joint auspices of the Provincial Agricultural and Arts Association and the Guelph Fat Stock Club. The show of cattle was large, there being over fifty entries, and the animals highly finished. The judges were Mr. Richard Gibson, Delaware; Ald. Frankland and Mr. Dunn, both of Toronto.

The class of thoroughbred cattle of any breed were assigned two sections, the first being for steers over one and under three years, which brought out five splendid Shorthorns, one being a red and white, the other four being white. They were uneven in size on account of the difference in age. J. & W. Watt's twenty-three months son of Barmton Hero won first. He was a very evenly-fleshed, mellow, firm-handling beast. A very handsome twenty-two months son of Ingram's Chief, from the Bow Park Herd, came next. He was a nicely finished sappy steer, yet promising well for another year; was of the early maturing type, and showed much Shorthorn character.

The third ribbon was won by James Oke, of Alvinston, with a thick-fleshed son of Roan Prince, of Campbell's Ury sort. He was slightly down on the back and bare on top, otherwise a right good one.

A very large steer, shown by Wm. Snider & Son, was very heavy for his age, but not so even in form or finish as the younger ones.

The first for the best thoroughbred cow of any breed, three years and over, that had produced a calf, went to Thomas Ballantyne & Son, Stratford, with a beautiful four-year-old Shorthorn cow, by imported Methic Hero. This was a nicely finished cow, of fine quality, combined with good, even, firm carcass.

J. & W. Watt won second, with a neat, useful, butchers' beast of more than ordinary merit, sired by Barmton Hero. Robert Dow, of Barnett, won third.

In the class for grades and crosses, steers over three and under four, there were five entries. The first prize was placed on James Oke's forty-seven months steer, which was highly finished, and carried 2,200 lbs. of thick, even flesh, showing a good gain per day. A wonderfully handsome heifer of the same age, shown by the same party, was placed second. She was more even than the steer, but did not weigh as much,

therefore lost a strong point. A good butchers' beast, shown by F. McCallum, Milton, was given third place.

At the call for steers over two and under three, five again appeared. In this class the judges placed first upon a thirty months steer belonging to Wm. Smith, Eramosa, rather plain in the hind quarter, and very bare on the top, James Oke winning second with a twenty-four months old steer of much neater type, but, perhaps, slightly under size. Alex. Brockie, of Fergus, took third, with a very fine handling and useful steer, twenty-four months old.

In the section for steers over nine months and under two years, James Oke showed a beast of capital form for another year's feeding, although quite ripe enough for the shambles. He will be hard to beat another year. James Sharp & Sons, Everton, took second place with a well-fed steer of twenty-three months; he was large for his age. Mr. Thomas Waters, Guelph, won third with a useful steer of twenty-one months old. Grade cows that had produced a calf proved a hard class to judge, the type being extremely varied.

Messrs. Snyder & Son took first with a thick useful six-year-old cow, rather bare across the top, with thickly covered middle rib, and both ends nicely finished, James Sharp & Sons taking second with a large, firm-handling three-year-old heifer, which would stand a little more feeding, James Oke winning third with a thick, well-fed, six-year-old cow, that was rather bare and unfinished on her top.

In the section for heifers under three and over one, in which five came forward, J. & W. Watt were again to the front with a beautifully finished 32 months daughter of Old Barmton Hero. She was nicely finished, thick and even, well filled in every point. James Oke also had another grand good one of 22 months, exceedingly promising for the future, hardly as highly finished as the first. Messrs. Snyder & Sons won third with a well-developed white heifer of 30 months.

Calves under nine months (for some strange reason was how the next section read) made a poor showing in comparison with the grand array that preceded them; doubtless this foolish age classification was the cause of the poor exhibit.

The sweepstakes prize of silver tea set, valued at \$40.00, presented by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, of London, for the best steer at the show, brought out all the prize-winners of all the sections, but was awarded to the three-year-old grade steer shown by James Oke, though closely followed by J. & W. Watt's 23 months pure-bred Shorthorn.

The prize of \$15.00 cash, given by C. Reinhart, Guelph, for best cow or heifer any age, was won by James Oke with his 47 months grade heifer.

The Maceteer cup, to be won two years in succession by the same exhibitor, with different animals, and by beasts that had never been shown at the Fat Stock Show or in fat stock classes, was won by Thomas Ballantyne & Sons with his pure-bred Shorthorn heifer.

As might be expected from the brisk trade in sheep, there was a great turn out in this line, the champions of each sort vying with each other for honors for their favorites. The numbers shown, which were about 100, were far in excess, and the quality much better, than in any show yet held, and even John Rutherford, Roseville, fresh from victory at the Chicago Fat Stock Show, found plenty of work as the appended list shows.

Sheep—Long-woolled—Lincolns, Leicesters, Cotswolds, and their crosses:—Wether, two and under three years—J. Rutherford, Roseville, 1, 2 and 3. Wether, one and under two years—Mrs. E. A. Somers, St. Mary's, 1; R. Irving, Nassagaweya, 2; J. Rutherford, Roseville, 3. Wether, under one year—J. Kelly, jun., Shakespeare, 1; Thos. Waters, Eramosa, 2; W. E. Wright, Glanworth, 3. Ewe, two years and over—W. H. Beattie, Wilton Grove, 1; Wm. Oliver, Avonbank, 2; John Kelly, jun., 3. Ewe, one and under two years—J. Kelly, jun., 1. Ewe, under one year—J. Kelly, jun., 1; W. H. Beattie, 2; Thos. Waters, 3. Pen of five lambs—Geo. Taylor, Rockwood, 1; James Laidlaw, jun., Guelph township, 2 and 3. Middle-

woolled sheep, Downs and their crosses:—Wether, two and under three years—John Rutherford, 1; R. Gibson, Delaware, 2; J. Rutherford, 3. Wether, one and under two years—J. Rutherford, 1, 2 and 3. Best wether under one year—W. R. Fisk, New Germany, 1; J. Rutherford, 2 and 3. Ewe, two years and over—W. E. Wright, 1; R. Irving, 2 and 3. Ewe, one and under two years—W. H. Beattie, 1, 2 and 3. Ewe, under one year—W. H. Beattie, 1; W. R. Fisk, 2; W. H. Beattie, 3. Pen of five lambs—James Laidlaw, 1; W. R. Fisk, 2; J. Rutherford, 3. Sweepstakes—Wether of any age or breed—J. Rutherford. Ewe of any age or breed—W. E. Wright, both of the latter being Shropshires.

#### Sheep Husbandry in England.

BY H. P. BRINKWORTH.

A little over twenty years ago, the writer was engaged on a large farm in the County of Somerset, England. On this farm, a large flock of sheep, Hampshire Downs, were kept, and it fell to me to attend to and care for said flock. There is a vast difference between this and the Old Country in the management of sheep generally, and a few hints may lead some painstaking farmer to practice the same here with results profitable, no doubt. The soiling of the land by sheep is one of the greatest and most profitable known to agriculture. A lot of 10 or 12 acres is sown to turnips—Swedish turnips, or rutabagas, or mangold wurtzel, and sometimes to tares or vetches. The whole is folded off by enclosures of suitable size, according to the number of the flock, and two folds are kept standing all the time—one the feeding fold, the other for laying down and soiling at night. It is expected that the last one will be about comfortably filled each night and be covered black with the droppings of the flock in the morning. Then the fold will be removed ahead and become the feeding fold in daytime, and so on, till the whole field is soiled, the plow following closely and turning under before the air evaporates the strength of said manure. You may expect a reasonable crop of wheat to follow such an example here, were it put in practice, although some farmers may think it too much trouble. Now, as to the breeding, as this is the time many farmers allow the bucks to run with the ewes. We used to catch the ram each morning and daub his breast-bone with black or red paint, as was desired, so as to know how many sheep were likely to come in from said week's work; at the end of the week, catch all ewes and mark a dot with a stick in back of head or neck. If any turn, the mark on ram being changed in color, it is easily seen and marked accordingly. Should any ewes manifest a disposition not to own their lambs we drove two sticks in the ground, fastened on top, and then, inserting her head in between, we fed her, and soon she took to the lamb, be it her own or one put to her from another ewe. Mangold wurtzel was our principal winter feed, and hay—no grain. The work of the shepherd is a laborious one, but who does not delight to see a flock of lambs in the spring and summer? and as the wool and lambs are two crops in one year, we believe, according to the amount invested, there is as much, and probably more, profit in sheep than any other stock on the farm. All we need is more care in breeding, to have good kinds or breeds of sheep, and a few hundred invested in a start will be amply returned to the farmer after awhile; for blood will tell.

The quantity of feed determines to some extent the quality of the milk. Green fodder is fed with better effect on the quality of butter after being wilted a day or two.