



Mr. R. Short's Romney ram, "Record", sold recently for \$600.

a beautiful seration and lustre, with no coarseness at the points, so usual with weight. After a season of 60 ewes, producing 76 lambs, he clipped 20½ pounds of wool, and Mr. Short told me he would not sell him for £1,000 (\$5,000). Several of his ram lambs have been sold at \$250 each, after Mr. Short had picked his fancy of eight. Mr. Short's registered ewes number 1,200, their last clip being 10½ to 14 pounds of wool and the stud two tooth ewes clipped from 15 to 20 pounds each, and his ordinary flock average was 8½ to 9 pounds. His whole clip this year was 382 bales from 26,000 sheep and lambs. Of these 11,500 ewes are practically pure, Mr. Short having used stud Romney rams for 15 years, and his ambition now is to make his whole flock equal to his studs, and to that end he is reserving a large number of his very best rams. The shearing is done by machinery, having had twelve of the latest machines installed at the wool shed on the homestead.

Besides sheep there are 1,200 head of Herefords, including a registered herd of 130. There is also a dairy of 130 cows. The milking is done on shares and the milk taken to the adjacent factory. The January cheque for milk was £135 (\$775), 100 horses, including workers, brood mares, hacks and unbroken colts fill the list of stock, the whole of which are carried on 9,500 acres of land, consisting of 5,500 acres, mostly hilly limestone country, at the Homestead, and some eight miles away on our road from Feild-

ing, 3,200 acres more and the stud farm of 800 acres. The property is freehold, except 850 acres. There is only a matter of some 250 acres of swedes and turnips grown and a little hay saved to fill these many mouths through the winter, the luxurious grass doing the rest. There

are thirteen houses on the properties and Mr. Short employs eleven married couples, exclusive of casual labor.

The stud farm of 800 acres is divided into 27 paddocks in which the ewes are pocketed at clipping time, and a record kept of each particular lot, and by a splendid system of ear-marking and entry, even if the ear clips come out any sheep or lamb can be identified.

Its Romney! Romney! Romney! all the time, you can see it everywhere. I asked Mr. Short the probable life of his 22-30 horse-power "Minerva" motor car? "About five or six years," was his reply. Then I remarked, "That means £200 (\$1,000) per year." "Yes," he said, "You know its only four ram lambs." And such is the price of "Record's" lambs.

Mr. Short's annual special sale, at which I was present, was held at Feilding, in February, when 10,000 sheep and lambs, also 500 head of cattle were submitted by the autioneer and realized somewhere about \$40,000. This, of course, is exclusive of the 1,200 rams to which I alluded.

Waingaro.

THE DAIRY

Developing the Dairy Herd

When developing the dairy herd from common stock it is not necessary to go to great expense, but a few years of time are necessary in which to accomplish this. The amount of time called for will to some extent be dependent on the character of the stock—that is, the foundation stock at the outset—and to some extent on the closeness of the culling or selection that is practised. In some instances a fine dairy herd may be built up in two or three generations of correct breeding. In other instances a longer time may be required, but it should not require more than four or five generations of proper breeding in any event to effect the changes sought. A great change in the line of improvement desired should result from the first cross made.

The plan to be followed is in outline as follows: Begin with such females as can be got conveniently without greater cost than may be termed common prices, such as are usually paid for common stock. Give the preference to those that have indications of a reasonable amount

of milk giving capacity. Mate with these a pure sire of one of the dairy breeds with proper form and breeding. Retain all the female progeny for future breeding that have been found to possess the milk giving quality in a high degree. Discard those of the opposite class as soon as their deficiency becomes known. Continue the same line of breeding until the excellence sought has been reached, or at least continue it until the standard of milk giving in the

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