

readily adopted by other classes; but the numerous meeting gathered around him would destroy this idea, as far as the Farmers of Dumfries were concerned. There were ten times as many present as he expected to find, and he could not forbear congratulating the Club, upon its auspicious beginning. The discussion that afternoon was upon the breed of sheep best suited to Canada, and the best way of treating them. He would call upon Mr. J. D. Campbell to open the discussion.

Mr. Campbell remarked that it seemed strange for an old soldier to get up and speak of the merits of Sheep, particularly as there were many old shepherds present from some of the best sheep-producing parts of the old world. He had been in Canada now some thirty years, and he could assure them, that at the time of his arrival the breed of Sheep in Canada was a very bad one. But although the breed was a most inferior one, he always kept a few sheep, struggling on with them in the hope that better days were coming. Until about sixteen years ago, however, no improvement took place in the breed; but at that time Mr. Holmes (the speaker was understood to say,) near Paris, bought a Leicester Ram, of which he (Mr. C.) secured a lamb. Mr. Thompson of Waterloo, afterwards imported one, and there were some brought from the neighbourhood of London. To the Leicester Ram he procured, he put two Ewes, and had two lambs by them, but the breed gained very little. He got another Ram, part Leicester, and procured a change in the breed by means of Mr. Thompson's Ram, which had taken the prize at all the Dumfries Shows. *The first cross was always the best.* (Hear, hear.) If farmers were desirous of getting good sheep, let them look after the proper breed, and then take care of them. They should be fed on Pea Straw and Hay. He had tried and always found that the first cross milked the best. Last year he had 75 sheep, which he fed on hay, and got on an average $5\frac{1}{2}$ pound of clean washed Wool from them, which he sold for $35\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound.

Mr. FERRIE.—How many Lambs in the flock?

Mr. CAMPBELL.—Thirty-four, off some of the Ewes he clipped as much as eight pounds.

Mr. FERRIE.—Was the first cross better than the offspring of the first cross?

Mr. CAMPBELL.—Yes! If a farmer bred a large flock, and only an eight-acre of pasture, he must change them often, for sheep require not only good but clean pasture, in order to do them justice. (Hear, hear.) When he fed hay, he always salted it, and he found that this system produced better sheep. If he were to begin farming again, he would buy the best Leicester ram he could procure, and four or five common ewes. He had crossed his breed now for fifteen years, and had got now a good stock of sheep, but crossing, if carried too far, would not be found to answer. Sheep must be taken care of.

Mr. COWAN.—Whether did the breed they found in Canada, with the usage and feed they got or the improved breed, with their keep and usage, pay best? Was the difference in the return owing to the breed or feed?

Mr. CAMPBELL believed in feeding, it was the *weight* which paid. Were he again to commence sheep-farming, he would go to the back settlements, buy the coarsest ewe he could find, and put her to a Leicester ram. Put a Southdown ewe to a Leicester ram, and they would have the best mutton, which would always bring more per pound than any other. The condition of the sheep all depended upon its keep. When he came to this country he could not clip more than half a pound from each sheep; now his average, as he said before, was $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. He had sold eight ewes, and eight lambs to an American last season, for which he got \$105. When he came, he wouldn't have got \$2 a-head. It was an old Scotch saying,—“What goes in at the mouth comes out in the heart.” The best sheep for Canada, as regards weight of carcass and wool, was the Leicester, but they must have better feeding. He would change his breed every year.

Mr. Campbell was cheered on sitting down.

The Chairman here called upon Mr. Daniel Tye, who, he believed, dealt in Southdown sheep.

Mr. TYE agreed with Mr. Campbell as to the fact, that the first cross was best for butcher and farmer. The Southdown was very little known in this country, and as long as Leicester mutton would bring as much as Southdown, and produce more wool, the Leicester was the Sheep for Canada. But Southdown mutton, in quality, was far preferable to any other,—for instance, in the London market it brought 2d. to 3d. per pound more, and he believed that as soon as the mutton came to be exported to city markets, instead of being home-consumed, the Southdown would be acknowledged on all hands as the best. The Cheviot sheep made a very handsome carcass, and they ought to receive premiums at the Shows equal to Southdowns or Merinoes.

Mr. Wm. Bruce coincided with what had fallen from the previous speakers. The Leicester sheep in its first cross was the best sheep, and he had crossed with all breeds. Ultimately, he thought, the Leicester sheep would decrease, as a mutton-chop could not be cut off him. By all means get the male superior to the female in crossing, and get the best bred Leicester ram, as the higher the breed the greater the disposition to fatten. Use them well, give them plenty of food, and good shelter, and they would never regret it.

Mr. ANTHONY MARSHALL being called upon, said the best half-breed sheep he ever saw belonged to Mr. Brack, of Clinton. The gentleman kept half-bred rams for use, as he couldn't keep up the breed without them. The half-bred rams get good sheep.

Mr. W. BRUCE knew Mr. Brack, who went and got half bred rams at the time of castration, and his own stock being half-bred he always managed to keep that breed.

(Here several gentlemen stated that this was the plan generally pursued where they had come from.)

Mr. COWAN said that some years back he became so certain that his sheep were degenerating, that he at once bought a Leicester ram, but as yet