

Messrs. R. & W. Wright and J. E. Casswell sold one each at the same sale at £65 1s. 5d. The best averages for yearling rams during the year were those made by Messrs. S. E. Dean & Sons at Lincoln sale, £35 1s. 4d.; Mr. J. E. Casswell at the same fixture, £38 7s.; Mr. Tom Casswell at the same place, £27 8s. 9d.; and Mr. H. Dudding at his annual home sale, when thirty-seven rams were sold for an average of £27.

THE OXFORD DOWN breeders have had a good year, the demand for their sheep, both for home and Scotland, as well as for export, being very good indeed. Mr. J. T. Hobbs made the best ram average of the year, namely, £15 7s.; Mr. A. Brassey's being the next best, £12 18s. 3d.; then came Messrs. Millican and Middleton, at Kelso, £12 14s. The top price for yearling rams was secured at the Oxford Fair by Mr. J. Wortley, £63; Mr. J. T. Hobbs making £60 at his annual sale, and Messrs. Treadwell £58 16s. at theirs.

THE SHROPSHIREs have not been so remarkable for high prices this season as they were in 1902, the best price for rams during the year being £105 at Mr. A. Tanner's sale. Other notable prices made include £94 10s. at Messrs. Evans', and £78 15s. at the late W. F. Inge's.

THE HAMPSHIREs have had a most notable season. Probably never before have prices been so high nor the demand so good as it was for this breed all through the season. Space will not allow of full details being given. This can, however, be obtained from Chapman's record in the Farmer and Stock-breeders' Annual, published in London, England, where there are recorded upwards of 1,200 separate sale results. The Earl of Carnarvon dispersed his widely-known flock, and the result was that the 485 sheep made an average of £6 17s. 10d. This is, indeed, a remarkable average, particularly when it be remembered that it included no less than 182 lambs. Then we have that record sale and "letting" of Mr. James Flowers' ram lambs. Here one hundred lambs, nine of which were let for the season, made an average of £21 4s. 6d. each; the let lambs ranging in price from £141 15s. each, and averaging £59 8s. This same breeder also sold at this sale 100 draft ewes, which realized the high figure of £7 2s. 6d. each, making the aggregate total of the sale £2,833.

THE SOUTHDOWNS have not sold so readily as in some former years. The best prices made during the past season include those made at the dispersal sale of the late Col. McCalmont. At this fixture the best prices for yearling rams, £48 6s.; for stud rams, £43 1s.; for ram lambs, £78 15s.; for flock ewes, £15 15s.; for yearling ewes, £10 15s., and for ewe lambs £3 6s., were realized.

THE SUFFOLKS have been in request for home demand. The top price here for yearling rams was £99 15s., whilst the ram lambs which were in request realized as follows: £49 7s., Mr. D. A. Green; £45 2s., H. E. Smith; £43 1s., S. R. Sherwood; £38 17s., J. W. Eagle; and £37 16s., T. Traylen.

THE KENT OR ROMNEY MARSH sheep have been in large demand; in fact, it is many years since either the home or the export demand has been so brisk in connection with this breed. The averages realized by the leading flocks have been from 15 to 25 per cent. higher than in the preceding year.

For the minor breeds of the country the demand has been equally good. Amongst the more notable prices in connection with these may be mentioned £19 19s. for a ewe lamb of the Border Leicester breed; £123 for a Black-faced Mountain ram; £115 for a Cheviot ram, and £42 for a Kerry Hill ram.

W. W. C.

Feeding Sheep in B. C.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":
In your issue of December 1st your correspondent, "Nomad," has got far astray in his facts; he has taken too much on hearsay. It is a good many years since sheep made more than six cents per pound here. At that time the railways were not so extended. There was a boom on this Coast soon after Vancouver was burnt, and sheep were worth seven cents in the spring. Since 1894 they have never been worth more than from five and a half to six cents. I have been feeding sheep for the last twenty years. In 1894 I contracted to feed over 400 at one and a half cents, weighed out above what they weighed in. One lot, with only about one-third Merino blood in them, did well; another, of full blood Merinos, did not gain a pound in weight.

As oats are worth from \$20 a ton for soft to \$25 for dry, and hay \$14 per ton, no one can feed for one and a half cents per pound and make a profit; in fact, he would not make above two-thirds of the value of his feed at six cents per pound. The time has not come here yet to get the balance out of the manure.

Another danger from purchasing sheep to feed is the scab. Years ago, when I bought sheep for feeding only, I often got the scab, but with a few bottles of tobacco water I could check it un-

til they went to the butcher. A few years ago, 1,800 sheep were bought for a large farm, scab broke out, and did no good; the scab was only got rid of when the last sheep was sold. It is very unsafe to get any sheep from Eastern Washington or Oregon, if anyone has a small flock of his own. The board fences harbor and help to spread the disease. If he purchase from a clean flock, the railways, as a rule, neither clean nor whitewash a car, and the disease is spread in this way.

British Columbia.

DELTA.

Hogs in Canada.

A writer in the American Swine-breeders' Journal has the following to say of Canadian hog-raising:

"We mapped out a trip through the rural districts of Ontario, Canada, to see the hogs, the meat markets and the packing-houses of that country, so that I might know for myself if what I had heard is true as to the kind of hogs and the character of pork used there and that shipped away."

"We visited a number of breeders and travelled four or five hundred miles through that part of the country where they raise the most hogs, and saw something like two thousand head of swine on the farms. Of these herds eight were Berkshires, one Duroc-Jersey, seven or eight red pigs, and the others were all large Yorkshires. I saw several that weighed 700 or 800 pounds, and one weighed 850 pounds. I saw the meat at the packing-houses and in the market."

"It is unlike any I ever saw here. The sides are interlain with streaks of lean and of equal width, extending from back to belly, thus making the finest bacon in the world. Our native breeds can not be fed or treated so as to make any bacon even to resemble it in structure or character. The ham and shoulder is marbled throughout with lean and fat. I never saw anything like it. I was eating dinner with a farmer and breeder, and I admired the looks and taste of the meat, thinking it was pressed fowl, and it was so delicious and so unlike any that I ever saw that I asked the lady what it was, and she replied it was only a roasted pork shoulder. Just imagine my surprise, for I thought any poor fool would know roast pork. I carried some of it home, and fooled several. My family ate it for venison, and each one remarked that they didn't know venison was like pressed fowl in taste and appearance. It is more like pressed chicken than like our native pork."

FARM.

The Season's Yield at Agassiz, B. C.

The advantages to the newcomer to the lands of the Coast Province in having the records of an Experimental Farm to consult cannot be overestimated; in fact, the old-timer can consult with interest and profit to himself the results of trials with new and old varieties of grains, roots and fruits. The results from this farm are very good, when one takes into consideration the character of the soil, which in its natural state, with big outcroppings of gravel, is as poor as can be imagined. The soil here calls for the practice of an up-to-date agriculture, in which clover, live stock, and the use of manure by top-dressing, and the use of slag, have prominent places.

A perusal of the yields and remarks on the grains will be valuable to the farmers in any part of B.C. The early publication of such allows him to get seed in time for the 1904 seeding. As has often been mentioned in the "Advocate," when discussing editorially the work of the experimental farms, the abandonment of the testing of so many varieties year after year would be an advantage. In the list of yields for 1903, a large number of the poorer-producing varieties have been omitted, yet the reports issued year after year show that such comparatively valueless croppers have not been dropped. In the matter of fruit trees, several varieties have shown that they are worthless from the market standpoint, owing to the ease with which they fall a prey to the attacks of parasitic and fungoid pests, in spite of spraying and other attempts to suppress such pests. Yet there seems to be no cessation in the tests with such varieties. The work of the farm would be far more valuable than it is now, if to such varieties were meted out the punishment accorded to unfruitful trees in Holy Writ, and in the place of them an orchard planted with varieties whose worth is based on their commercial and pest-resisting values. Grains weigh well at this farm, as far as can be judged by the hand. If a standard weigher for estimating weight per bushel, such as is to be found at every country elevator on the prairie, were provided, the reports issued by the superintendent would be still more valuable. The past season was peculiar, inasmuch as owing to the lack of

sunshine, and frequent showers at the beginning of the ripening period, the earlier-maturing varieties were held back, while later varieties, not as far advanced, were enabled to catch up during the cloudy, damp weather, thus bringing the different varieties in almost at the same time.

Improvements in the way of clearing are being steadily made, such involving a lot of heavy work. Some stumps were seen, the roots from which extended over half an acre; all must be gotten out before the plow can do satisfactory work. The orchards on the ledges are demonstrating that these semi-inaccessible areas can be put to profitable use.

Our London Letter.

Since my last letter the Smithfield Club Show, the great agricultural event of the year, has taken place, and can only be described as an unqualified success. The exhibits, taken as a whole, were so near perfection that it required a very nice discrimination to satisfactorily award the prizes.

As usual during the Smithfield Club show week, the Central Chamber of Agriculture and the Farmers' Club held their annual dinner, at which all the leading men in this particular branch of industry were present. The Earl of Warwick was in the chair, and among those present were Lord Onslow, Mr. H. Chaplin, and Major Craigie. In the course of a speech the Minister for Agriculture took occasion to observe that he thought that the legislation which excluded foreign and colonial cattle from our live markets had "encouraged" the home breeds. As the majority of those present at the dinner were breeders, the noble lord's sentiments were applauded. Lord Onslow, judging from his speech here and his promise to the Scotch graziers and farmers three weeks ago, has no settled convictions in the matter at all, and trims his views to suit his audience.

Sir Richard Cartwright's speech in opening the Federal campaign at Toronto has created quite a stir in tariff reform circles on this side, and is being extensively quoted on political platforms and in the press throughout the kingdom. Coming as it does from a man who has held such strong Cobdenite views in the past, it is bound to be of great assistance to Mr. Chamberlain in promoting his preferential scheme of tariffs.

Canada and Canadian matters have been very much to the fore this week. On Monday Lord Brassey delivered an address on Canada at a special meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce, and among many good things he said: "I am glad we took occasion to emphasize the need of a fast steamer service between England and Canada. This project is of such paramount importance that it seems incredible there should be any long delay in establishing it." Lord Brassey also pointed out how dependent upon each other Canada and Great Britain were, more particularly with regard to agricultural produce. His words were: "The sum of agricultural success in Canada was the purchasing power of the motherland."

The reports from all parts of the United Kingdom bearing upon the crops for 1903 all tell the same dismal tale. Owing to the abnormally wet season the grain crop is not an average one, and in many places it has simply been carted into the yards to be used as manure. The root crops have been a failure, and winter keep is very scarce. The only redeeming feature of the year has been the abundance of grass. The outlook for the farmer is anything but promising, as the acreage of wheat sown is far short of last season, and the present prices of wheat, wool and cattle are most ruinous.

Since Mr. Seddon's precious scheme for the opening of shops to retail New Zealand lamb and mutton has receded into the background, the idea has been taken up by "The British-New Zealand Meat and Produce Co., Ltd.," and very shortly operations will be commenced in London and the larger provincial towns. The capital of the company is £150,000, and from the prospectus I gather it is formed for the purpose "of supplying direct to the consumer N. Z. meat, butter, cheese and other descriptions of produce as may be deemed advisable."

MARKETS.—At Deptford foreign cattle market on Thursday the quality of the animals on offer was rather above the average, but with few exceptions were not so good as buyers would have liked for the Christmas trade. The extra good quality bullocks met a ready demand at 12½c. to 13½c., while the tops of other bunches cannot be quoted at more than 12½c., and out of the total number (1721) shown 343 head were held back, salesmen not caring to let them go, on the off chance of the weather hardening up. There were also 540 sheep and 267 lambs on the market, but these were the every-day class, and the best pens of the former may have made a bare 12c., while the lambs are quoted 15c.

The butter market during the past two weeks calls for no special remark, the business done