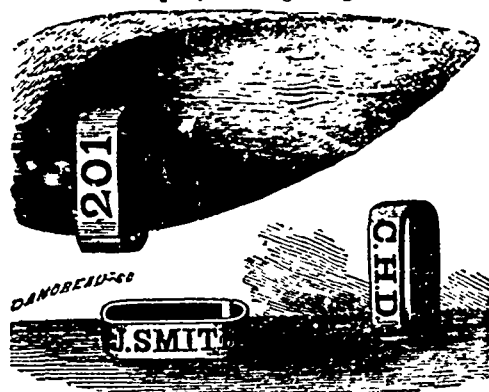


which every flock-master should do, if he wishes to improve his flock. The ear should be punched with a No. 9 punch, and allowed to get perfectly healed before putting in the rivet. Care should be taken not to head the rivet too tight, in which case it would be likely to rot out. It should be headed on the inside for the sake of convenience, as we wish to refer to the number oftener than to the initials. The rivets are such as are used by harness-makers. Mine cost \$1 per hundred, all stamped."

We extract the description of another mode from *Randall's Practical Shepherd*:

"To a ring three-fourths of an inch in circumference, and formed of smallish No. 11 brass wire, was suspended a plate of copper of the form exhibited in the annexed cut, on which were stamped the initials of the owner's name, and the number of the sheep. The ring was inserted about the middle of the ear so that the plate would remain visible outside the wool. It was found, however, that the ring sometimes cut down through the ear, and sometimes that it was itself cut through by the plate. The cutting of the ear might, doubtless, be prevented by making the holes with a punch, and allowing them to heal fully before inserting the rings, and, if necessary, reducing the weight of the plate by making it no larger than in the cut, or even no larger than a five or three cent piece, and as thin as the last-named coin. This reduction of weight would probably also prevent the ring from being cut through. Or a split steel ring, or a small T might take the place of the brass ring. This is so neat and convenient a mode of permanent marking, that it ought to be brought to perfection.

The last method we shall notice is one recently introduced by C. H. Dana, West Lebanon, N. H., and illustrated in the subjoined engraving:—



This new method consists in attaching to the sheep's ear a label stamped with the initials or name of the owner, and with numbers ranging from 1 to 1,000, or the number ordered. These labels are made of iron wire rolled flat, plated with tin, bent into link shape, being left open until they are hooked into the hole in the ear, and then closed up, as seen in the cut. Marked with the name in full, they cost \$2 per 100. They are described as simple and easy to put in, and are warranted not to lose out or make the ear sore, if properly fixed. Many American sheep-farmers highly recommend this method.

Care of Sheep in June.

AFTER settled warm weather when the water is warm and cold storms of wind and rain are no longer to be feared, but not before, the careful flock master makes preparations for washing and shearing his flock. The views of the *Agriculturist* in regard to the evils of washing sheep were expressed in our last issue. Sheep well cared for and coming through the winter in good heart, will bear shearing quite early, and a determined stand taken by sheep owners not to submit to a deduction of one-third on good clean unwashed wools, will bring manufacturers, and speculators too, to fair terms. There is a great deal in putting up wool well to attract the eye of the buyer. He expects the farmer to roll his fleeces so only the best part will be seen, and trusts his own acuteness of sight, smell and handling to discover fraud, dirty tags, dung, etc., and buyers will generally do it too, and then farewell any hope for a high price for that lot of wool.

Whoever shears many fleeces, should have a fleece press. This consists of a strong box about 4 feet long and 12 inches wide inside measure. The width may be decreased sometimes to advantage if the fleeces run small, by putting in a false side of inch board on one side or both. One end of the box is moveable, the other fixed, and both consist of three perpendicular pieces, strongly braced on the outside, and set a quarter of an inch apart. The moveable end is upon a foot piece, to which the braces are attached, and which slides under cleats upon each side. This end is moved up toward the other by means of a strap which lies upon the bottom of the box, passing under the stationary end, and round a strong axle or drum, which is turned by a crank. It is drawn back by another strap, the crank being turned the other way. The fleeces are folded in the usual way laid outside up, the sides folded in, edges to meet in the middle; the ends folded in to meet in the middle; then the tips and scraps of wool are laid in and the fleece is folded again lengthwise. Strings are placed in the press, lying in the slots in the ends. The fleece is then laid carefully in and pressed into a square mass and tied. The use of cotton twine in tying hurts the sale, for shreds of cotton mingled with the wool may damage the color of some fabrics.

Some lambs ought to run with the flock for two or three weeks at least after shearing. The ticks will all or almost all leave the old sheep and go upon the lambs. Then the lambs should be dipped in a strong decoction of tobacco, soaking every part of the fleece. Randall recommends the English practice of using arsenic water. "3 lbs. of White Arsenic pulverized are dissolved in 6 gallons of boiling water, and 40 gallons of cold water are added." The fleeces of the lambs are wrung out as dry as possible after dipping, while they lie upon a dripping board, which is made of slats near together and supported above a tight inclined table which allows the liquid to flow back into the dipping box. A flock may thus with comparative ease be cleared of ticks. Precisely the same operation is a cure for scab, but more thorough rubbing in of the liquid into the affected parts is desirable.—*Am. Agriculturist*.

Washing Sheep.

OPPOSITION to this practice is being made by many intelligent sheep farmers. They urge that it is often done very carelessly, and that those who take pains to do it well are losers by the process, since buyers make no discrimination between thoroughly and carelessly washed wool. Besides, sheep often suffer much from washing in cold water; prior washing delays shearing longer than is desirable, and the sheep are liable to contract contagious diseases, such as hoof-rot, by using the same washing yards and pens. On these and other grounds, buyers and manufacturers are urged to reform the wool market, so that the unwashed fleece can be equitably sold, and the process of cleaning performed by machinery altogether. At present a uniform deduction of one-third is made on unwashed wool. This rule was established at an early day, when very little unwashed wool appeared in the market. That little was brought in by slovenly farmers, who took no care whatever of their sheep. Those who would dispense with sheep-washing advocate the abolition of this rule, and propose that unwashed wool shall be bought as wheat and other articles of farm produce are, according to cleanness as well as quality. They contend that it is as easy for the buyer and seller to agree on the amount of deduction as it is to agree on the quality, and that this mode of purchasing is for the interest alike of buyer and seller.

Considerable discussion on this subject is being had among our American neighbours in sheep conventions, and in the columns of the agricultural journals. So far as we can judge, the preponderance of opinion is against washing sheep.

A Killing Sheep Medicine.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In your issue for May 2nd, I was made to ask—"Do sheep require salt and saltpetre?" &c. It should have been "salts." The reason why I asked was this: About the 1st of April I noticed one of my sheep unwell; the symptoms were the same as those

described by T. Cullis of Hamilton Township, in the issue of May 2nd. The sheep died in a few days. Shortly after I noticed another with the same symptoms, and not knowing what was the cause, I went to a person of considerable experience among sheep, he having been a shepherd in England for a number of years. He said sheep required physic in the spring, and my flock being 100, he told me to get 8 lbs. of salts and 2 lbs. of saltpetre. Having mixed the above in about 12 or 15 gallons of water, he began to administer at the rate of a pint to each sheep. This, he said, was about half what they usually gave in England in such cases. We had only dosed about 20 when we noticed one dead. Soon another, and still another, tumbled and died. Being alarmed lest all which had gotten the stuff would die, I stopped the operation as it seemed worse than the disease. On examination, we found several gnats in the heads of two, but not any in the third sheep. We also examined the one which died before the doctor came, and found it to have gnats in it. The result of the affair was this: The one which was sick when he came died, and seven or eight others, which were apparently well until they got the medicine, and what is singular, none of those which got no medicine died or showed any symptoms of disease since. The whole flock were in ordinary good condition, and, to make the loss greater, those which died were all good ewes, and mostly carrying twins.

M. L. FERGUSON.

King, May 27, 1864.

Correspondence.

Queries about Ditches.

LOLAND writes us as follows:—"Please answer the following queries in your valuable paper:—

1st. Can the owner of woodland which is not enclosed be compelled to dig a water-course through such land in order to carry off the water from his neighbours?

2nd. If he cannot, is the proprietor of enclosed woods obliged to make such water-course?

3rd. What are the legal steps required to compel parties to make a way for the water which injures their neighbour's property?

4th. And who are the proper parties to decide what size the ditch shall be? I think a synopsis of the law respecting ditches and water-courses would be highly interesting, as farmers depend more upon their neighbours in the making of water-courses than in extirpating thistles and other noxious weeds, and many are at a loss to know how to proceed, having no acquaintance with the statute which has reference to ditches, &c."

ANS.—It would take up too much space to answer in full all your queries, but by reference to the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada, page 689, Chapter 57, intitled, "An Act respecting Line Fences and Water Courses," you will find that you can compel your neighbour to bear his just share of the expense of the drain, and the amount to be paid by him is to be decided by the Fence Viewers of your Township, who are empowered by this Act to decide all disputes. The Fence Viewers are by this Act arbitrators for the purpose. You had better see if there are not some Township By-Laws, for by Chapter 54, sections 278 and 279 of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada, the Township is empowered to assess the parties whose land the drain benefits and fix the time for payment. By referring to the Acts above mentioned you will get all the information you desire. Section 14 of chapter 57 is as follows:—"If a party refuses to perform his share of a ditch, a water-course, &c., the other party may do it for him, but at the expense of the person in default." This is a mere synopsis of the section, but if you cannot borrow the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada from your neighbour the "Squire," we will be happy to give you further information.

HAMILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW.—A correspondent says:—"You have given a good account of the Toronto Horticultural Society Show. I was present at the Hamilton Horticultural Society Show, on the same day, and found it to be truly splendid. I did not take any notes and cannot give you any description."