

for the time expended: Chaff all rough feed, straw, corn fodder, etc., then prepare the ration by damping with water and thoroughly mixing the intended allowance of bran meal, etc. If this is allowed to stand twelve or, better still, twenty-four hours before feeding, it will soften the fibre of the hay and straw, and in a measure much of the original succulence will be brought back to these dry foods. By this means the prepared food is not only furnished the cattle in a more palatable state, but the particles of the concentrated food, such as meal, etc., are separated, so that the juices of the stomach can act upon them, and thus all the nutritive elements are thoroughly digested.

The same of economical feeding is to obtain the greatest growth while the animal is still young, and if this be the purpose sought there must be a continual gain. All improved breeds, whether it be those of beef or dairy type, have been brought to their present degree of perfection by judicious feeding quite as much as by skill in mating and care in selection.

If generous feeding is omitted, the highest bred herd will quickly revert to its original unimproved form. The effect will show itself in the stunted individuals intended for the flock, or in the dairy breed in the diminishing yield at the pail. The day has gone by when cattle or any stock can be kept with a view to consuming the refuse products that cannot be marketed to advantage. Feeding what could not be sold might have done in the early days of virgin soil and light taxation. In these days success can only be reached by studying to produce animal products by the most economical methods, and in every line generous feeding must be the handmaid of improved breeding.

Some Noted Ontario Sheep Breeders.

The group of portraits, which is given in our plate page for this issue, represents a number of the leading breeders of sheep throughout Ontario. Those of our readers who are interested in sheep husbandry will recognize the faces of men who have become identified with their respective breeds, and with whom they have doubtless frequently met at many of our exhibitions. The description of the flocks that accompany these portraits will also be of interest, giving, as it does, much of the history of what is the foundation of one of our most profitable agricultural industries, while it should be a most useful guide to those who are intending to purchase any of these sorts.

COTSWOLDS.

GEORGE WEEKS.

farm is situated within two miles of Glanworth. He has been breeding Cotswolds for twenty years, and has aimed to breed sheep of the highest type, his attention being paid to size and form, together with quality of wool. The first selections were made from sheep bred from the earlier importations of F. W. Stone, of Guelph, and later on more were added from importations made by Mr. J. C. Ross and Messrs. John Snell's Sons, Edmonton. In 1884 four imported ewes were purchased from James Main. These were bred by Mr. J. Gillett. In 1889 he made his first importation through Mr. W. S. Hawshaw, who selected the ram Donner, who proved a most impressive sire, also a number of beautiful ewes, all of which were bred by R. Swanwick, Cirencester, England. In the fall of 1890, Mr. Weeks visited England, and after viewing many of the most noted flocks selected a number of ewes from the flock of Mr. G. Aldsworth, North Leich. He does not make a practice of fitting for show. His importations and other purchases have been made with a view of possessing a breeding flock of the highest possible type.

HARDY SHORE.

whose farm adjoins that of Mr. Weeks, has been breeding Cotswolds for twenty-one years. At that time wool was an important factor in the annual profits of the flock, his first clipping of Cotswold wool averaging \$5 per fleece. In 1875 he, in connection with his brother, purchased a ram and two imported ewes, the former having won first prize at the Provincial as a lamb the previous year, while the ewes had been first prize winners both in England and at leading Canadian shows. In 1878, imported Sir Robert, a noted prize-winning ram, bred by R. Jacobs, together with two other shearing rams,

were purchased to use on a flock then numbering one hundred head. Again, in 1880, the newly-imported shearing ram Earl of Fyfield was selected, at a cost of \$175, and the following year twelve ewes were imported from the flocks of Messrs. R. Jacobs, R. Swanwick and others. The best imported rams have always been used, to which may be ascribed the present high type of the flock. In company with Mr. Weeks, a circuit of western shows was taken in, beginning with the Western Fair, London, where eleven premiums were carried off, while at the other shows the flock carried everything before them.

LAILAW & JACKSON.

The farms belonging to the above firm are situated six miles from London, and one from Westminster Station on the London & Port Stanley Railroad. They established their flock about twenty years ago. In 1885 they bought one ram and a few ewes from Mr. J. Franks, which were imported by W. M. Miller, Claremont, and bred by Mr. H. Cole, England. They also purchased of James Main in 1886 his entire importation of that year, including the Royal winners. In 1887 they imported a flock selected by one of the firm, a number of these being winners at the Royal English show of that year. These were again exhibited at the leading Canadian shows the same season, winning over \$680 in prizes. These gentlemen have always bred from the choicest imported rams, bred by leading breeders of England. Their flock now numbers about 120 head. The ram that heads the flock at present was imported by Mr. R. W. Miller, Brougham, and bred by Mr. George Bagnall, Burford, England.

LINCOLNS.

MR. R. W. STEVENS.

of Lambeth, Ont., had for eight years kept a flock of high grade Lincolns, but in 1885 he determined to keep nothing but what would trace to imported stock. In consequence he sold out his entire flock and started afresh with eleven ewe lambs, bred from stock imported from the flock of Mr. W. F. Marshall, England, and again, in 1887, he bought five more from Mr. Wm. Oliver, of Avonbank, Ont. The rams which have been used since then have been selected from those imported by Mr. Wm. Walker, of Ilderton, and Mr. John Geary, of London. The ram at present in use is a remarkably good stock getter, his lambs being sought after for show purposes. Mr. Stevens keeps nothing but the best; he has met with success wherever he has shown his flock. He has shipped lambs not only all over Canada but also to a number of States in the Union.

LEICESTERS.

JAMES S. SMITH.

Maple Lodge flock of Leicesters was founded about 1853 by the purchase of the best obtainable specimens, imported and home-bred, from Messrs. S. Beattie, Geo. Miller (Markham), John Snell (Edmonton), and Jas. Pe ty (London). Later, choice selections have been added from time to time, as required to build up a flock of uniform excellence. Prize-winning rams have always been used. Among stock rams most recently used have been Monarch 258, winner of first prize three consecutive years at Toronto and London; Major Dodds 257, twice winner at London, and Thornton 256, second in his class and first for ram and four of his get at London, 1891. This well-known flock now numbers over seventy, including a grand lot of rams and ram lambs.

A. E. ARCHER.

This flock was founded some twenty-five years ago, when Mr. Archer's father brought with him from England a few ewe lambs and a ram, all Leicesters. He has ever since kept up the reputation of his flock by purchasing from the best breeders regardless of price. The flock now numbers about thirty breeding ewes and has the grand shearing ram Bernard 267, bred by Mr. James S. Smith, Maple Lodge, at the head. A picked number of the lambs are being kept over this season, which will materially add to the size of the flock another year. At different times representatives from this flock have been very successfully shown, not only at the township and county shows, but also at the Western Fair at London.

MUNGO McNABB.

This flock was established in 1887 by the purchase of four in-lamb ewes from Mr. Douglas, of Caledonia, which were sired by a ram imported by the Hon. Geo. Brown, of Bow Park. To these were added the same year a number of ewes and a ram purchased from Mr. Thomas Lee, of Highgate. This ram was used with great success for two years, and was followed by a ram purchased from Messrs. Parkinson Bros., of Bramosa. The ram in use at the present time is one imported by Messrs. H. Snell & Sons, of Clinton. He was a prize winner at the Royal Show in 1888. Mr. McNabb has always made it a point of selecting sheep of his own breeding in fitting for shows. About twenty breeding ewes are usually kept, these all being registered.

SHROPSHIRE.

J. & M. PARKER.

This fine flock was founded in 1888 by purchasing from Messrs. J. Miller & Sons, Brougham, two imported ewes, bred by their imported prize winning ram, Spearman. This firm have increased their flock by choice selecting from the stock of the best known breeders, until it now numbers upwards of twenty head. The flock is headed by the well-known stock ram Promoter, bred by Mr. Campbell.

J. Y. ORMSBY.

manager of the Isaleigh Grange Farm, Danville, P. Q., is best known to the stockmen of Canada as the pioneer importer and breeder of pedigreed Improved Large Yorkshire swine, although he has also handled Shropshires for some years, his first importation having been made in 1886. Isaleigh Grange Farm, which is the property of the well-known Q. C., J. N. Greenshields, Esq., of Montreal, is stocked with Guernseys, Shropshires and Improved Large Yorkshires. The flock of Shropshires now numbers ninety-three head, a large importation having been made this fall, including winners at the Royal and the Shropshire & West Midland Shows. Among the lot are twelve beautiful shearing rams from the well-known flocks of Messrs. R. Brown, Rugton-Eleven-Towers, Salop, and Geo. Thompson, Wroxall, Warwickshire. These rams were specially selected to supply the demand for first-class stock sheep, and Dr. Ormsby writes us that although he is located away down in Quebec, he hopes to take a share of the Western trade, and will offer special inducements in the way of price and freight to buyers from Ontario.

W. E. WRIGHT.

This flock was established at Glanworth about 1884 with some imported ewes purchased from Mr. James Glennie, of Guelph. The same year an imported ram lamb was obtained from Messrs. Geary Bros, since which yearly additions have been made from the following British flocks, namely:—Messrs. F. Bach, G. Gray, Wm. Blakeway, Mrs. Bromley, and others. The flock, which is carefully bred and very even in quality, numbers 67 head. The greater number are breeding ewes, together with shearing ewes and rams. The lambs of this season are exceedingly fine, of which 26 are still retained in the flock.

W. B. COCKBURN.

the owner of Greenhouse Farm, Aberfoyle, was born on the 21st of July, 1867, on his present farm, the homestead of his father, who settled there in 1850. The farm consists of three hundred acres, situated two miles from Corwin, on C. P. R., and only a few minutes' drive from the Royal City of Guelph. From his earliest recollection Mr. Cockburn was particularly fond of stock, and in 1886 Shropshires were started by ewes bred from Mr. James Glennie's importations, while the present flock consists of ewes of the best quality, selected at different times from Mr. W. S. Hawshaw's importations. This flock has never been fitted for the Industrial or other large shows, but last year was exhibited at county and local shows, winning everywhere. The flock now numbers about forty, with several shearing rams and ram lambs on hand.

WHITESIDE BROS.

are the owners of the Glen Stock Farm, which they purchased from Messrs. Green Bros., Innerkip. They have only occupied this farm during the present year, but their flock was established at Ellesmere, Ont., in 1888, by the purchase of twelve recorded ewes from Messrs. John Miller & Sons, Brougham. Since then they have been constantly improving by selecting choice ewes from importations made from the best flocks in England. The flock at present consists of fifty breeding ewes, the majority of which are imported.

T. H. MEDCRAFT.

The Shropshire flock belonging to Mr. T. H. Medcraft was founded ten years ago, the first purchase having been a number of imported ewes from Messrs. Geary Bros. The demand being good for first class Shropshires, Mr. Medcraft visited England in 1890, securing thirty-nine ewes and four rams from the leading breeders of Warwickshire and Shropshire. This flock now consists of sixty-five head of the finest quality, the majority of which are imported. Three imported rams are in use in the flock, with a view of making suitable crosses. The business was originally carried on by William Medcraft & Son, but in April last the partnership was dissolved, Mr. T. H. Medcraft having purchased this farm and the best of the sheep, carrying on the business under his own name.

OXFORD-DOWNS.

HERBERT WRIGHT.

Mapleton Stock Farm is situated about five miles north-east of Guelph. His flock of Oxford-Downs was established in 1888, and of them there are usually an average of about one hundred kept on hand. Mr. Wright deals quite largely in this popular breed of sheep, having had as many as two hundred on his farm at one time. He is aiming to breed sheep of the highest type, and this year made his first importation from leading English flocks. This gentleman is a young breeder who is rapidly coming to the front, and has already taken rank with the best breeders of Ontario.

F. BIRDSALL & SON.

Bellevue Farm consists of one thousand acres in Peterboro County, on the shores of Rice Lake, near Birdsall Station, G. T. R. This flock was founded in 1888, a number of sheep being imported from Mr. A. Brassey, Oxon, England. Since then the flock has been increased by purchase and breeding. Only picked rams have been used, and these from such noted breeders as Messrs. Henry Arkell, Arkell, and Peter Arkell, Teeswater. The ram, Blake, imported by the Ontario Government, has been used with great success in the flock.