

CANADIAN SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

MR. EDITOR:—I wish, through the medium of your paper, to address a few lines to our Canadian farmers on the subject of sheep. We have several varieties of sheep in the country, including the Leicester, South Down, Merino, Canadian, and all the various crosses. Now, the question is, what is the best breed for our farmers to keep? Here there is, and will be, a difference of opinion;—some preferring the pure Leicester, others the South-Down, others a cross between these two. The latter, I believe, is really larger and more easily fattened than the Leicester and the wool is somewhat finer. The South-Down is an easily-kept sheep, and yields a fine fleece, but the carcass is small. The manufacturer of wool greatly disapproves of the cross between the Leicester and the South-Down, inasmuch as it does not improve the wool. The wool in this cross is harsh, lacking oil. The best stock of sheep for Canada is a cross between the French Merino and the pure Leicester. By this mixture you have a hardy sheep, of good size,—one easily fattened, and the *very best* quality of wool, both for the Canadian and for the American market. The Leicester sheep is quite defective in the amount of oil in its fleece, while the Merino has a superabundance, by which means it is enabled to endure the cold storms of rain much better than the Leicester. From this cross you therefore obtain a long, fine and soft wool, suitable for making up into Orleans cloth, and goods of that class, while it is just the thing for good Canadian cloth. Now, in order to have such a stock of sheep as the above, it is needful that some parties should continue to raise and import the two kinds in their purity—that is, the French Merino and the Leicester. A goodly number are to be found who have done good service to our country, and honor to themselves, by importing and raising the pure Leicester sheep. A few persons have directed their attention to the French Merino sheep, and in getting them have spared no trouble or money. Mr. JACOB RYMAL, Jr., of the township of Barton, is one of this class. He has some of the pure French Merino sheep, and I think has one or two for sale. Mr. RYMAL obtained a number of premiums for his sheep at our last Provincial show.

Many of our farmers would do well to direct their attention chiefly to sheep husbandry for two or three years; in so doing they would rest and enrich their land, and, I doubt not, themselves also.

I might here state the comparative value of wool.

Supposing the Leicester wool to be worth 1s. per pound, then South-Down is worth 1s. 3d; a cross between the South-Down and the Merino, 1s. 6d.; also the cross between the Merino and Leicester would be worth 1s. 6d., and the pure Merino at that standard would be worth from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per pound.

Wool growers should never allow their sheep to run where there are burrs, nor should they shear them without having first washed them clean; because either of these defects deducts from the value of the wool from a quarter to one-third.

A buck should never be allowed to run with the same flock more than two years, and it is better to change every year. The entire flock should be changed every three or four years. S. KING.

POTATO PLANTER AND SEED DRILL.

MR. EDITOR:—As I am confident that you are anxious to do all in your power for the purpose of introducing labor-saving machines among the agriculturists of this Province, I have thought that it would be in some degree interesting to your readers to have a short description of an invention lately patented by Mr. WILLIAM NIXON, of the township of Grimsby, in the county of Lincoln. Mr. NIXON's invention is for the purpose of cutting and planting potatoes, dropping corn, and sowing small seeds.

The hopper, or box for containing the potatoes, rests upon the axle passing through two wheels, with shafts attached to the axle in the same way that a cart or gig is constructed. A horse is then put before the planter, in like manner as a horse is placed before a cart, and the machine is drawn in the same way. The seed hopper rests upon the axle and wheels, as above described, being keyed together and fastened to a cog wheel which drives a horizontal cog wheel that is fastened to the underside of the cast-iron seed-wheels. When, therefore, the horse moves forward, the whole machinery is set in motion. There is a round bottom to the hopper that revolves correspondently with the motion of the animal which draws the vehicle. In this bottom, or revolving platform, there are holes at given distances. For planting in hills you open two holes, and leave all the others shut up; and in this case four or five sets are dropped in one place, at whatever distance you may think proper, the seed being cut by a sharp knife placed immediately under the revolving platform. Some might prefer to cut the sets by hand, and in this case the knife may be removed, or the potatoes may be dropped without being cut. If drills