

have stood the wet. I have seen none lodged, but it is not heavily loaded and somewhat blighted.

Corn, if frost don't visit us before 1st October, will be an average, but sooner than that I fear for it.

Potatoes have all been attacked with rust, and are now looking pretty black. Many say that their potatoes are rotting quite badly. The yield per hill is not up to the average.

Beans are looking well, and I think will be up to the average.

Turnips are not making growth at the bottom as usual this time of year, but they have very large tops.

Beets, mangolds, parsnips and carrots are doing fairly.

The apple crop appears to be irregular; in some orchards there are very few, in others more than an average. The spring frost appears to have affected some orchards more than others, and I think the natural fruit stood the frost better than the grafted; however most all apples are scabbed, which we attribute to the spring frost.

A. S., Upper Brighton, N. B., Sept. 2.

SIR,—In 1880, on your recommendation, I put seed corn before planting into coal tar and water, and thus saved it from the crows. This year I had a pig above 80 lbs. too weak to stand. I treated it for thumps with spirits of turpentine. It now weighs about 150 lbs. I think I have got a little more than my subscription by reading the ADVOCATE. We are deluged with rain. The loss of hay is enormous. The loss near Sackville is estimated at from \$40,000 to \$60,000. The St. John is as high as it was in the spring freshet. I fortunately escaped, excepting two or three acres.

J. F., Upper Woodstock, N. B.

A FEW OF THE REASONS WHY WE PREFER THE COTSWOLDS TO ANY OTHER BREED OF SHEEP.

SIR,—Having had considerable experience in breeding Leicesters, Lincolns, and Southdowns, as well as Cotswolds, and having given all a fair trial, we decided in favor of the Cotswolds as the best breed for all purposes, combining, as they do, weight of carcass and weight of fleece in a greater degree than any other breed.

Being a pure-bred sheep, the rams are better adapted for crossing upon other sheep than those of any other of the English breeds; the first cross frequently producing an animal having nearly all the appearance of the thoroughbred.

As in America, the pure-bred sheep must be used mainly in its crosses upon other sheep; the breed which will make the greatest improvement, in combining the largest weights of mutton and wool, with early maturity, demands the preference.

The den and that is springing up in this country from England requires something approaching to a fair or good mutton sheep. The South Down for quality of mutton excels all others, but they are light shearers and of light carcasses, and with all the talk of the shippers about quality, we have noticed that they are not willing to pay for quality, but will pay the highest price per pound for heavy sheep.

The Leicesters are good feeders and mature early, but are not hardy, and they produce too much fat, not being so well marbled, or mixed with lean meat. They are not as heavy shearers as the Cotswolds, and will get bare of wool on the belly and legs, which is a vexatious failing, as it is almost impossible to sell a ram with bare belly or sack. The Cotswolds hold their wool below, to any age, and there is less difficulty in getting a suitable ram to breed from than in any of the other breeds.

The Cotswolds are hardy, heavy shearers, quick feeders, and early maturing. Crossing them upon Merino, or native ewes, their produce, the first cross, is nearly equal to the thoroughbred in size and quality, and at the present time the fleece is in demand at prices beyond the Merino, or pure-bred Cotswold. They will go to market under liberal keep at 18 months old, weighing 150 to 200 pounds live weight, and at this age will command the top prices from the butcher in our best markets.

There is none of the mutton breeds that will feed out at an early age with as much profit, and none that will cross on other sheep with as much profit.

In order to show to what weights Cotswolds can be fed, when forced, for show purposes, we may state that we have had ram lambs at 7 months to weigh 180 lbs.; yearling rams at 18 months, 350 lbs.; and matured rams at 2½ years, 426 lbs. Ewe lambs, 160 lbs.; yearling ewes, 266 lbs.; and aged ewes, 346 lbs. At the Chicago fat stock show in 1878, we showed nine ewes that averaged 315 lbs.,

the lightest being 290 lbs., and the heaviest 346 lbs.

We think we may safely challenge the breeders of any other breed of sheep to show a better record of weights than the Cotswolds have made at any age, and while we do not approve of forcing sheep intended for breeding to such weights, or nearly approaching them, as we know it sadly impairs their usefulness as breeders, yet we are proud of the breed of sheep that is capable of making such records.

As to weight of fleece, we have had rams to shear as high as 20, 22 and one 26 lbs.; and ewes from 16 to 20 lbs., unwashed wool of good quality, and for several years our flock of breeding ewes have averaged 1½ lbs. of clean washed wool. Compare this with the average of 5 lbs. or 6 lbs. from some of the other breeds, and even if their wool brings two or three cents per lb. more, our fleeces made nearly twice as much money, being nearly twice as heavy.

Most of the English Downs, such as the Oxford, Shropshire and Hampshire, have been made up from crosses of the Cotswold and the South Down, and are at best only cross-bred sheep, and though by culling freely from large flocks they have produced large mutton sheep, yet it must be admitted that they have not become a sufficiently fixed breed to produce anything like a uniform offspring, when crossed upon common and grade sheep, and we shall be mistaken if those who are paying high prices for imported animals of these mixed sorts do not find themselves sadly disappointed at the end of two or three years experience with them in this country, with American modes of handling sheep and the absence of hurdles, tarpaulin folds and experienced shepherds.

As an evidence of the growing popularity of the Cotswolds we may point to the fact that although in the last 15 years there have been ten times as many Cotswolds imported from England to Canada as of any other breed, there has never been enough to meet the demand for them, and there never was a time when the stock of rams was so closely sold as at the present time. The demand for them from all parts of the United States, from Virginia to Montana, shows how well they are adapted for all sorts of soils and circumstances, more so we venture to say than any other breed.

JOHN SNELL'S SONS, Edmonton, Ont.

CLOVER SEED.

SIR,—Through the medium of your widely-circulated paper I would urge the farmers who raise clover seed to get their seed threshed out at once and sold, as without doubt there will be a large surplus for export. Of late years our Canadian seed has come forward too late to suit the export demand, therefore causing a loss of over one dollar per bushel of 50 lbs. In the States of Ohio, Indiana, etc., farmers are threshing out their seed and selling it for export at a high price, and if our Canadian seed were ready soon, good prices could be got for it. When brought to market early dealers have time to clean and bulk it well before shipping, making it up to a high standard and giving our seed a good name in the foreign markets. To get full value for it bring it to market early this fall, well cleaned, and not wait till the American seed has filled up the European markets.

G. K.

SIR,—Would you inform me how a butterfly box should be made, (an inexpensive one) should it have cork lining in the bottom of the box, and if papered, what tint would be best? How would a very narrow moulding of gilt look on the top, near or next to the glass? Which looks best a long or square box? What is the best Canadian work on Entomology, and what price?

D. R., Port Dalhousie, Ont.

[A butterfly box may be made of any form, the only essential is that when closed it shall be perfectly tight, so as to prevent the access of parasitic insects, which attack and devour the bodies of the specimens. In the collections of entomologists they are usually so made as to have a glass top so that the specimens may be examined without injuring them. They are lined with cork at the bottom, which is covered with white paper. About 15 x 18 is a common and convenient size, but some prefer larger; others smaller sizes; there is no rule in this matter. The best Canadian works on entomology are the reports of the Entomological Society of Ontario, most of which are obtainable. Write the Secretary of the Society, E. B. Reed, London. The Canadian Entomologist, the monthly journal of the same Society, also contains a large amount of information on Entomological subjects.]

The Dominion Exhibition.

The Exhibition was opened in the Agricultural Hall, Halifax, N. S., on the 22nd September. The main building in which the industrial exhibits are shown is a large structure, well fitted for display. In the centre was a platform beautiful with plants and flowers, and on it there was a band stand. The southern part of the main floor was occupied by carriages.

At the opening the Machinery Hall was in an unfinished state, many machines not being in their places. It is an annex, divided into three sections with broad aisles between. The motive power is a 25 horse power engine, made and fitted up in the city. In the middle of the building is the electric battery which feeds the machine for lighting up the main building. The surprising developments in manufacturing appliances, by the inventive genius of Canadians, is shown by the large collection of machinery, and the exhibits of manufacturers from every part of the Dominion. The great resources of the country have made her people proficient in every branch of skilled industry, whether on sea or land. No other country can compete with Canada in her forests, her mines and minerals, her fisheries, and the fertility of her soil.

The display of mines and minerals at the Halifax Exhibition was on a larger scale than ever before. The richness of Nova Scotia in her valuable coalfields, and the extent of her beds of stone and lime, with 3,000 square miles of gold-bearing quartz, were shown by the exhibits made. There was a very fine collection of gold-bearing quartz and galena ores from the newly laid out gold districts, of the Argyle Mining Co., and this was but one exhibit of many of equal or greater similar exhibits.

The coal trade of Nova Scotia is rapidly growing in importance and is becoming one of the leading interests of the Province. The different mining companies were well represented in the main building, by specimens in columns and blocks of the various stove, gas, steam, and bunker coals. The extent of this flourishing industry may be imagined from the fact that no less than eighteen Nova Scotia collieries were represented. Among the exhibits of minerals were samples of manganese, of which the value is \$120 per ton, and also a magnificent specimen of Shelburn granite.

The exhibition of horses and other farm stock was very good; New Brunswick, as well as her sister provinces, was represented in both cattle and horses. They form, it is said, the finest show ever seen in the city. New Brunswick contributed largely in the various departments. The exhibits of furniture, poultry, and musical instruments were subjects of general admiration, as was also the rotunda of the main building, which was devoted to the fine arts.

There was a very good display of agricultural implements, mowing machines, wheel rakes, hay presses, reapers, grain sowers, root cutters and pulpers, and a large collection of ploughs and others.

A mole plow attracted much attention. It is designed to do away with the necessity of tiles in underdraining, it making a perfect drain without tiles or stones. The drains are said to possess great durability, having been for some time in use in Amherst and Truro marshes. There were few exhibitors of agricultural implements from Ontario, and the marked absence of exhibitors from other than the Maritime Provinces is a matter of general complaint. The committee are censured that they had not given sufficient publicity to the preparations made and the apportionment list was not such as to induce the attendance of exhibitors from a distance.

The Provincial Exhibition at Montreal.

The Agricultural Exhibition opened at Montreal on Tuesday, the 21st, under the most favorable circumstances. The weather was all that could be desired. The fair from the beginning bid fair to excel any that had hitherto been held in the Province, and all things succeeded admirably. The number of visitors was unusually large, and the number of exhibitors was proportionately great. The exhibition, for which elaborate preparations had been made, was formally opened on Wednesday. Many dilatory exhibitors had put off until the last hour the arrangement of their exhibits, so that the opening day may be said to have been one of preparation. This dilatoriness was said to be the only drawback, and that, too, was of short continuance. It was expected from the arrange-