

of opinion that farming should be better and more profitably conducted by the farmer giving to his business an unflinching perseverance, and undivided attention. Other matters, such as lumbering, &c., had no doubt retarded the progress of agriculture. He also thought that meadows or pastures resting on clay and limestone, as in that district, might be productive for a great number of years by occasional top dressing. Mr. Cameron spoke on the importance of economising and properly applying manure—particularly not to allow the liquid portion to run to waste, as was almost universally done. We hope this meeting will lead to inquiry and co-operation, and thus be made productive of some practical good.

In returning by land to Toronto, we found farming operations much retarded by the wetness of the weather, through all the districts we had to pass. In Prince Edward a large breadth was unsown, and considerable ploughing to do. A kind of wheat called the *Black Sea*, is largely cultivated as a late spring variety, and much remained to be sown. Many speak highly of it,—but its principal recommendations are its suitableness for late sowing, and its comparative freedom from rust. Fall wheat was looking tolerably well, not having been severely winter killed; the appearance of this crop improves as one travels west-ward. The season must be considered unusually backward, but a genial summer may more than compensate for the disadvantages of a late spring.

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTION.

We learn, with much pleasure, from a report of the Committee on Agriculture, obligingly sent us by B. P. Johnson, Esq., of Albany, that the State of New York is soon likely to have an Educational institution and experimental farm, commensurate with its high agricultural character and interests. The following resolution has recently passed the Legislature:

"That a board of eight commissioners, (one from each judicial district,) be appointed by the Governor, whose duty it shall be to meet at the city of Albany to mature a plan for the Establishment of an Agricultural and Experimental Farm, and prepare a statement of the probable expense of such an institute, and a detailed account of the course of studies and plan of operations recommended, to be delivered to the Governor on or before the first day of September next, to be by him submitted to the Legislature at its next session."

WASHING, SHEARING, AND PREPARING WOOL FOR MARKET.

We copy the following article, which we have no doubt will be of service to many of our readers, from a new agricultural periodical, "*The Wool Grower*," published monthly, at Buffalo, N. Y., and edited by T. C. Peters. As its title denotes, sheep husbandry and the management of wool, will receive special attention in its pages, but not

to the exclusion of the other departments of agriculture, or even of gardening. We wish the enterprising editor every success:

WASHINGTON.—This is usually done at the north, about the first of June. The climate of the Southern States would admit of its being done earlier. The rule should be, to wait until the water has acquired sufficient warmth for bathing, and until cold rains and storms, and cold nights, are no longer to be expected.

Sheep are usually washed by our best flock-masters, in vats. A small stream is dammed up, and the water taken from it in an aqueduct (formed by nailing boards together,) and carried until sufficient fall is obtained to have it pour down a couple of feet or more, into the vat. The body of water, to do the work fast and well, should be considerable—say 24 inches wide, and five or six deep—and the swifter the current the better. The vat should be, say 3½ feet deep, and large enough for four sheep to swim in it. A yard is built near the vat, and a platform from the gate of the yard, extends to and encircles the vat on three sides. This keeps the washer from standing in the water, and makes it much easier to lift the sheep in and out. The yard should be large enough to hold the whole flock, if it does not exceed 200; and the bottom of it, as well as of a smaller yard, unless well sodded over, should be covered with coarse gravel, to avoid becoming muddy. If the same establishment is used by a number of flock-masters, graveling will be always necessary. As soon as the flock are confined in yard, the lambs are all immediately caught out from among them, and set over the fence into a yard. This is to prevent their being trampled down, as it often happens, by the old sheep, or straying off, if let loose. A boy stands by the gate next to the vat, to open and shut it, (or the gate is drawn shut with a chain and weight) and two men, catching the sheep, as directed under the head of tagging, commence placing them in the water for the preparatory process of 'wetting.' As soon as the water strikes through the wool, which occupies but an instant, the sheep is lifted out and let loose. The vat should, of course, be in an enclosed field, to prevent their escape. The whole flock should thus be passed over, and again driven round, where they should stand, say an hour, before washing commences. There is a large per centage of potash in the wool oil, which acts upon the dirt, independently of the favorable effect which would result from thus soaking it for some time, with water alone. If washed soon after a good shower, previous wetting might be dispensed with; and it is not *absolutely necessary*, perhaps in any case. If the water is warm enough to keep the sheep in it for the requisite period, they may be got clean by washing, without any previous wetting, though the snowy whiteness of the fleece, which tells so on the purchaser, is not so often nor so perfectly attained in the latter way.—Little time is saved by omitting 'wetting,' as it takes proportionably longer to wash, and it is not so well for the sheep to be kept such a length of time in the water at once.

When the washing commences, two and sometimes four sheep are plunged into the vat. When four are put in, two soak while two are washed. But this should not be done, unless the water is very warm, and the washers are uncommonly quick and expert. On the whole, it is rather an objectionable practice, for few animals suffer so much from the effects of a chill, as sheep. If they have been previously wetted, it is wholly unnecessary. When the sheep are in the water, the two washers commence kneading the wool with their hands, about the breech, belly, &c., (the dirtier parts,) and they then continue to turn the sheep, so that the descending current of water can strike into all parts of the fleece. As soon as the sheep are clean, which may be