

Sheep at the Ontario Agricultural College.

Almost all the established English breeds of sheep have representatives on the College Farm. They are kept for the purpose of instruction to the students as to their differences in general form, comparative size, quality of wool, etc. Only a small number of each is thought to be necessary, which are good representatives, and kept in good breeding condition. It is not uncommon to hear expressions of disappointment regarding their condition, but would it not be the height of folly to waste feed in ruining their breeding qualities for the sake of the praise of those who look for a show ring animal, instead of those in a condition to produce lambs in best form? We agree with the authorities of the Farm in continuing to keep their sheep in reasonable breeding flesh.

Of Cotswolds there are four ewes and one ram, all two-shear, imported in 1892 from one of the best flocks in England; also three very fine lambs. These are all very good specimens, well covered with fleeces of useful, lustrous wool. One of the finest ewes has a slightly grayish face and legs, the others are all of the white-faced type.

Of Lincolns there are six animals, comprising one ewe and one ram, two-shear, imported in 1892. The ram inclines to be coarse more particularly in its fleece, but the ewe is a very good one. She had a very fine lamb last spring, which now promises to be as good as herself. The remaining three are yearling ewes, which were purchased from Mr. Oliver, of St. Marys, who imported them a few months ago. They are rather nice in quality, but somewhat undersized for first-class specimens.

The Leicester flock consists of two three-shear ewes imported in 1891, one shearling ewe bred on the Farm, two ram and two ewe lambs. They are a nice, even lot of useful sheep.

Of Oxfords there are three three-shear ewes imported in 1891, one two-shear ram imported in 1892. These were successful show sheep in England, which is evidence enough of their superiority. We would, however, look for finer fleeces on typical specimens of the breed. There are also three ewe and three ram lambs, which are a very nice, even lot—in fact, they show more evenness in size and quality than the lambs of any of the other breeds on the Farm.

The Hampshire flock consists of three three-shear ewes, which were imported in 1891, one shearling ewe home-bred, and six lambs. These are all, according to the demands of their admirers, strong and vigorous. In size something less than the Oxford, with fleeces about one grade finer than the Shropshire. They have shown themselves to be peculiarly adapted to forcing their lambs to an early maturity by their excellent milking qualities. We would say that they come next to the Dorsets in this particular.

The next breed to mention is the Suffolk, of which there are two three-shear ewes and one two-shear ram imported in 1891, one shearling ewe home-bred, and four very fine lambs. This breed seems to have some connection in blood with the Hampshires, as they are much like them in general form, but differ in the color and covering of the head and legs, which are of a glossy black, and having little or no wool on the head or legs. They also have a little more length of leg, and are considerably finer in bone, which is noticed in the head as well as the legs. The ears are somewhat less in size and less inclined to droop. At first sight they appear too high from the ground, which gives the impression that they have little substance, and that they would be hard to feed, but such is not the case, as the ewes now in medium condition weigh two hundred and fifty pounds each. One objection to them is their tendency to have clouded patches of wool about the neck and thighs.

The Shropshire flock numbers twenty-three, consisting of one two-shear ram imported in 1892, seven three-shear ewes imported in 1891, three shearling ewes home-bred, eight ewe and four ram lambs. They are all fairly good sheep, being even, smooth and well-wooled. In their own pens they give spectators the impression that they are undersized, owing to their short legs and their position so near the longer legged sorts. Their compactness and symmetry are too well known to need any notice here.

In the pen for Southdowns can be seen the sort that has stood the test for many years, and continues to have many admirers. The flock comprises one ram and four ewes, three-shear, imported in 1891, also five lambs of nice quality. These are, to many, the beauties of the O. A. C. sheep fold, but they, like the Shrops, suffer somewhat in size when compared with the coarser breeds.

The comparatively new and popular breed known as Horned Dorsets completes the list. Of these there are one two-shear ram imported in 1892, eight three-shear ewes imported in 1891, five ram and three ewe lambs, home-bred and dropped in the spring of 1893. Unfortunately this breed has not had a chance to show their special power of producing fall lambs, owing to the uselessness of a sterile ram and other avoidable causes. We hope to learn more of them from the Farm before very long. We feel sure there is a place for them on many Ontario farms, to raise lambs for the spring demand in our large cities.

It will be noticed that the number of shearlings is very small, which can be accounted for in the fact that the ravages of the tape worm was so great in the spring of 1892 that almost all the lambs of all the breeds were lost. Last season the College Veterinary, Prof. Dr. Reid, treated the lambs with medicine composed chiefly of a decoction of pumpkin seeds, and the result has been to destroy the pest to such an extent that very few were lost. They were also pastured on another part of the farm from the former year, which may have had a beneficial influence.

Annual Meeting of the Ontario Veterinary Association.

The annual meeting of this Association was held in the Veterinary College, Toronto, on Thursday, December 21st, 1893.

The President, Mr. John Wende, V. S., of Buffalo, N. Y., U. S., in the chair. In his opening address Mr. Wende spoke with much feeling of his gratification at being placed in the honorable position he occupied, and he impressed on the members present the advantages of associations of the various professions, and, indeed, of all the callings in life, and of their meeting for mutual improvement and discussion.

The Secretary's, Registrar's, Treasurer's and Auditors' reports were then received and adopted.

Mr. John Wende read an interesting paper on pyo-sephamisa, commonly called "joint ill" in foals. He mentioned the different names by which it was known, and the various views as to its pathology which had been held. He said that Bollinger, in 1873, first recognized it as omphalo-phlebitis. He fully described the symptoms, also the post mortem appearances produced by emboli in the capillaries of the viscera. He mentioned that "pervius urachus," though frequent, was not invariably present. It is a very serious disease. He also gave the line of treatment he adopted.

Messrs. Crowforth, W. J. Wilson and others took part in the discussion that followed.

In a discussion in which Mr. C. Elliott, Major Lloyd, Mr. Quinn and others took part, it was ultimately suggested that the Council of Arts should send representatives to attend at the nominations of the Ontario Veterinary College.

A discussion then took place on certain parties advertising as teaching veterinary dentistry, and granting diplomas as veterinary dentists; and a resolution was passed that a committee be found to frame a resolution strongly condemning such parties for issuing their so-called veterinary dental diplomas, the resolution to be presented to the Provincial Secretary and to the Crown Attorney, who were to be interviewed on the subject.

Moved by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Major Lloyd, and carried, that a motion of condolence be forwarded to the widow of the late Mr. Hand, of Alliston, an old and respected member of this Association, expressing deep feelings of sympathy with her in her late sad bereavement.

The question of contagious pleuro-pneumonia in cattle then came up, and a resolution was moved by Mr. C. Elliott, seconded by Mr. W. J. Wilson, that no contagious pleuro-pneumonia exists at the present time, neither has that disease ever made its appearance in the province of Ontario. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. John Wende gave a short account of his attendance at the United States Veterinary Congress at Chicago.

Moved by Mr. W. J. Wilson, seconded by Mr. A. Crowforth, and carried, that all the directors read a paper at the next meeting of the Association.

The following new members were duly elected:—Mr. W. McGuire, D. V. S., of Shawville, Que.; Mr. A. Crowforth, V. S., of Lockport, N. Y., U. S.; and Mr. S. T. Holder, V. S., of Mount Albert, Ont.

The officers for the following year are:—Mr. W. Burns, V. S., King, President; Mr. G. L. Robson, V. S., Manchester, First Vice-President; Mr. H. Hopkins, V. S., Green River, Second Vice-President; Mr. C. H. Sweetapple, V. S., Toronto, Secretary; Mr. W. Cowan, V. S., Galt, Treasurer. Directors—Messrs. J. Wende, D. Hamilton, J. F. Quinn, W. Gibb, W. J. Wilson, S. T. Holder, A. Crowforth and W. Steele. Auditors—Messrs. C. Elliott and J. D. O'Neil. Messrs. J. H. Wilson and J. D. O'Neil were appointed representatives to the Western Fair Association. Mr. W. Cowan was appointed representative to the Central Farmers' Institute.

Timely Notes for January—No. 2.

WINTERING CALVES.

The hardest part of feeding cattle in this cold climate is to bring calves through the winter in decent condition. They cannot assimilate the dry fodder, as hay, sheaf oats and straw, so thoroughly as the older cattle, and get hide-bound and lose flesh rapidly. Yet there is no other stock that is so benefitted by a little extra feed, even if it is only bran or a few turnips daily. Green cut oats, early cut and well-saved hay, warm quarters, and a little bran per day will keep them moving along in the way they should go, and will eventually return a large interest on the small outlay incurred. I prefer having calves loose in their stall, as they get more exercise, and thus keep their legs better. A little salt every day is necessary, and an occasional change of feed.

"SELLS ITSELF."

I learnt a lesson a few days ago that "went home." I took in a load of beef, pork and butter. The butter and pork were both first-class, the beef was not sufficiently fattened, but was killed to make room for other stock coming on. The result might have been foretold easily. I could have sold twice as much pork and butter at a higher rate than the market price, because they were prime quality. The beef was slow sale at a fraction below the market rate. Another \$5.00 spent in feed on that beef would have turned it into first quality and have netted me at least \$10.00 more. The moral is obvious: Sell only first-class produce, got up in first-class style. A clean package for butter, neatly trussed poultry, cattle killed and dressed in a workmanlike manner, etc., all make the difference between profit and loss. There is often as much in good selling as in good feeding.

GROWING IMPOSSIBLE CROPS.

I am tempted to write under the above caption by some of my own and others' experience in attempting to grow crops unsuitable to our land. I have one field facing west and north-west on a cold subsoil, on which oats are nearly always a heavy crop, while wheat is uneven and will freeze if it gets "half a chance" result, I don't grow any wheat there. A neighbor has a flat field, slightly alkaline, on which he can grow any amount of straw, but very little grain; he persists in attempting to grow wheat and oats there: result, a poor crop, full of native weeds, and small yield of poor quality grain. In my opinion, a heavy coat of manure followed by a mixed grain crop, cut green for hay, would pay well, and in a little while that soil would grow roots, and then grain.

Another field near by is very gravelly, on which wheat gives a small yield of fine grain, and very early. I would suggest that the land be heavily manured and sown to potatoes and corn, and the warm soil would hurry these crops on to maturity and a profitable return. By learning from our mistakes in the past, we may make more profitable ventures in the future.

GENERAL.

Hired help for the coming year is likely to be more reasonable in the matter of wages, but will the men take any more interest in the welfare of their employer and his stock? Would it not be well for some of us to try giving the hired men an interest, however small, in the returns from some crop or crops or animals? It is done in many manufacturing concerns, and why not in farming? Say \$1.00 per month less wages and a certain fraction on the wheat crop, or the pigs, as may be mutually agreed upon. I would suggest that the branch which the men seem to neglect the most, the cows for instance, would be the one to be pushed under their interested notice.

"INVICTA."

We thoroughly endorse Mr. W. J. Stevenson's suggestion, viz.: Let us who are interested start a query column, where questions may be asked and answered by capable and experienced men—let us tell each other our experience. Come along, gentlemen, we want the result of your experience; tell it to us, and we will tell thirty thousand farmers what you say. Some of them may be able to tell you something valuable. We will try to get them to do so. Come along, Mr. Stevenson; we can't hear from you too often, judging by the letter we publish in this issue.

In her poultry article this issue, Mrs. Tilson, among other good things, says: "Although our own experience is the best teacher, another's experience often gives us a great start up the hill of knowledge, and puts money in our pockets." These are true words, and should be heeded by every reader; by careful observation each should learn. The person is either conceited or foolish who supposes he can learn nothing from his neighbors. One of the great benefits to be derived from the institute work is that farmers may meet and compare notes, affording food for thought, and increasing a desire for reading and study. The Government can do much to stimulate the institute work, but it can never make it benefit any farmer, if he will not attend the meetings, or follow up the speeches he hears by reading and increased thoughtfulness and observation.