

hitherto have been weak, compared with their record for 1907. The fall in most cases will possibly run about 5s. 6d. apiece for ewe lambs. As the decrease is general, there will be a great fall in the flockmasters' revenue. One cannot contemplate how serious that fall may be, but some who took sheep farms on the promise of the rising markets of five years ago may this season find themselves in difficulties. The chief reasons for the fall are, no doubt, the repopulating of the Australian stations. These were depleted by droughts, but the recuperative powers of a sheep run are considerable, especially when rains begin to fall, and the Australian and New Zealand pastoralists are feeling much better than they did. The condition of things here is practically that prices have receded to the figure at which they stood in 1903. The outlook for the ram sales, which are now about due, is not bright. The first of the series was held at Corston a fortnight ago, and it was a "frost." The Corston Shropshires have more than a local, or even a national reputation. Mr. Tom A. Buttar is one of the best judges of Shropshires in this country. High averages and very fancy prices have sometimes been made in the past, but this year the sale dragged from start to finish, and it was as difficult to sell good crossing rams as it was to sell high-class rams for breeding pedigree stock. The explanation was difficult, but possibly it would not be wrong to put it down to a general depression in trade, and, in particular, to the closing of the Argentine ports to Scots stock. Too late for Corston, the announcement is now made that Scots stock will be admitted into the Argentine under certain quarantine conditions. This may help the cattle trade, but the season for most low-country ram sales is about over for 1908. Lincolns have been selling fairly well in their own habitat, but there have been no sensational prices.

Regarding the Shropshire, I am not satisfied that this first of the improved Down breeds is not being hard pressed by the larger-framed Oxford Downs. Of all our sheep breeds, the Oxford Down is easily the most progressive at the present time. He grows to greater weight than the Shropshire, and, for crossing with Cheviot or half-bred ewes, there is little to beat the Oxford. The Shropshire has been a big success when crossed with the Merino. There is little waste with the Shropshire, and rams of this breed cross well with any breed of ewes. The Oxford Down leaves a much bigger lamb than the Shropshire, and this is a consideration for those aiming at the early lamb market. The mutton advantage is not so greatly in favor of the Oxford Down.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

The season promises to be a favorable one for dairy produce. The weather conditions are conducive to a big flow of milk, and the cheese trade has been in a steadily healthy state for a long time. The imports of butter and cheese last year did not indicate appreciable expansion, and farmers have reason to be anxious about the cheese trade. For some reason or other, the consumption of cheese per head of the population continues steadily to drop. The colonial and home makers are on the same platform here. Both are at the mercy of the public, and when their taste undergoes modification, the producer must make the best of a very bad job. The medical profession is not without blame for this decline of cheese in public favor. The idea was sedulously cultivated that cheese was an indigestible morsel, and that those with weak stomachs should leave it severely alone. This is not the case. Cheese is both nutritious and toothsome. A good feed of toasted cheese leaves little here to be desired, and the more of it one can consume, the fatter he will become. Cheese is a most desirable item of food, but makers have not always been wise in adapting their methods to meet the public taste. It is not sound policy to continue manufacturing cheese which the public don't want. Some makers in this country denounce Cheshire cheese, going so far as to affirm that it is not cheese at all. But it is what the great working-class population in the "black" country, engaging in coal mining and the potteries, wants, and that is all the maker has to think about. If he wants to live, he must produce what the public taste demands. Butter and cheese should be made to be consumed. A speedy market and a large turnover, should be the dairyman's motto.

More is likely to be heard in the future than in the immediate past about the character of the foodstuffs imported into this country. The farmer here has to work under all manner of difficulties. He is handicapped by all manner of sanitary re-

strictions. I do not say that these are wrong. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of cleanliness and good management in the dairy and abattoir. But important pronouncements have been made by prominent members of the Government on the places of origin of much of the foreign and colonial produce which is poured into Great Britain. It has been roundly declared that the Local Government Board will take steps to insure that imported produce is manufactured or manipulated under conditions at least as satisfactory as those insisted on for home produce. It seems wonderful that so much should be made of this declaration. It seems only the minimum of fairness, and it is to be hoped the four members of the Cabinet chiefly interested in these things will not give them pause until equity and fair-play prevail. The necessity for something drastic being attempted has been vividly brought home to us in Glasgow within the past few weeks. Twenty-two thousand boxes of New Zealand boneless meat were examined by the inspectors, and fully one-half of the entire shipment has been condemned as unfit for human food. The disquieting thing about this is that we can have no security that this is the first shipment of putrid boneless meat imported, and there is a merited outcry against the form in which this meat reaches us. Two additional inspectors have been appointed by the authorities to examine this kind of stuff; but more than two will be required if an active and energetic campaign is to be inaugurated against the boneless combination. Everyone is desperately afraid of anything a little "off color" if produced at home, while almost no one takes heed to the condition of the stuff which comes from abroad. There is not much patriotism in this.

THE POTATO CROP.

We are a little concerned here about the potato crop. We have a big crop, no disease, and low prices. There are rumors that the opposite conditions in all three particulars prevail in the United States, and some growers would like very much to make an experimental shipment to the land of the Stars and Stripes. Of course, Uncle Sam has levied a heavy duty on potatoes, wool, and some other things, but, at prices at present ruling, we could send Uncle the potatoes, pay his duty, and still make some profit. He is a queer individual is Uncle Sam. He cuts off his nose to spite his face, nearly every time, and feels quite happy if, in the process, he cuts his neighbor's somewhat. There is no stranger policy on earth than that of Uncle Sam in what concerns agriculture. Some people here would like John Bull to adopt the same policy, but so far success has not been striking along those lines. There is a strange fascination in dealing with potatoes. There is just enough of the gamble in the business to make it exciting, and this is, no doubt, one reason why the crop continues to hold its own in agricultural favor. We want new varieties badly, and many willing brains are engaged in seeking to bring out such. So far as recent years are concerned, not much progress has been made. "Eldorado" has, so far, not proved an Eldorado, and "Northern Star," of which very much was expected, has not quite fulfilled anticipations.

IRELAND'S HORSE SHOW.

Ireland has just been holding its great annual social carnival, the Dublin Horse Show. For one week in August the ancient capital on the Liffey revives, and big crowds throng its streets. These are of the elite of the country gentry of England, Scotland and Ireland. The nasal tones of the sons and daughters of Uncle Sam can be recognized, and French, Italian and German buyers are not wanting. This year, the thoroughbred champion stallion, Red Sahib; the champion male hunter, Redshank, and the champion young horse and mare likely to make hunters, were all got by one stallion, Red Prince 2nd, by Kendal. This is a marvellous record, but, unfortunately, I believe, Red Prince 2nd was picked up a few years ago by one of the Continental government agents, and is now doing duty in one of the haras on the Continent. More's the pity for Ireland! Harness horses are not much encouraged in Ireland. The best at the show this week came from this side of the Channel. The champion was Loudwater Flourish, owned by Mr. I. Kerr, Rickmansworth, Herts. Several very fine goers were seen, the produce of the noted Mathias 6473. We are to have two great Hackney sales in Scotland in the end of September. They will take place at Thornhome, Carlisle, on 24th, and at Gowanbank, Darvel, on 25th of that month. Mr. Robert Scott, at the former, will sell 51 head of brood mares and young stock, in-

cluding a large number of foals. Out of the 51, nearly one-half (22) are the produce of Mathias, which, during the past three or four seasons, has been sire of many of the best driving horses and mares in Great Britain and America. Mr. Morton is selling about 80 head at Gowanbank on the following day. These include many specially first class breeding mares and young stock, in which the best Yorkshire blood predominates. Breeders of harness horses will find it profitable to attend these sales. "SCOTLAND YET."

FARM

Comment upon farming operations invited.

Should Fallow be Plowed

A correspondent at Melrose, Man., writes: "I have summer fallowed a large piece of my farm and have disced it twice, then harrowed it with the drag harrow, leaving it in pretty fine condition. Do you think I should plow it again this fall or just leave it and disc it again just before seeding next spring. It contained quite a lot of wild oats and sow thistle. Kindly advise." The fact that the land is infested with wild oats and sow thistle makes it necessary to give somewhat different treatment to what might be considered best under other circumstances. If the seeds of these weeds were not in the ground, it would improve the texture of the soil to plow deep, pack it down and leave it for the frost to pulverize, and the snows and rains to fill with moisture. The plowing would also bury any stalks of weeds that might have grown and would deepen the feeding ground for the roots of the grain. But since the soil is polluted with weed seeds and it is desired to take a crop off next year, it would be best to leave it unplowed. The cultivation of the fallow has probably started most of the weed seeds near the surface and killed their growth so that the soil will be fairly clean for a crop. If it were plowed now, the seeds that are deeper in the ground would be brought up and would germinate next spring and pollute the crop. This, in fact, is what will occur when the land is plowed again, so that if possible we would advise seeding to grass or growing roots or corn or rape after next year's cropping.

Grasses and Clovers For Central Alberta

A correspondent who ranches in the district about Olds, Alberta, writes:

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

"Do you think that the seeding of clover along with timothy could now be safely tried in this section of Alberta and if so, what amount of seed of each per acre? What is your opinion as to the merits of high or low lying land for successfully growing timothy, or timothy and clover mixed? Some farmers are of the opinion that low or sloughy land is best, especially in a dry season, as they are sure that it requires a great deal of moisture. What kind of clover would you advise for this part of Alberta? I have understood that alfalfa should be sown without a nurse crop, and after a summer fallow, and on well worked land. What is your opinion as to the safety of a trial of alfalfa?"

Experience, of course, will teach us a very great deal about the growing of clovers and grasses and while none of our staff have had personal experience in growing these crops in Alberta, we have come in contact with men who have grown them. We do not think the land selected for these crops should be exceptionally moist or dry, the ordinary farm land should answer very well. Work it up fairly deep, and get it as clean as possible of weeds. Then two courses are open, first to sow the seed without a nurse crop, and second, to sow it with wheat, oats or barley. If only a small plot is to be sown, and the soil is not well charged with moisture, it would be best in this country of comparatively cheap land to sow the seed alone at the rate of about ten pounds of timothy and eight of red clover mixed. If the land is naturally rather moist, or if there are a few showers after seeding, there should be a thick stand in about eight weeks, but if the land and season are dry, growth will be much slower. It is quite natural for people to advise sowing on moist land, as the catch is usually much thicker than on ordinary soil. High land is also more liable to drift than the lower lying moist soils, and in drifting the grass and clover seed might be carried away. Where this is liable to occur it would be better to sow the seeds with oats or