

Mr. Rawlings—p. 321, of the same report, says:

"I wish to say a few words about sheep. I bred Cotswolds and Leicesters for some years. The sheep I recommend are the Shropshires and the Hampshire-downs. They do as well here as in England, their meat is worth two cents a pound more in Europe, and they are also better fitted for exportation. I should advise the use of any of the Downs for crossing with our Canadian ewes. I prefer for that purpose the Shropshires and Hampshire-downs, since they weigh more and give more wool than the other Downs, though that wool is a shade coarser. There is a difference between the Southdown and Hampshire-down in point of size."

Messrs. John Miller & Son, Brougham, Ont., who for years have been breeding every sort of sheep, long-wool and short-wool alike, that has ever been imported into the Dominion, write to me as follows:

Dear Sir,—We have received with pleasure your letter, and hasten to reply to your questions in the most impartial manner possible.

As you observe, we have for many years been importing Cotswolds and Shropshires. Southdowns, we have not imported much, but many of them have been brought into our neighbourhood. Oxfords and Leicesters we have also imported. The Southdowns are too small, and degenerate quicker than any other breed in this country. Crosses, too, from them are small and carry but small fleeces. We have made impartial experiments with the above breeds of sheep and we find that the Shropshire keeps in good condition with less food, that he is less dainty, hardier, and that the ewes rear a greater number of lambs, than any other sheep. So satisfied are we with them that we keep a much larger flock of them than we have ever kept of any breed whatever. All our present flock, except a few yearling rams, are imported. I know of no one who, having begun to breed Shropshires, has changed to another kind of sheep. The Shropshires are the only breed that is in general estimation throughout Europe. They are rapidly taking the place of the Merinoes in Michigan. Our long, dry winters agree with them just as well as the damp winters of England. Neither cold nor wet seems to be able to penetrate through their wool to the skin. We would willingly pay \$10.00 for every pure-bred lamb of this breed next August, as we have an order for 100, and we cannot find so many for sale in Canada. We have a hundred imported ewes to lamb down in spring, all splendid sheep and served by the magnificent rams imported for the use of our own flock."

JOHN MILLER & SONS.

(Mr. Casgrain then quotes some observations of mine in the March number of the Journal, in which quotation he makes a great mistake. If he will look at the paragraph carefully, he will see that instead of saying that "la meilleure qualité des Shropshires est leur grande précocité," it was of the Hampshire-downs he was speaking. Perhaps, I had better transcribe the passage.

... "And then he (M. Casgrain) goes on to say that the main virtue of the Hampshire seems to lie in their great precocity, since they not infrequently weigh 80 lbs., net, at the age of ten months. (To which I add) I have often seen them scale that weight at seven months." See March Journal, p. 1.—The Shropshires are by no means early maturing sheep. On the contrary, at the same page as above, speaking of the lambs exhibited at the Smithfield Club show in December 1888, I remarked: *The Shropshire lambs were, as usual, by far the lightest of all the short-wools*, though the shearlings were very good.

Shropshires are good enough for anything; but there is no use to attribute to them a quality to which they have not the least claim.

A. B. J. F.)

Here, Sir, I conclude, convinced that I have written enough and cited authorities enough to show whether it is I or M. Coulombe who is in error.

E. CASGRAIN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Warden, Que.—Aug. 30, 1889.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST,

Dear Sir,—I am a young farmer, a constant and much interested reader of your writings, in the *Journal of Agriculture*.

I am trying to solve some of the mysteries of successful farming, and there are many points upon which I should like to get your valuable opinion but dare not trouble you so much.

There are two matters just now in which I am especially interested and upon which I am sure you can give me some useful information.

I saw, some time ago, some remarks of yours commenting upon the appearance of some Shropshire sheep on exhibition, to the effect that you would like to have prepared them for the show. I have I think some of the best Shropshires in this county and I wish to exhibit them at our local fair.

If it is not asking too much, would you kindly give me a detailed explanation of the manner in which I should prepare them for the exhibition. The other question I would like your opinion upon is what artificial manures would you advise me to experiment with in order to decide the requirements of my land and where to obtain the cheapest supply.

I have used for two years the Brockville phosphate but it seems to be too dear. My land does not seem to require potash as wood ashes has but little effect. I dare say it requires nitrogen and phosphoric acid.

If you can take the time to answer this I shall esteem it a great favor and will feel greatly obliged. Yours truly,

C. W. CURTIS, Warden, P. Q.

Answer.—Mr. Curtis is welcome to all the information I can give him. On the point of preparing sheep for exhibition, as well as to the other question about fertilisers, I wrote to him fully on receipt of his letter. The manure I recommended will be found everywhere described throughout the few last numbers of the Journal. Potash is seldom of any use in this newly cleared country, but the way to find out whether it is wanted or not is to make the land analyse itself as described by Ville. See Journal for March, 1887:

"Ville's plan for settling the question: What sort of manurial constituents does my land require? is the right one. He divides a piece of land into five plots, and treats them as follows.

Plot.	Manure.
One	Superphosphate, potash, nitrogen, plaster.
Two	do do do do
Three	Nitrogen, no minerals.
Four	Farmyard dung.
Five	No manure.

The superphosphate must of course be the simple form of mineral phosphate of lime dissolved in sulphuric acid.

Drummondville, P. Q., 14 August, 1889.

A. R. JENNER FUST, Esq.,

Editor *Journal of Agriculture*.

Sir,—I have in front of my house a lawn, artificially raised, with a carriage drive around it, which, I have reason-