

by the disposal of the remainder, as the lease of the farm expires in 1890. These sheep are bred directly from descendants of Mr. Jonas Webb's celebrated flock, at the dispersion of which, in 1872 (?) the high average of \$58 a head was attained. I knew Jonas Webb and his sons and had many dealings with them, and as I saw a strange story in one of the U. S. agricultural papers about the origin of the Babraham Southdowns, I may as well lay bare the real facts of the case.

Mr. Jonas Webb was, some fifty years ago, game-keeper to Mr. Adaro of Babraham, Cambridgeshire, a wealthy land-owner. His master, having bought some Southdown ewes and a ram of Mr. John Ellman, of Glynde, Sussex, the first improver of the breed, sent Mr. Webb, as a thoroughly careful, trustworthy man, to bring them to Babraham. The sheep arrived safely, were neat enough, but small; the two-year-old wethers, in those days only weighing about 16 lbs the quarter. Mr. Webb, on his return, remarked upon this diminutive size to the Squire, and said, "if you will let me the Lodge-gate farm at a fair rent, I will start a small flock, and see if good feeding of the lamb and dam will not increase the weight of these sheep. No sooner said than done. Mr. Webb entered on the farm—120 acres I think—; returned to Sussex; bought more ewes and rams of Ellman; formed his own ideas on selection; and succeeded so well that he added farm to farm—some rented others purchased—until, before he died he was farming nearly 2,000 acres of land. His flock, and the herd of shorthorns, sold after his death for upwards of \$130,000.

The increase of size in these sheep was the point aimed at, and successfully aimed at, as many of the 22 months old wethers I have seen at the Smithfield Club-show must have weighed 30 lbs. a quarter. The necks too, which were originally meagre, became strong without coarseness, but his great pride was in the rotundity of the "legs of mutton"; to which I well remember his calling my attention at the Gloucester show of the R. A. Society.

My own feeling has always been that, at some or other, there was a slight taste of Cotswold blood introduced into the flock, but the family have always strenuously denied this, and assert that the increase of size is solely owing to the ewetags having been well fed during the first winter, whereas the Sussex men send their young ewes out to keep on the lands of the Wold, where they are and always have been, half starved. Any how, they were splendid sheep, and laid the foundation of the improved flocks all over the South of England. From them descended the prize-winners of the Riggons, the Goringes, the Duke of Richmond, Lord Walsingham, and the Prince of Wales; and I heartily hope that some patriotic Canadian may import a selection from Mr. Henry Webb's flock to improve the breed of his own country; for it is high time, if we want to do anything worth speaking of with our mutton, that the long-wools should die the death.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—Your able and interesting English correspondent, Mr. Bowick, says: "The well known Mr. Jonas Webb's flock of Babraham was the lineal and direct descendant of the flock of Mr. John Ellman, who was the father of the breed in its leading Sussex branch." I visited Mr. Webb twice in the summer of 1841, and staid there about two days each time looking over the flock very carefully, as I purchased a ram and several ewes. Our minister, at the English court, Mr. Stevenson was with me, also purchasing several head to stock his farm in Virginia and that of Bishop Meade. Mr. Webb in talking to me about his sheep was rather chary of information as to their breeding, but from the little he said on the subject, I inferred that he chose sheep for the improvement of his flock wherever he

could find them among the Downs of a superior quality, and that he inherited at least a part of the originals from his father. He did not speak of Mr. Ellman's, but judging from the appearance of the two stocks, I did not think there was much, if any, of the Ellman blood mingled with that of the Webb. The sheep I saw of the former were not so large, I thought, generally by one-fifth, or perhaps more, as the latter, and they were finer and more delicate in their points and of a somewhat different style. I should like to know from Mr. Bowick whether I am correct in my recollections. He can easily ascertain this from Mr. Henry Webb, and it will be interesting information to furnish the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN. A. B. ALLEN. (1)

Cost of roots.—Mr. Frank Smith, a regular correspondent of the English Agricultural Gazette, and a large occupier of land, puts the cost of cultivation of an acre of roots at \$10.00 :

One ploughing.....	\$1.25
Carting 16 loads dung and spreading...	2.50
Ploughing in dung.	1.25
Rolling.....	0.20
Drilling.....	1.25
Harrowing, rolling, hoeing.....	4.00
	\$10.45

This is, of course, the actual cost to the farmer. The various estimates of the cost of farm-operations are very far apart. Mr. Tuok, Messrs. Dawes' foreman, puts the price of a man and two horses at \$4.00 a day! I incline towards a dollar and a quarter; in the country parts, where wages are low, it would not cost the farmer more.

Weight of hay.—Hay is a newly made stack, in England, weighs about 5 lbs. or so per cubic foot; after heating and settling, about 8 lbs., and sometimes, in the London district, where the best hay is made, clover-hay will weigh as much as 9 lbs. per cubic foot. Will any reader be good enough to cut out a cubic foot of hay from a mow in his barn, carefully, and let me know how much it weighs?

Cow-grass.—"A constant reader" wants to know "all about" this valuable clover. It is said to have originated from a cross between *Trifolium medium* and *T. pratense*, the former of which is a perennial plant, common in English pastures, with a glaucous leaf and of a creeping habit; not good stuff by any means. The *T. pratense*, is the common red clover. The real cow-grass, *T. pratense perenne*, is very like the common red-clover, except that the flower is supported upon a stalk, instead of resting directly upon a pair of leaves. I do not see why it should be called a grass, as it is a clover. I regret to say that the cow-grass and rye-grass, just sown here, will be mown next summer: they should be pastured, to give them a fair chance.

Phosphates in England.—The following is a list of the quantities of phosphates produced in and imported into England yearly :

	Tons,
Phosphate—Carolina rock, apatite, &c. imported.....	270,000
Coprolites—home-production	20,000
Bones, bone-ash, &c.....	50,000
Bone (home-production).....	60,000
	400,000

(1) See ante.