

amount of Leicester blood in them. They are found all over the Province, but are most numerous in the Niagara peninsula and the older settlements bordering Lake Erie and Ontario.

In Lower Canada, now in Quebec Province, the French *habitans*, kept in ignorance and poverty under the peculiar feudal laws, resist all attempts at improvement as innovations upon their customs, and keep to a small, but hardy race of sheep, of the Merino class, probably originally derived from Brittany and Provence.

In a portion of Quebec bordering on Vermont and northern New York, known as the Eastern Townships, and settled by an English speaking population, the mutton breeds have been introduced, and are fast superseding the Merinoes. More recently the fashion has set towards the Cotswold, and though as yet there are but very few flocks of that breed kept in their purity, their great size and heavy fleeces of fine combing wool is an inducement to many farmers who are not particular about purity of blood, to use Cotswold rams in their established flocks, in order to obtain an increase of size in the carcase without injury to the quality of their wool.

The most recent importation of Leicesters have come from Scotland or the North of England, and are of the type known as "Border Leicesters," a large framed, broad-backed, stout-limbed race, carrying heavy fleeces of combing wool on carcases of great weight, that when they reach the butcher's hands appear likely to prove more showy than eatable.

The Lincolns, Shropshire, Hampshire and Oxford Downs, have been imported to a limited extent, as have also the Cheviots; but none of these appear to find favour with our farmers, and but very few flocks of any of these breeds, in their purity, are now to be found in the country.

With the advent of the mutton breeds of sheep not only has sheep breeding in our mixed system of husbandry become exceedingly profitable, and our markets well supplied with first-class butcher's meat at reasonable prices, but the demand for our wools has increased to an extent never anticipated, and the price goes relatively higher as the yield of fleece per head grows larger. Woollen factories have risen and become flourishing without the help of a high protective tariff. The duties on importations of woollen goods are no higher than is consistent with revenue requirements, yet the tweeds, flannels, blankets and hosiery goods now made in Canada, owing to their superior quality, not only find a home market, but are also exported at rates that prove remunerating to both the manufacturer and grower of the wool, without too greatly enhancing the price to the wearer, into whose hands they must ultimately come. This success is due mainly to the combination of superior style with durability of wear.—*Can. Country Gentleman*.

Fatting Animals for Winter.

Nature sets the example. Look at the woodchucks, how fat they are. See how mice and sleek squirrels and other wild ani-

mals look. Every bird and creature of any kind which nature has not entrusted to the keeping of man is fat. The winter has to be lived through, and more or less the fat is what preserves them. The first are said to be in a dormant state, the fat imperceptibly keeping away hunger and cold. The next mentioned are taught by nature to lay in a stock of provisions, and some are instinctively caused to move into warmer climates, but in all cases nature does not permit any under her protection to dwindle away in the autumn; they come into the full severity of winter well prepared. Yet man, with this example before his eyes, will scarcely allow the poor creatures in his care to have any of the winter's store till the chills of autumn have reduced the frame and brought down the fat which summer would have accumulated with good management. The worst of managers will charge every mishap to anything or anybody but themselves, and when they have starved a number of unfortunate young animals to an unhealthy condition, they will begin to physic and use drugs in other ways—to do what, should you think, uninitiated reader? *Assist nature!* Of all expressions, this is the most absurd. *Assist nature!* When they have been going contrary to all nature's rules!—*Ex.*

Taking Off Hides.

To the Editor.

SIR,—Being a worker in the leather manufacture, I have constantly under my notice the awkward manner in which the farming community take off the hides of animals of their own slaughter. The hind leg, for instance, being slit up along the under, or perhaps inner side, so as to leave the hock of the hide in the form of a skull cap. As upon being brought into work, every part must be made to lie flat, this portion has to be opened by cutting unsightly strips, which materially impair its usefulness.

The following directions may assist the novice in performing the operation:

We will suppose the animal dead and placed on its back; the operator, by thrusting his knife point foremost and edge up, makes a slit the entire length of the carcase, from the chin over the centre of the breast in the line of the navel to the vent. Let him now stand by its side, with his face looking the way the head lies, and taking the fore foot in his left hand, run the point of his knife in the line of the cleft of the foot and cap of the knee, up the front of the leg, and into the central slit of the bosom. For the hind leg, having reversed his position, let the slit be made in the line of the heel, over the centre of the cap of the hock, down the back of the ham into the central slit. In this way the hide, when spread out, will have a square form, without long projections, and consequent deep indentations of its outline.

TANNER.

From Grass to Winter Feed.

The prudent sheep husbandman, as the biting frosts of autumn weaken his pastures, will see to it that his flock are plentifully, though gradually, supplied with corn or roots, or whatever is to constitute their winter food. No matter how strong the pasture may appear, we would advise that this additional feeding be not delayed beyond the first of November—for snow or cold rain storms are likely to overtake us any day, rendering strong and warming food necessary—and if the flock are not at least partially accustomed to it, some animals will over eat, while others may not get a sufficiency. Any one at all familiar with the handling of sheep need not be told of the bad effects that will result. We have known flocks so injured by a November storm that they could not be restored to their proper thrift during the entire winter following. A good judge of wool will readily detect the fleeces of such stock—as every sudden change in the condition of the sheep produces a "joint" in the fibre, rendering it totally unfit for use in manufacturing such styles of goods as require strength and elasticity in the material composing them.

Three year old wethers, and such ewes as are too old, or from some other cause are unfit for breeding, should be kept in a flock to themselves and put upon full feed, as it can safely be done, for the possibility of having them ready for a winter market depends upon a good thrift before cold weather begins.—*Western Rural*.

TRAINING COLTS AND CALVES TO LEAD.

The first attempt to discipline a young animal is to teach it to stand while tied, and to lead with the halter. A calf should be taken from the cow as soon as dropped, and tied up; a strap with a buckle being placed around its neck. A ring should be fastened to the strap, and a light chain, with a swivel in it, fastened to the ring by means of a snap-hook. The calf will not chew nor suck the chain as it would a strap or rope; and this annoying trick will not be learned. It can turn about as much as it pleases without twisting the chain and strangling itself. It should be led to the cow to suck twice a day for four or five days, when it may be taught to drink. Patience will be required the first or second time in teaching it to lead. It should not be dragged along, but should be managed with judgment until it understands what is required, when it will go along very readily. It is desirable at times to lead a heifer or cow, and unless trained in this way when young, difficulty is experienced in doing so. A colt should be trained to remain tied up while the dam is at work; it may be loosed when turned in to the mare at night. Much after-trouble may be spared by preventing a colt from running around and getting into mischief, which it will readily do, by having a halter for it and training it to lead.