

Mr. W. S. Hawkshaw's Shropshires.

In the cut on our first page is represented a group of shearing Shropshires imported last June by W. S. Hawkshaw, of Glanworth, a well-known importer and breeder, who, by making it his aim to import nothing but the best class of stock, has secured a large number of purchasers for this mutton and wool-producing sheep, now as popular in Canada and the United States as it has been in England for many years. In this flock are found sheep from no less than eight different breeders in England. In his last trip to England, Mr. Hawkshaw was ably assisted by Mr. John Thonger, of Nesscliff, a noted breeder and a judge of Shropshire sheep. By examining this importation we are convinced that the most critical eye will see a very superior flock. Mr. Hawkshaw has left the show ring, not having time to attend to the fitting of sheep, therefore all his sheep are in their natural form. Many farmers are content with size, forgetting that sometimes the largest animals are often devoid of the valuable characteristics found in the pure Shropshire. In this flock purchasers see size and quality combined; some of the shearing ewes weigh as high as 180 lbs.

This flock brings with it a certificate from the Secretary of the English Flock Book Association to the effect that the sheep are up to the full standard of pure-bred Shropshires.

On our visit to his farm Mr. Hawkshaw informed us he was just going to dip his sheep, as a preventative of ticks and other parasites in the skin. He has a very well-devised dripping trough and draining tray; he says that the expense of dipping is amply repaid by the improved quality of the wool and thriftiness thus induced. He uses Little's Sheep Dip, which has given him the best satisfaction.

We have known Mr. Hawkshaw for many years. He is an excellent business man, educated, honorable, a good judge and a careful buyer; having an intimate knowledge of shipping, he is able to reduce his expenses when importing to the lowest possible point, and is therefore able to give customers very good value.

In June last this gentleman brought out sheep for the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, who was so pleased with Mr. Hawkshaw's mode of doing business that he recently told the writer that Mr. Hawkshaw was one of the fairest and most honorable men he had ever dealt with.

We inspected this flock a few days ago, and found the sheep an exceedingly good lot, full of quality, large and vigorous, and splendidly woolled. The flock is a very large one.

The cattle sent to the World's Fair, Chicago, will be quarantined, as required by the regulations now in force.

Canadian horses and cattle intended for exhibition at the World's Columbian Exposition were shipped to Toronto and London on Monday and Tuesday, the 14th and 15th instant. The train left Toronto Tuesday at midnight and went direct to London, where they were made up for Chicago. Mr. Richard Gibson was at London to see the cattle started for Chicago. Mr. Wade and Mr. Andrews shipped from Toronto. After the stock arrives in Chicago, the Ontario Section will be under the charge of Mr. Gibson as chief superintendent. Horses in charge of Messrs. Hope and Dickinson. Ontario has a very large exhibit of horses and cattle; at least 30% of the entire exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition will come from our Province.

Autumn Cultivation.

The obvious reasons why many farmers fail to grow profitable crops is simply because they do not cultivate their land thoroughly. They aim at cultivating a large area without taking sufficient heed to the quality of work performed. It is a common error with the farmers of this country to spread their labor over too much ground. They have been told so before repeatedly, and everyone frankly admits that it is true, but still they keep on scratching the surface of wide areas, instead of concentrating their forces on a smaller extent of ground. So far as I can judge, farming is only successful and profitable where the cultivation of the soil is thorough and perfect. There are thousands of acres tilled from year to year that do not return enough to pay for ploughing and harrowing the seed, not to speak of harvesting the crop, with taxes, &c., additional, as certain loss. The

cost of gathering a light crop is almost as great as it would be for a heavy one. If a comparison be made on this basis, the extra yield is almost entirely profit. It is so with all crops. The trouble is in spreading over too much surface. As a matter of fact, there is no profit except for work done fully, and all requirements met with regard to expenditure of labor and cost. More real profit is obtained in most cases from the thorough cultivation of one acre than is generally had from two. Besides, when cultivation is confined to the smaller area, the natural product of the paddocks turned out of use is worth considerable for grazing. The question deserves careful consideration by every farmer who has more land than he can till thoroughly. Under present conditions thoroughness in farming is the only guarantee of success, and thoroughness is impossible to the farmer who spreads his labor over an area so great that seasons and conditions overrule his plans.

At no season of the year can thorough work produce better results than immediately after harvest. It is too common practice for farmers to imagine that the land cannot be plowed until the autumn rains come to soften it, but just here a little pluck and determination will help wonderfully in this important work. There are very few sections of this country where plowing with a walking plow cannot be done at any season of the year, except when the ground is frozen; but should a thorough trial fail to make the walking plow work, the sulky plow comes to the rescue and is a welcome implement to the growing boy who drives the team. When advocating a system of this sort we are met with the reply from farmers "that we cannot afford to continue to buy new implements," but if they could realize the advantage early autumn cultivation has over that which is done later, the cry of "can't afford it" would not be heard in connection with buying sulky plows where the walking plow will not work. The fact is, such land cannot be profitably farmed without them. Land can be worked in autumn to have almost as good effect as summer-fallowing, with the advantage that a season is not lost. The following is the system which some very successful farmers follow: To plow the land deeply immediately after the harvest is off—the sooner the better, as delay at this time has a tendency to still harden the surface. Fields that must be left till last are benefitted by burning off the stubble, which has desirable effect in several ways. Firstly, a great many weeds and insects are destroyed. Secondly, the potash and phosphoric acid in the stubble are rendered more available for plant food in ash form than in the straw, and there is no loss of the same. Thirdly, if there is sufficient stubble to cause a scorching of the surface, the capillary attraction will be broken and moisture that would otherwise escape is held, and easy plowing is the result. But to return to the plowing. During this process, a deep and fine-cutting harrow should also be used on each day's plowing before leaving it (at the end of each half day would be better), so that no baking into lumps should take place. It is well to harrow three or four times, in order to thoroughly work all the soil for several inches down, and bring all vegetation to the surface. This harrowing process should be gone through every week or ten days until late in the autumn. This may seem like a lot of work, but by handling land in this way one plowing is ample, and will work up in the following spring with a cultivator in a way that will be surprising.

Another system is rapidly becoming popular in some of the best sections of Ontario, and is as follows: To plow the land shallowly immediately after harvest (the twin plow does very well for this purpose), then harrow two or three times. This system has the effect of causing the germination of a great many foul seeds, which will be all destroyed in the next plowing. This has also proved to be a very successful mode of destroying perennials, such as the various species of the thistle and ox-eyed daisy. Virtue comes from the clean cutting off of the plant above the creeping root-stock, thus having a smothering effect on the main root, which, when torn up by the next plowing in a weak condition, is successfully destroyed by spring cultivation. Early and shallow plowing also has the effect of breaking the capillary tubes, and retaining the moisture that would otherwise escape. The slight fermentation which will go on also conserves moisture, and puts the land in excellent mechanical condition, as well as to unlock inert plant food for the following crop. The second plowing should be commenced as soon as the ground has been gone over once, and continued until the whole is completed. This should be finished as early as possible, as late plowing is very little better than that which is done in the spring.

Ontario Veterinary College.

We have received the annual announcement of the Ontario Veterinary College, which will begin its session of 1893-94 on October 18th. This college has always aimed at imparting the instruction needed by the veterinary student within its own walls, and that instruction prepared specially with a view to fitting such students for his life work. This institution attracts yearly a large number of men from the United States and all parts of Canada, which, with the high standing taken by its graduates, clearly shows that this is the best place in North America to obtain a veterinary training.

Fall Wheat.

In this issue we publish letters received from correspondents. They are so arranged that they cover the entire fall wheat section of Ontario. A perusal of these will convince the reader that each grower should sow the bulk of his land with the one or two of the sorts that succeed best in his vicinity. A variety that suits well in some sections proves quite inferior in another, while a kind that proves valueless in one locality may lead all others in another county, or on another sort of land even in the same county. Very successful wheat growers find that a variety which does well with them one year may from varying causes not prove so good the next, hence it is prudent to devote the bulk of the area to at least two kinds, both thoroughly tested in the locality and reasonably certain to succeed. To observe and compare their growth, characteristics and yield, add interest to the work of the farm, benefitting the farmer directly as well as indirectly. The careful testing of varieties has become a necessity on all well-managed farms. No matter how highly recommended a strange variety may be, or how conclusive the proof of its superiority may seem, our advice to each farmer is to test carefully each unknown sort before sowing an extended acreage. Totally new varieties are being continually introduced. Varieties long grown in one section are unknown in another, and may be introduced at any time. We have made arrangements with reliable farmers and seed grain growers in almost every county in the province to send us reports of old and new varieties; these are published that our readers may be informed as to the varieties introduced in other sections, and how each succeeds.

We find the Red and White Clawson are good wheats, and suitable to many districts. The Red variety is a new sort; its habits of growth and appearance in the field closely resemble the old "White" Clawson. The straw is perhaps a little stiffer. The straw, chaff and berry are a deep red. In many sections it has proved hardy, vigorous and productive.

American Bronze is one of the best sorts grown, and has proved valuable over a large area, though in some sections it has not done as well as in others, being excelled by other sorts, while in other sections it has eclipsed every other kind. Where it does well it is a strong, erect grower, straw very bright and stiff, heads long and broad, and free from beards, chaff white, grains red and plump. It is less liable to rust than many other sorts.

The Early White Leader is a new kind introduced last year. The straw, chaff and grain are silvery white when perfect, the head is long and wide, bald except a few spurs on upper part of ear. In some parts of Ontario the straw was somewhat weak and inclined to lodge, in others it stood well. The yield when compared with other wheats has been from good to very good, and the sample good.

The Early Genesee Giant was also introduced last year. It is a striking sort, not resembling in growth or appearance of head any other. It has without doubt the most solidly filled head of any known. The straw is very strong at base of head, which is carried upright even when overripe. This accounts in a great measure for its ability to withstand storms without lodging. Chaff smooth, thick and hard, varying from a light to a dark-brown color, with dark spots. Beards short with many lacking on sides of head, and some growing only to short spurs. Grains large and plump, standing out very prominently on the head, of a light amber shade. Only small plots were sown last fall. All we have seen of these, with one exception, were very promising. This lot was eaten last fall by grasshoppers, which affected it very injuriously, as it rusted badly and was late.

Jones' Winter Fyfe closely resembles the Canadian Velvet Chaff in appearance and habits of growth, but the berry is red in color, while the Velvet Chaff is white. Like the Velvet Chaff, on suitable land and in favorable years it does well; the crop is handsome and the quality satisfactory; it is not suitable for general cultivation.

The Canadian Velvet Chaff is more reliable than the last named. On high, rolling, sharp land it usually gives good returns and stands the winters well, even on the brows of exposed hills. When sown on the rich, level fields of south-western Ontario it is a failure, yet on the highlands of Ontario and Northumberland Counties, and corresponding situations and soils, it gives excellent returns.

The Surprise, also called the Eureka, has white straw, chaff and grain. The straw is stiff and rather brittle, heads square and long, and on suitable land well-filled; chaff bald, except a few spurs at upper part of head. It succeeds only on bright, sharp uplands well underdrained. On such it seems to withstand the winter well, and gives uniformly good returns, but should not be sown on rich lowlands.

The above described sorts, except the two last named, were originated by A. N. Jones, Leroy, N. Y., who is undoubtedly the most successful grain hybridist in America. This year he is sending out two new sorts, viz.: The Pride of Genesee and Amber No. 125, both of which he recommends very highly. How they will suit the various sections of Ontario can be known only by tests. Any of the sorts named can be bought from reliable Canadian seedsmen, but buyers should be very careful that the seedsmen with whom they deal are reliable.