

SHEEP AND SWINE.**SHEEP FARMING.**

The special advantages of sheep farming are thus tersely summed up by Professor Brown: "Fewer risks by death; two crops per annum; consolidating and manuring light soils; rich manure at all times; more easily kept on poor pastures; less cost in buildings and winter management; greater returns for money invested."

The limited size of the farms, the absence of any large area adapted for sheep runs, and the necessity for providing fodder for six months in the year, during which the sheep are in the yards, have all tended to discourage sheep farming on a large scale in Ontario. But Ontario is, on the other hand, a country confessedly well adapted to the raising of sheep. The dryness of the atmosphere preserves them from the diseases to which they are most subject, and if such com-

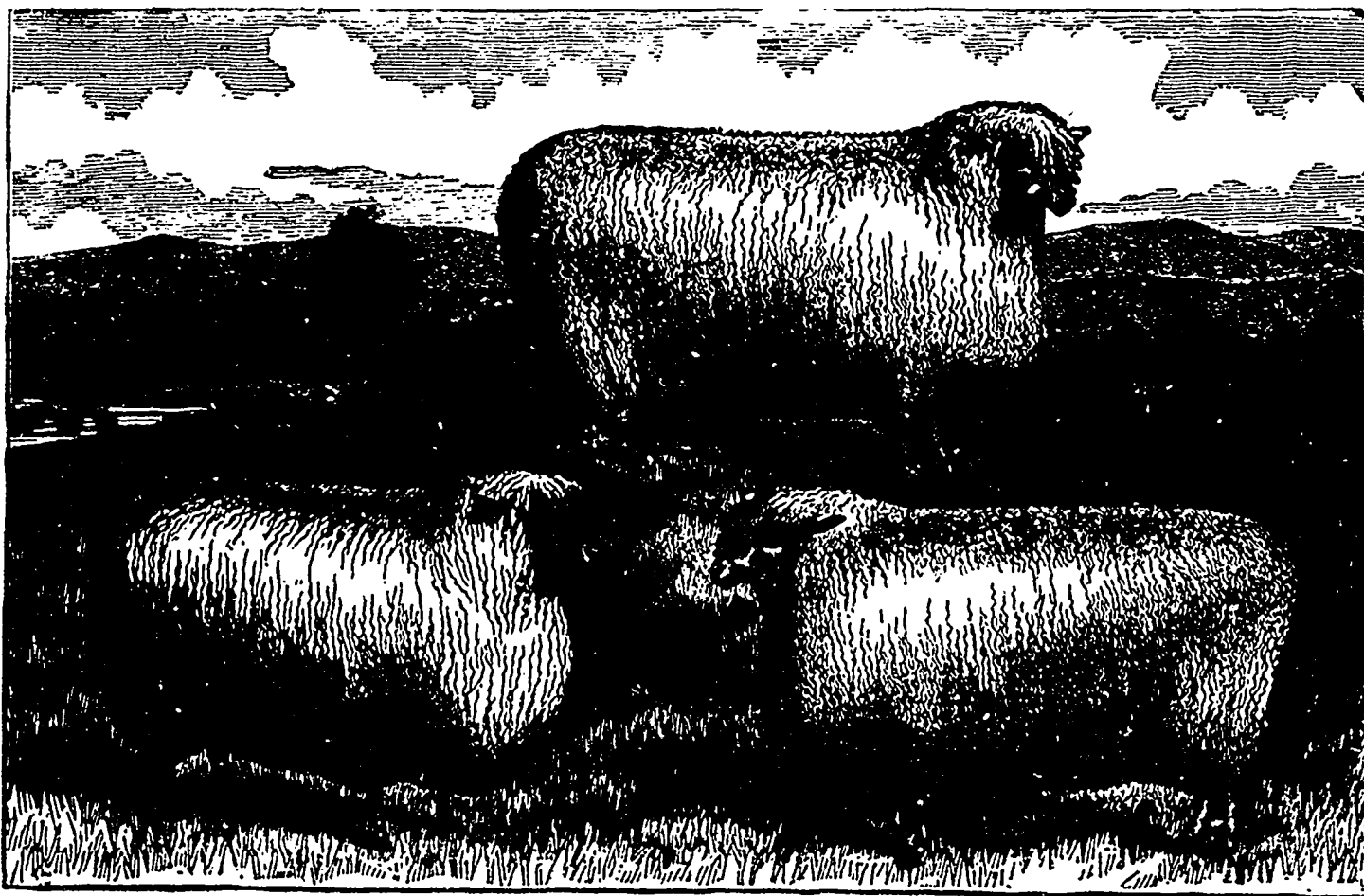
cause the steamship companies charge for sheep at per head, it is better to raise and feed large sheep. In this, however, as in everything else, the demand must ultimately settle the question of production or supply, and it will be the object of the Commissioners to indicate what—according to a fair view of the whole evidence—is the true policy of the Ontario farmer in respect of sheep-raising at this moment.

The sheep trade of Canada, outside the domestic demand, assumes three distinct forms: First, there is the trade in thoroughbred long-wooled sheep with the States; secondly, there is a large trade, mostly in lambs, for butchering purposes, with the States; and lastly, there is the shipping trade in mutton sheep for the British market. Then, for wool, there is for the coarse wools a large demand always from abroad, and a limited demand for local purposes at home, and, recently, an active demand both for home purposes and export for a medium wool, partaking largely of

sheep have their representatives in the group represented in the accompanying illustration, says:—

"The United States has hitherto been our best market for Cotswold sheep. The Kentuckians have been our best customers, and they are very particular about the quality of the wool, making that a specialty, and we have been trying to breed our sheep to suit the taste of that market; and I am satisfied that, in the last ten years, we have made a marked improvement in the quality of the wool. There is a difference in the quality of the wool in different parts of the same sheep. There is a tendency to grosser wool on the thighs. I consider that objectionable. The first place where our Kentucky customers catch hold of a sheep is the thigh, and if they find pretty good wool there they judge that it is good all over the body. . . . We also supply Cotswolds for the Western States—Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, as well as Kentucky."

This evidence is sufficient to show that there is a constant and active demand for both thoroughbred Cotswolds and Leicesters for breeding purposes in the States, with a prospect of the thoroughbred Southdown being also in request.—*Condensed from Report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission.*



COTSWOLDS.

plaints as the rot have ever been known, it has either been in the case of a new importation, or the result of some scandalous negligence. It may be broadly stated that in Ontario sheep are subject to no epidemics, nor, as a rule, to any fatal form of disease. And that Ontario is a most favourable breeding ground for sheep is proved, from the frequent reference in the evidence to the United States as a market for our thoroughbred sheep needed to improve their flocks, and which cannot be advantageously raised on the other side of the border line. The demand abroad for the long close wools, in which a large export trade has been done, while the tweeds and other goods chiefly manufactured in Canada required a wool not profitably grown in this country, was for a long period a strong inducement to the Ontario farmer to cultivate the long-wooled varieties. For mutton, they supplied a large carcase, and mutton was mutton to many people, no matter whether its quality, from a epicure's point of view, was first-class or not. Even today, in spite of the unquestioned preference of the British buyer for Down mutton of a moderate size, people are to be found who argue that, be-

the Down-wool character, and bringing a higher price than the long-wools. The evidence on these respective topics will now be noticed in due order.

FOREIGN DEMAND FOR THOROUGHbred SHEEP.

First, as to the American trade in breeding sheep, Mr. Russell, of Richmond Hill, County of York, says:—

"I have been breeding Cotswolds since they first came into Canada, and have taken prizes at the principal shows in Canada for Leicesters, Lincolns, and Cotswolds; but a few years ago I sold off all but the Cotswolds, finding they had better constitutions, and were the most profitable. My principal market is the United States. Last year I sent fifty to the States. In 1875 I sold all my yearling rams, eight of them at an average of \$105 a head. I have sold ewes of my own raising at \$300 per pair."

He adds as follows:—

"A number of Cotswold breeders have been springing up in various parts of the United States, but judging from their success, I am of opinion that the best stock rams for the American continent will be raised along the north shore of Lake Ontario. I do not believe that there is as suitable a soil and climate south of the lake. I do not think the Leicester wool has more lustre than the Cotswold. Of course Cotswold breeders could very soon improve the quality of their fleeces, but the American trade principally demands weight of fleece more than quality, and the profit to the breeder is to raise what is wanted."

Mr. Snell, of Edmonton (Peel), whose fine

CONCERNING SWINE.

A clover field is the place to pasture hogs. They come up in the fall in good prime condition for getting hardened in with corn.

If a good brood sow is rightly kept, the pigs from her will more than pay for her keeping by the sale of some over and above those intended to be kept.

A small early-maturing hog is much more valuable than a larger one, as no more food will be required to raise two good quick-growing ones than it will for a large, but slow, all lard hog.

Brood sows should be fed on slops containing plenty of vegetables. Rich food can be supplied, but it will not do to have it too concentrated. Give all the slops, rather watery, they will eat.

Young pigs will drink cows' milk very soon after they find out where the feed trough is. It should be supplied to them in plenty when the litter is large.

A good many sick animals are cured by too much doctoring.

Pigs are able to consume far more food in proportion to their weight than either sheep or oxen.