

ples of 'seed wheat.' Many competitors come forward with splendid samples; bright, heavy, plump, and beautiful. The superlative best—if I may so speak—are selected for the prizes. The superiority in point of quality being thus settled, it is resolved, before awarding the premiums, to test the productiveness of the selected sorts; and for this purpose several agriculturists receive a portion of the seed, to sow on their respective farms. It is sown, reaped, harvested, and thrashed; and by-and-by, out comes the judges' report, in something like the terms following:—'We find the quantity and quality so inferior that we cannot recommend the wheats for the Society's premiums'—just what was to have been expected. Grain of the weights I have mentioned, or approaching them, is about the limit fixed by our climate for their attainment; and if we sow them with a view of raising a better, or even so good, we shall find to our mortification, that instead of going forward, we have been going backward. Change of soil and situation have no doubt an invigorating influence on plants subjected to them; but no change of soil or situation can add improvement to a production which has already attained perfection, and those who have been attentive observers will be led to conclude that when vegetables, animals, or even the mental powers of man, attain an extraordinary degree of perfection, degeneracy in those particulars in which they have been superior seems invariably to await their offspring."

DESTRUCTION OF SHEEP BY DOGS.

We learn from a correspondent of the *Wellington Mercury* that great havoc among sheep has of late been made by dogs in the neighborhood of Guelph. Among the sufferers are Mr. McCrear, who lost nearly a score of valuable animals. Mr. Pipe had a choice flock of pure Leicesters, the original importation cost him \$500, and we regret to learn that only two animals have escaped. Mr. Chipchase's flock has also suffered, and Mr. Brown, the veterinary surgeon of Guelph, had four or five sheep worried to death about the same time. The neighborhood of Guelph seems to have to have been peculiarly unfortunate in this respect, but it is too common to

hear of the destruction of sheep from the same cause from various points of the Province, and the United States. It is high time that some effectual check to this enormous evil were applied. To individuals it is sometimes all but ruinous, and the prospective loss to the country is almost beyond calculation. The people should take up this question as one of common interest, and call upon the legislature and public bodies to institute a remedy; taking care to assist in carrying out the object by prompt and hearty *individual influence*. We cordially agree with the subjoined remarks of the correspondent of the *Mercury*, and consider it to be a duty to give them, or rather the cause they advocate, the benefit of our circulation:

Now, Mr. Editor, I fancy you and others, will think with me, that it is high time something were done, if possible, to stay the nocturnal marauding propensities of these sheep-worrying dogs. Cannot the County Council pass a by-law, or suggest, at its next meeting, an expedient to meet, in some measure, so important a case as this, in which the whole community, directly or indirectly, is concerned?

Who, let me ask, be his enterprise what it may, will for the future, feel even the slightest inclination to throw away time and money, and suffer also the trouble, anxiety and risk, (known only to myself and other importers) in bringing to this country improved breeds of sheep to be worried by dogs when he gets them home?

How is Mr. Pipe, more especially, to be compensated for his severe loss? Had that gentleman been fortunate enough to have secured the female produce of those valuable ewes and their offspring for the space of eight or ten years, what a little fortune would it not have been for him!—But to the agricultural community the benefit would have been much greater.

There is no denying that a dog, under proper control and for useful purposes, is a very valuable animal, but this is no reason why innumerable worthless curs should be allowed to roam the country at large, night and day, to the manifest injury of those who have no concern in them, and who can claim no remuneration for damages sustained through such trespasses.

If a wolf gets into your fold, and you can secure his scalp, you have a claim upon the government. But even, were you lucky