

away, and turned them into the home run. This should have been done a week ago, for there were about 60 ram lambs in the lot which should have been taken out sooner; they are a thrifty lot, will weigh from 80 to 100 lbs without any feed but grass, and are as well wooled and as thick as any I ever raised.

I use two imported rams last year of mature age, and the result has been most satisfactory. I will not quarrel with the breeder that uses a ram lamb. I have never seen bad results from it when ordinary care was used. But for a great flock of pure Shropshires, or any rugged lot of sheep, give me a sheep of some age. I have this year imported the best yearling I could buy in England shall use him on 50 of my ewes. I shall use a fine fellow, coming 8 years though, on the main flock.

And this leads me to the serious question of the fall care of a mixed flock of sheep, for in addition to the ewe, ewe lamb and ram lamb flocks, I have a large flock of heavy wethers that will have to dress 100 lbs each by New Year's. Now none of these can be confined for an instant in wet or foul yards, therefore years ago I built open sheds in the home pasture with a square hay barn attached, and there they stay the year through.

Bordering the pasture I have heavy fields of rape into which I can let the sheep when the feed gets poor in the fall and the gain they will make upon rape alone, with a chance to get a little rough grass in the pasture and access to salt at all times, is amazing. This rape will do them well until snow gets so deep they cannot get at it. Freezing does not hurt rape nor does eating part of the plant damage the rest of it. (1) Rape save other feed and gains the sheep faster and its healthier than any feed I know of. It is raised with little work and little care, but it must have a rich piece of land. There is but one way to raise rape: Make a piece of ground rich, harrow it every 10 days until June 25 to July 5, then seed with less than 2 lbs acre and brush lightly. (2)

Whatever you do, don't for an instant let the sheep go back in condition, and when the fall feed is gone have roots or ensilage to keep them going. You will then have no fears about the

result. A grave question soon rises with the flock master. What shall I use as a sire? Do not use a poor one, he is for the time being one-half the flock. A pure bred ram should always be used. He most likely will stamp his good points upon the lamb: but a poor ram is bound to be followed by poor progeny.

POULTRY BRIEFS (1)

Do not make the mistake of trying to keep your chickens small by starving them. Until they are fully feathered clear up to the tops of their heads, feed as though you wanted them to make roasters of, otherwise many of them will die while feathering. After this time you may be a little less liberal, but it is much better to keep growing chicks well fed and pushing along all the time.

It is not believed that any vegetable combination will fully take the place of meat in a hen's ration. It is easy to digest and the hen on active duty, manufacturing an egg in a day, must have the materials supplied in the most available form.

Farmers ought to supply many more eggs to the market than they now do, because they have better facilities than any other class to produce them, but it is safe to say that more than half the eggs and poultry produced in this province are obtained from the small towns and villages and from small flocks.

There is something to be known in properly selecting a male bird for the flock. If he has long, sickle feathers and developed early, the pullets from him will in all probability be early layers as the full hackle and long sickles denote early maturity. The comb is an indication of health and vigor and should be upright and in color, a bright scarlet red. He should have strong clean limbs with plenty of bone, unless of the Asiatic breeds which are feather legged. The whole appearance should indicate activity.

Feed plenty of green food and keep the gravel box and shell box well filled. Meat three times a

(1) We had sheep on rape, at Sorel, up to the 8th December in the year 1884.—Ed.

(2) 5 to 6 pounds. The plant *stem* is not what is wanted; the *leaves* are the valuable part.—Ed.

(1) Part of this was crowded-out of the last number. Ed.