

RAMBOUILLET BLOOD.

Juccessful Sheep Husbandry on Abandoned New England Farms.

As a result of six years of careful and painstaking experiments with sheep husbandry upon the abandoned farms of New England Hon. Frank P. Bennett of Saugus, Mass., president of the New England Woolgrowers' association and first vice president of the National Woolgrowers' association, argues that there is as much difference between races of sheep as between races of men, and that lack of success with a flock of sheep is more often due to the choice of an unfit breed in the beginning than to any other cause. By unfit he means ill adapted to the special conditions and surroundings of the farm upon which the sheep are to be maintained.

The domestic sheep now in the United States are mainly descendants of the flocks introduced by Spanish and English colonists. Hence the so called "native" sheep of all the New England states as well as of Virginia, the Carolinas and in fact of the entire 18 original colonies had for their progenitors the Downs, Leicesters and other English races of sheep. The English colonists brought their own sheep with them, and the Spanish brought theirs. The Spanish sheep imported by Christopher Columbus himself at the isthmus of Panama and by other conquistadores in Mexico and elsewhere have formed the basis of the flocks throughout the western section of the United States. The sential difference between the Spanish and English sheep may be summarized in a single sentence—namely, the sheep of Spanish origin can live together in large numbers with a minimum of care, while the English sheep will perish if ioused together in considerable numpers. The "native sheep" of New Eng-



RAMBOUILLET RAM. land, being wholly of English origin, contract fatal diseases of such certainty if kept in large bands that the farmers Massachusetts and Maine are accustomed to assert in general terms that sheep will not thrive if kept in flocks of more than 30 or 40 head.

For sheep raising upon a profitable scale upon the abandoned farms of New England, Mr. Bennett recommends the Rambouillet ram crossed upon "native" ewes. A history of these sheep, of which an illustration is presented herewith, is as follows: In 1785 Louis XVI of France, who two years before had bought the domain of Rambouillet and established an experimental farm thereon, obtained permission from the king of Spain to purchase and take from the last named kingdom a flock of pure Merinos. The Spanish king gave orders that the selection should be made from

the finest flocks of his kingdom. The Rambouillet flock was put under the care of an agricultural commission at the beginning of the French revolu-tion, and through all the horrors of that period it was preserved from danger, and from the day of its foundation in 1786 to the present, a period of over a century, this flock has been conducted with the closest attention to feed, care and selection. The common American Merino ram today weighs about 100 pounds, but the best American Rambouillet ram weighs from 200 to 270

pounds.

The Rambouillets began to be imported into the United States some years ago and are now largely domesticated in Ohio and Michigan. Mr. Bennett has had a considerable flock of them at Freedom, Me. The Rambouillet ewes make excellent mothers and under proper conditions will produce lambs at any season of the year.

As to the theory that the difficulty er's Gazette.

with sheep raising in New England lies in the destructiveness of dogs, Mr. Bena nett writes to a correspondent that this is a great mistake. He has experimented largely with sheep, both in Maine and in Massachusetts, and has never had any trouble with dogs, because he uses a dogproof barbed wire fence, the wire for which cost \$67.20 per mile, sheep and dogs cannot crawl under, and they will not jump over, because a fence of moderate height is never troubled by

sheep husbandry upon the abandoned animals."

farms of New England, Mr. Bennett re-

Parms of New England, Mr. Bennett replies to a correspondent as follows:

Dear Sirs—The development in sheep husbandry which we are sugesting is designed for present or prospective farmers who get their own living from the soil rather than for outside investors who propose going into the industry in the same manner in which they would invest a certain sum of money in railroad or mill shares or bonds. But we have no hesitation in asserting that a well managed investment in sheep husbandry upon farms which are now wholly or partially abandoned in New England would be entirely successful. In the first place, it should be remembered that the first cost of these farms is exceedingly small, and that most of them can be purchased for the cost of the buildings, if any buildings remain thereon. Ten thousand dollars would purchase 1,000 acres of such land with the necessary buildings and leave something over for quick capital. These should maintain 1,000 sheep, which, with thorough bred rams, should cost \$6,000. All other expenses of the investment, including tools, fences, furniture, etc., should not bring the gross investment above \$20,000.

In the management of this investment there should be no operating expenses to speak of except wages of men. Everything else should be grown upon the place, and one of the principal profits of the investment would lie in the fact that under the fertilizing influence of the sheep the property would be constantly increasing in value. In nearly all other in vestments a percentage must be charged off every year for deterioration of property, but in a sheep farm of this kind the opposite would be true, and a credit could be made upon the profit and loss account every year because of decided improvement of the property. This would appear in the growing productiveness of the farm, which, if it kept 1,000 sheep, handled with reasonable care, would furnish 6,000 pounds of wool should eventually increase to ten pounds per head, making from 1,000 sheep 10,000 pounds per annum of somewhat impro

\$5,000.

In such ways as this the annual gross earnings of the 1,000 acres should be raised to \$15,000 per annum, exclusive of the improvement of the property. We have no hesitation in saying that this kind of an investment under proper management could be multiplied almost indefinitely, and that an investment of \$20,000 could be made to eventually yield tentimes as great an income as an investment of \$20,000, and that the expense should not greatly exceed the amount paid in wages to men, as nearly everything required should be raised upon the farm.

FRANK P. BENNETT.

learned many useful lessons. They know now that a draft stallion must have some breeding quality and action as well as bulk. They know that high class coach horses cannot be successfully bred by the use of cold blooded sires and dams. They know that a trotting bred stallion to be of any real service as a sire must possess size and good looks as well as a fair degree of speed. The market calls for size joined to quality and good action, whether it be in "drafter" or "driver." The time is now here when every farmer can well afford to own a few choice brood mares to be mated to first class sires. The afford to own a few choice brood mares to be mated to first class sires. The "scrub" is dear property at any price. Beware of breeding to grade stallions or to those purely bred ones that are unsound or of faulty conformation. Do not patronize an inferior horse simply because he stands at a low service fee. Pay a fair price for the service of the best horse within reach. It is difficult enough to attain the superlative in horse breeding even where the best materials are in use. Low bred, under sized, cheap stallions are a curse to any community, and we trust that no Gazette reader will this spring be guilty zette reader will this spring be guilty of giving such any encouragement. If there is no first class horse available, it is easy to form a little syndicate for the purchase of a stallion likely to produce the sort of stock buyers are now so eagerly seeking. Big, fine draft geldings are scarce. First class harness and saddle horses are not easily found. Of "common horses" there are millions. Escape their competition by breeding for something better.

Against Cross Breeding. The farmer can make money out of any kind of cattle if he breeds them right. Do not cross your Shorthorns with Jerseys. You cannot expect to raise beef cattle if you cross with the dairy breeds. If you are breeding Shorthorns, breed Shorthorns. Do not cross. seys. I hear a good many farmers say that they would not have a Jersey on the place. I would not have the kind of Jerseys that they had either. A few years ago the farmers all wanted Jerseys that they had either all wanted Jerseys that they had either all wanted Jerseys that they had either all wanted Jerseys ago the farmers ago t If you are breeding Jerseys, breed Jerseys, and they all bought any kind of a cow just so she was yellow, and then they bred her to a Shorthorn bull, and they kept on breeding until they did not have a beef cow nor a dairy cow, and still they say the Jerseys are no good. The Jerseys are today the best milk and butter cows the world has ever produced. If a farmer is a beef breeder, he can afford to keep a few good Jersey cows for his milk and butter. Do not expect to get a good Jersey cow by crossing with your Shorthorns. Buy a good one from some good Jersey breeder.—Emmett McDonald in Breed-

Breeding Animals.

In selecting breeding animals get ewes and bucks of the kind that produce early maturity mutton, so as to get into market early with lambs and matured sheep. A noted authority says: "The sheep industry of this country has not yet arrived at a point where it becomes necessary to breed principally for wool, is very close to the ground, so that but producers should first get the best mutton producing qualities thoroughly bred into their flocks or bands, bringing the standard up to a half or three-quara dog unless he can put his paws upon it ter grade, after which it will be safe to when jumping over.

As to the value of an investment in turbing the band as mutton producing

THE BACON TYPE.

Pointers on Bacon Hogs Picked Up at the Brantferd Fat Stock Show-

The Killing Test. I think I would be correct in making the statement that more general interest was taken in the exhibit of bacon type hogs than was shown in any other section of the Provincial Fat Stock Fair, writes J. J. Ferguson to the London Farmer's Advocate. Ontario farmers, and especially those making a specialty of especially those making a specialty of swine breeding and feeding, are fully alive to the fact that "this bacon busialive to the fact that "this bacon business," as they term it, is becoming more than a passing craze for something new. Consequently, those who have not been raising the hog of the day are wisely adjusting their breeding operations to suit changed trade conditions.

A pertinent question crops up just here. One of our foremost breeders of "up-to-day" bacon hogs! put it to me thus: "Where is the utility of our farmers and breeders seeking to evolve, through

and breeders seeking to evolve, through the comparatively slow process of selec-tion, breeding and feeding, a type of hogs



YORKSHIRE SOW.

Winner of first prize: Toronto Industrial, Western Fair (London), and Provincial Winter Show (Brantford), 1898, as under 9 mths. Owned by J. E. Brethour, Bur-

widely from the foundation stock, when widely from the foundation stock, when we have now existing one or more strains which fill the bill almost perfectly?" There is a measure of truth in the contention, "There is also a pig of a different color." Partiality for old-time favorite breeds is hard to overcome, even though there may be dollars in so doing. Evolution after a system may, within the next few years, give us widely different next few years, give us widely different types of Berkshires, Yorkshires and other leading breeds. Let us consider carefully ere we entirely remodel typical characteristics of any of our present breeds. May they not each have a certain place in our

GOOD STALLIONS.

Quality and Action Wanted as Well as Bulk.

There has been an active inquiry for good draft and coach stallions all winter, says The Breeder's Gazette, and with the approach of the regular breeding season many sales are being consummated. Since the "boom" days in horse breeding stallion buyers have learned many useful lessons. They know now that a draft stallion must

Killing Test—This was, without doubt, the best number on a good program. So far as one demonstration carries weight, it went to show that no breed has a monopoly of desirable bacon type. Further, animals alive and dead did not exidently, external conformation is not a guarantee of quality in the curing-troom. We were given to understand that animals which stood at the top alive animals. Marketing our hogs alive, as wanted, how shall we determine when we have just the right thing? The practical talks by expert packers given on the animals. Killing Test-This was, without doubt

bacon wade, and as such is not wanted.
On the other hand, our farmers will not care to carry their pigs to 9½ months (the required age) to make the weight that could be reached three months before.

For some time past the packers have been making their requirements known to the farmer, and rightly so. Now it is the farmer's turn. He demands that the to the farmer, and rightly so. Now it is the farmer's turn. He demands that the present system of "pooling" hogs at a certain price for allcomers is unjust, since it places no premium upon the bacon hog. Just so soon as local buyers are instructed by their firms to pay for hogs according to a sliding scale of prices, based upon weight and bacon type quality, so soon will an impetus be given to the business. The packers can hardly expect; that a few farmers here and there will continue to do missionary work for them. continue to do missionary work for them

Canadian cheese and butter have an unrewarded. enviable reputation in the markets of Great Britain. There is a large trade in bacon over there. In '96 Britain imported over \$65,000,000 worth of hog prodquality, for which our customers over the sea are always ready and willing to pay the price.

How Orchards Make Values. Good orchards of all fruits have a fixed value that has been well maintained.
They are rarely found for sale, their estimated value being from \$200 to \$1,000 per acre, the difference in price growing out of the location, condition and varieties grown, the latter being regarded as a matter of great importance, but which in many instances has been too little thought of in planting for commercial

best applegrowers in my county, has assured me that \$1,000 per acre would be no temptation as a purchase price for his erchard, he claiming that his plantation of Nonesuch and Baldwins has paid him of Nonesuch and Baldwins has paid him more than ten per cent. net on this sum through the past ten years. The past season, with only a moderate eron and an unusual amount of defective fruit, the receipts from about 25 acres have amounted to something over \$4,000. Now, how about the value of ordinary farm lands in general through the same section? A hasty review of the situation may not be amiss. A portion of the land owned by my father, independent of the old orehand reterred to, seld some 40 years since at referred to, seld some 40 years sings at \$136 per aste, and it has recently changed hands at \$60 per acre, and this is 70 certical Agriculturist.

A friend, who is known as one of the

THE DINING ROOM.

Its Proper Farnishing and Appropriate Decoration. The dining room should always be kept simple in style, the table with its decorations being the center of attraction. Pictures may easily be dispensed with, but if they appear at all they should be few, large and dignified. Portraits are often placed in the dining room, but the old fashion of fruit and game studies is becoming obsolete. A rich paper or tapestry, with decorations of old china, is usually preferred to paintings. Green, brown or with decorations of old china, is jusually preferred to paintings. Green, brown or red are favorite colorings for the wall, and Dutch blue is also employed. Solid, rich tones are usually chosen, and the furniture, which should not be crowded, is always that the control of the simple, large and substantial. Besides the table and chairs a sideboard to hold the silver and a side table for use in serving

are necessary, but nothing more is abso lutely requisite. A tall clock and a glazed

> Janger of contracting other diseases from a well swept carpet. The same argument a well swept carpet. The same argument may be advanced with regard to bed curtains. In themselves they are said to be unhygienic, but where the room is at all drafty they are a necessary protection for the head, as a current of cold air upon the head is a fruitful source of catarrh, bronchitic and kindred troubles.

head is a fruitful source of catarrh, bronchitis and kindred troubles.

Cretonne, being a washable goods, is highly desirable for curtains, furniture coverings and oushions. Japanese printed cotton crope is also very pretty and artistic and not expensive. The furniture of the bedroom should be simple and not too crowded, and every care should be taken to secure good ventilation while avoiding drafts.

ruche of cream mousseline de sole around the edge. Over this is a tunic of water green silk cut in square tabs and trimmed with ruches of mousseline. The bodice, which has a low decolletage, is also of

sole, trimmed with green ruches, ties at the back with long ends. JUDIC CHOLLET. FASHIONS IN JEWELRY.

green silk cut in squares and trimmed with ruches to match the skirt. The front

opens over a narrow plastron of mousseline de soie. The belt of white mousseline de

EVENING GOWN.

a screen in front of the pantry door is al-

a screen in front of the pantry door is al-ways desirable, but a couch or sofa is quite out of place. The furniture should be of oak or darker wood and the screen of tapestry, leather or similar rich, deeply colored material. The table should be the center of brilliancy, daintiness and beauty. There ought to be low lights—lamps or groups of candles—at each corner in addi-

Long Necklaces and Charms to Bring The fashion of long chains worn around the neck is augmenting rather than diminishing. Not only are there gold chains embellished at intervals with amethysts, opals, diamonds, pearls or turquoises, arranged as beads or set flat, but the place of the jewels is now often taken by ancient coins, amulets and oriental charms. Four leaved clovers are still in high fayor for iewelry. In gold or enamel, set. The fashion of long chains worn around



SATIN TOILET.

a chain or bracelet or pins for fastening the watch. The real clover leaf inclused in crystal is used in the same manner and in crystal is used in the same manner and is guaranteed to insure the best of luck.

Opals are much less expensive stones than they used to be, an opal of brilliant fire being now obtainable at a moderate price. A recent novelty is an opal necklace composed of round opal reads of graduated size, but all small, with flat beads of rock crystal alternating with them. These necklaces are made like pearl necklaces, just long enough to go around the neck.

around the neck.

The illustration shows a costume of black satin. It has a trained skirt, ornamented at the front with fine jet embroidery. The pointed bodice is tight fitting, and is decorated with jet embroidery, which simulates a little bolero and bonders. each side of the puffed vest of white mouseline de sole. Bows of black satin are placed at the front of the corsage and Louis Quinze knots appear at the shoulders. The collar of draped white measurement of black satin ambroid. de sole has points of black satin embroidered with jet. The little bondet of ten roses is trimmed with a cluster of black estrich tips.

JUDIA CHOLLET.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

The Hygienie Furnishing of Modern

Although wall hangings of cretonne and other fabrics are very attractive for sleep-ing rooms they are far from being hygien-ic, as they afford harborage for dust and microbes. The walls should be tinted, or microbes. The walls should be tinted, or papered, the only hangings being the curtains and portieres, which can be easily taken down and cleaned. Doctors also declare against carpets, but as the occupant of a sleeping room will always walk about barefoot the danger of catching cold from sold boards is probably greater than the



CLOTH CAPE.

EVENING GOWNS. Blegant Costumes For Dinner-and

Ball Wear. Crepe de chine, one of the most dainty Crepe de chine, one of the most darky and charming materials, is having an appreciative reception this winter. It composes many attractive gowns, especially for evening wear, and may be plain, embroidered or covered with applications.

Broche and damask silks and sating of the control of th great magnificence are used for ball; dinner and reception costumes. They are frequently combined with plain velvet and are righly adorned with lace and guipure. The high arrangement of the hair now adopted has rendered the use of large, hair crnaments absurd, and the decoration is



GIRL'S DRESS. usually quite inconspicuous—a flower and a little bow of ribbon or a tiny plume. The latest novelty for the hair is, however, a little animal's or bird's head. This is

worn when the evening gown is trimmed

WINTER FASHIONS.

Plaids of Various Sorts For Chil Plaids in wool, velvet or poplin are vorites for children's wear. Indeed but children there would be no use for the small, bright red plaids which are warm and attractive looking. Nothing to more suitable for school dresses than plaid serges trimmed with black braid or black velvet ribbon. They are neat, serviceable and entirely up to date, giving excellent wear at a moderate cost.

Little girls as well as little boys wear sailor suits. These suits consist of a dren's Wear.

sailor suits. These suits consist of splaited skirt mounted on a little underodice, over which is worn a blouse with podice, over which is worn a blouse with an elastic around the waist or else a little pea jacket sort of coat. For little boys the skirt is replaced by bouffant breeches, gathered in at the knee or by regulation sailors' trousers, expanding into bell form at the ankle. These costumes are not



CLOTH COSTUME.

always of plain navy blue material. They are often of plaid goods or of solid shades of brown, green or red.

Plaid cloaking is largely used for coats for little boys and girls. This is double faced and different on the two sides.

Usually the reverse of plaid cloaking is a solid color, but sometimes it is another plaid, while the double faced material may also be found having both sides plain. center of brilliancy, dailluiness—lamps or There ought to be low lights—lamps or groups of candles—at each corner in addition to the light suspended overhead, and the vases and other decorations should also be low in order not to obstruct the view of the guests.

A picture is given of an evening gown having a skirt of cream bengaline, with a having a skirt of cream bengaline, with a having a skirt of cream bengaline, with a ruche of cream mousseline de sole around the edge. Over this is a tunic of water green silk cut in square tabs and trimmed green silk cut in square tabs and trimmed and is trimmed with black plumes.

Judic CHOLLET:

to secure good ventuation to a cape of gray Usually the reverse of plaid cloaking is a Usually the reverse of pl basque and separates in front to show a double vest, consisting of a plastron of white faille inside folds of blue velvet. There is also a double collar, the lower of blue velvet, the upper of white faille with applications of guinare embroidered with applications of guipure embroidered with applications of guipure embroidered with gold. The cravat is of lace with a gold buckle, and gold buttons trim the vest, coat and wrists. The hat of gray blue felt is trimmed with blue velvet, jeweled pins and gray feathers.

JUDIC CHOLLET:

SUMMER FABRICS.

Premonitory Symptoms of Warm Dealers are now lavish y exhibiting wash fabrics for next season's wear, and many of the designs and colorings are most attractive. In percale shirtings large plain stripes are extensively shown in black, navy, pink or blue and white. There are also extremely pleasing, sheer betistes and also extremely pleasing sheer batistes and lawns in fancy weaves, with dots and figlawns in fancy weaves, with dots and ngures or stripes composed of thick threads.

These fabrics come in delicate coloringe—lavender, light blue, pink, green and yellow—and in almost all cases a touch of black is introduced in the pattern. Sometimes both black and white appear on the colored around.

colored ground.

Blue and white summer silks—Chinese, Japanese and foulard—promise to be as well worn this year as they were last.



with fur or feathers.

Innumerable efforts have been made during the last five or six years to introduce round and square toed shoes instead of pointed ones, but the public has systematically refused to adopt them. The new shapes have been labeled "latest fashion" in vain. Calling them so does not make them so, for if nobody wears them tematically refused to adopt them. The new shapes have been labeled "latest fashion" in vain. Calling them so does not make them so, for if nobody wears them they certainly cannot be the mode. The pointed toe remains in vegue, and for swaning wear the high heel continues to be as high as ever.

The stage usually sets the fashion, and in the case of the little girl's party dress illustrated the fashion thus set is very pretty. The dress is of accordion plaited china silk, pale pink, and the edge of the skirt is trimmed with a ruche of pink mousseline de soie. The plaited blouse has a half low neck, encircled by a wide collar of white silk edged with fine plaiting, which is continued down the front in a double jabot, The sleeves are plain, with flaring crafts. The belt is of pink milk, and a yank rose is worn at the neck.

Judio Grollett.

PROPERTY TO THE PARTY OF THE PA