

### "The Coming Sheep."

Pray let us have this wonderful sheep without further delay, as competition is the life of business, and if the Hampshire is as good as you think him to be, some of us are very much mistaken,—in referring to your last issue I find the following: "There he will see lambs which present you with a pound weight per quarter from the day they were born."

Now, Sir, the conclusion that we must come to, if this be the case, is this: that if we go to Salisbury we can see lambs that at 90 days old would weigh 360 pounds.

I must confess that although I have seen in England some of her best sheep, and am well acquainted with most breeds, yet it has never been my good fortune to meet with any, coming to this wonderful weight, that is, in the time you mention, indeed it makes me wonder why England should require to import either beef, mutton, or pork, if she can raise such quantities of mutton in so short a time, but I have no doubt you will enlighten us, poor Canadian farmers, as to the way these sheep are raised.

Now, Sir, for the last thirty years I have been more or less connected with sheep raising, and therefore presume I know a very little about it, though perhaps only a little.

20 years ago, it was our practice to get a Hampshire lamb to use on Leicester Ewes, for lambs for the butcher, and they did well. I once bought 60 Shropshires Ewes, thinking to do better, but did not repeat that experiment, up to that period. I had never tried the Shropshires, but now having been an importer and breeder of Shropshires for some years past, I say most confidently, that they are not only the sheep for Canada for to day but for the future, especially if we wish to improve our sheep for the requirements of the English market. The Hampshire requires more feed than the Shropshire, and I think it is generally admitted by those best acquainted with the subject that three Shropshires will live and thrive on the same food that would maintain two Hampshires.

I cannot but notice the style in which you speak of the two breeds, which already shows that you would write up the Hampshires, and down with the Shropshires, but if that is your intention, I hope you have "good staying powers" as you are clearly in for a "big thing." Referring to the Journal of last September, you say: "I wish he would get a flock of Hampshire downs;" then immediately after, in speaking of Shropshires, you say: "a fine useful breed of sheep, but as farmer's stock, inferior to the Hampshire"

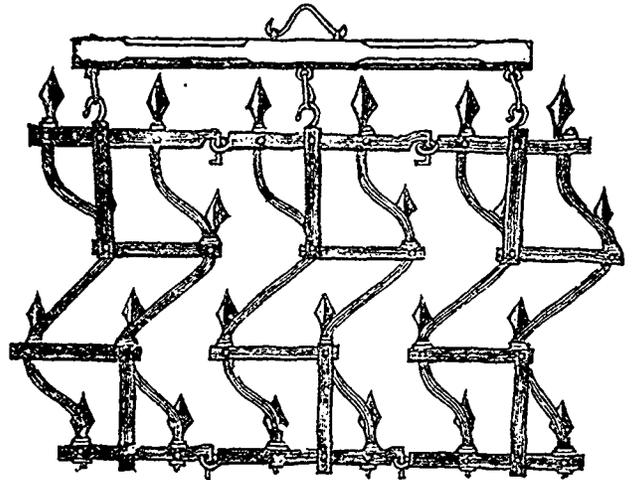
And pray, Sir, in what way are they inferior? You say also in the same number, page 76 "that at the last Smithfield Club Show, lambs weighed 33 pounds the quarter." You also repeat this statement in the March number, with the addition of the lambs being 9 months old; if my memory does not betray me most of the Hampshire and other black-faced lambs are dropped long before March, some before Xmas, some even earlier than that, and the lambs that come to the weight you mention, must not be thought to have "picked about" for a living but are well fed with grain and cake, right along from the time they are three weeks old,—in speaking of prices paid for Shropshires during the last year you mention one Ram being sold for £160 sterling, (or nearly eight hundred dollars of our money) but state it was an exceptional price. Here I think you are in error, as I find from the published list, three that made that price, and several made £100 each. It may be true that the Hampshire lamb would for a short time gain more rapidly than the Shropshire, but if the two were kept on the same food until two years old, and that the fare of Canadian sheep generally, I know the Hampshire would look very like a section of a rail fence, while the Shropshire would look, and be, a handsome, compact, thrifty sheep. Indeed he is one that can get

and earn his own living anywhere. If the Hampshire has all the cake, meal, grain, and roots he can eat, he is a good sheep, if not I say he is not half as good as the Shropshire for Canada.

Professor Sheldon says: "It appears to me that Shropshires and Border Leicester are calculated to improve the flocks as Short-horns are to improve the herds of Canada;" and in looking over the report of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm for 1880. I find that they have introduced the Oxford Down, the South Down, and the Shropshire Down, but I do not find any mention of the Hampshires. Surely they cannot know that a Hampshire lamb would weigh 80 pounds when 20 days old. If you will tell us how we can do this, I shall be glad to learn, meantime I say: "Shropshires for ever."

Shropshire, North Hatley, P. Q.

**Drag or Scarifying harrow.**—Once more we beg to draw the attention of our readers to an implement of which we have before made mention (p. 34, vol. 2, French Journal) and which should be employed by every intelligent farmer. With this it is as easy to work the seed into the autumn-ploughed as in to the spring-ploughed land. The couch-grass and other weeds are easily eradicated by it, and brought under the influence of the sun and wind they quickly perish.



Where land is difficult to work, the drag-harrow is indispensable. We can honestly recommend it. Messrs. R. and W. Kerr, 57, 59 and 61, St. Joseph St., Montreal, whose advertisement appears elsewhere, offer these implements for \$16: cheap enough, as they are made of the best steel and iron, and must therefore be very durable.

### NOTICE.

The Honorable M. H. COCHRANE begs to inform the Agricultural Societies that, about the last of June, he will receive 10 or 12 Young Hereford Bulls, from 10 to 13 months old, which he will be disposed to sell at \$200 each, a price which barely covers the cost of purchase and importation. Also two valuable Clydesdale Stallions, just arrived; a bay, 3 years old, and a black, seven years old, each weighing about 1900 lbs. They will be sold at reasonable prices to Agricultural Societies.

For particulars apply to

JAMES A. COCHRANE, Comptroller, or  
D. McEACHRAN, Montreal.