

BULLETIN LXXXIII.

PART I.

FEEDING SHORN AND UNSHORN LAMBS IN WINTER.

This experiment began on December 3rd, 1891, and closed on April 12th following, thus covering a period of 131 days. It is the second of a series of experiments having the same objects in view. The results of the first experiment are given in Bulletin LXVIII, issued in 1891.

The objects of the experiment include the following, viz.: 1. To ascertain whether shorn or unshorn lambs will give the best returns for the food consumed in winter. 2. To ascertain the relative gains that will result from liberal feeding at such a time. 3. To ascertain the cost of feeding lambs for fattening purposes in the winter season on the ration used in this experiment. 4. To ascertain the adaptability of the work to the conditions of Ontario.

The Animals Selected. Twenty lambs were chosen from those obtained in Eastern Ontario, and which reached the farm August 29th, 1891. These lambs are more fully described in Bulletin LXXVII issued earlier in the year. As will be apparent from the weights, these lambs were above the average of the lot from Eastern Ontario, although they were not above the average of the grade lambs of the whole country speaking in a general way. They were of mixed breeding, the blood of the long wools probably being in the ascendant.

Conditions Governing the Experiment. On November 30th, the lambs were divided into two groups of ten each. The fleeces were then removed from those of one group. On December 3rd they were all weighed separately and the experiment commenced. The pens in which they were fed and the yards attached were the same as those used in the corresponding experiment of the previous year, and which are described in Bulletin LXVIII, page 4. The lambs in both groups were given the same kinds and the same quantities of food, except in the item of hay, of which they were given all they would take. They were weighed every month.

Food and Feeding. The food fed to the lambs throughout the experiment consisted of hay, grain, bran and roots. The hay was principally clover, and it was fed uncut. The grain and bran ration