

identially: "Although I find the cow fanciers of the towns and villages readily purchase the calves from my herd at fairly remunerative prices, yet I must admit that for buoyancy, constitution, ability to assimilate all kinds of food, power to endure hardship and respond nobly to kind treatment, the cow *par excellence* is the Ayrshire." He even went further and said: "During the last twenty years I have bought and sold a great many cows. I very often find when I drive into a man's yard and select some sleek, high-headed and good-looking animal, and ask the owner to put a price on her, that he will say, 'That is our Ayrshire cow and we cannot spare her.'"

Did I hear some one say: Does he not know that it was not an Ayrshire cow that won the sweepstakes at the leading fairs last fall? Yes, and I know, too, that the winner is owned by a relative of my own and in my own county—the banner dairy county, dear old Leeds. Gentlemen, if the ghost of your poet, Robbie Burns, will forgive, I will say:

"Auld Leeds whom ne'er a place surpasses  
For splendid cows and bonnie lassies."

Do you think I would detract from the laurels of Mr. Gilroy's magnificent cow? Certainly not. I feel more like scolding your Ayrshire breeders who have so long headed the list that you seem to have become plethoric or surfeited with prizes. I doubt not but the surprise you got last fall will make you hungry again for the fruits of the ring, and I expect when we meet next winter, instead of dilating upon the conquests of a distant cousin, I may have the opportunity of rejoicing with an Ayrshire brother.

No, gentlemen, there is no place to stand still. Either retrogression or progress will be the lot of every man. He who is content to stand at ease on fields already won will have the grim satisfaction of seeing his competitors turn up richer treasures at his very feet.

Before closing, I desire to express a wish that each member of this Association may be careful to never, under any circumstances, not even to make a sale or win a prize, insinuate anything against the honor of another breeder or merits of his herd. Such reprehensible conduct always has a reflex action, and will turn again and smite the striker. Better by far that each should endeavor to emit a ray of sunshine across the path of his fellow, and that all should labor to improve our favorite breed for our own particular benefit and the prosperity of the common weal.

Gentlemen, I again invite you to criticize this paper, believing that by interchange of thought we can benefit each other, and remembering that it was in a discussion on my first paper that the millionaire lumberman and breeder of the Ottawa Valley, while naming the fancy breeds in which he was interested, declared that for the farmer and dairyman the best animal in the world was the Ayrshire cow.

#### Breeds of Sheep in Relation to Soils, Markets, and Crops.

BY RICHARD GIBSON.

A wealthy man who has purchased a farm near a city of 175,000 inhabitants wrote me lately outlining his plan and asking advice. His object was to supply the choicest lamb and mutton to the local market, and he mentioned that he had been advised to "go in" for Southdowns and Hampshires. My reply was to the effect that he was right as regards Southdowns, but why Hampshires? It is true they attain great weight at an early age; but can we here provide such crops as is usual in Hampshire. I suggested Dorsets from the standpoint of a profitable business transaction. I have been several times asked why I gave such advice, and to save further correspondence I beg use of your columns. In the first place, they are the breed of all others to provide house lamb—a luxury for the wealthy; hence an article, though limited in demand, that always commands abnormal prices; besides which they are hardy and require but little more attention than a flock of grade Merinos, except at yearning time.

The Hampshire is one of the brightest examples of the skill of the English flockmaster, and on the peculiar soils, on the chalk formation, with the climate, and in connection with the variety of crops grown, no breed can approach them in weight of carcass; at an early age three-quarters of a pound per day is no unusual increase. If I were farming in the South of England, on the chalk, no other breed would I for one moment consider. My father kept a flock of from 500 to 600 ewes near Overton, and what I know of them was learned there. They are hardy, have grand constitutions and appetites, and while the ewes are the scavengers, eating all the leavings of the lambs and fattening sheep, they manage to rustle along on such food and conditions under which no other breed could survive. On the other hand, the lambs live like fighting-cocks; no expense or care is spared in providing a succession of crops for their benefit; and if the flowers in my lady's garden would help to push the lambs along, I am afraid shepherd and "maister" would be folding them thereon. But let us see what Prof. Wrightson has to say on the treatment of Hampshire lambs, and, moreover, he is their greatest advocate and friend, and I would advise all sheep men to get his book, the latest English production, titled "Sheep—Breeds and Management." After writing of the weights attained, etc., he goes on: "The result shows the wonderful earliness of maturity in improved Hampshire Down sheep as a breed, in

which quality they are unrivaled, and also the merits of the system of feeding which can produce it. The three factors for the achievement of such a result are: First, the breed; second, the mode of feeding; and third, the peculiar soil and climate of a Southern county adapted to the growth of summer fodder crops."

Now, I just want each reader to go over the above once more carefully and note there are three conditions to success, two of which it is impossible for us to obtain on this Continent. The question naturally arises, If these conditions are true as regards Hampshires, do they not apply to many of the other breeds in a greater or less degree? If so, may not some of the failures which we hear of be traced not to the breed experimented with alone, but to the neglect to provide such crops as they require for their highest development? When we know more of the history of the various mutton breeds, the nature of the soil and crops grown thereon, and general environments, we shall be the better able to select the breed most likely to succeed under our especial management. But let us return to Prof. Wrightson's account of the lamb life of the Hamp. during February (the lambs are dropped in January). He writes that "at this time they are in receipt of eight different sorts of food per day." Following the system as pursued, he comes to: "Take for example a fine midsummer day when the lambs awaken upon a fold of vetches. The shepherd is up betimes and begins by giving them some allowance of cake (oil cake). He then grinds them some mangels (into troughs), which they eat with great relish." [The mangels are of the previous year's growth, and illustrate what I have so persistently urged, viz., the growth of this root for spring food.] "They are next admitted to a fresh fold of vetches, after which they are walked quietly to a neighboring piece of good rape or cabbage. After two hours or more, and in the heat of the afternoon, they are allowed to spread themselves over some old sanfoin or aftermath clover. They will then return to the vetch fold, and after receiving another feed of corn (grain, etc.) they lie down to well-earned repose, having increased their weight by one pound each."

Is there any wonder that Hampshire lambs grow rapidly with such rations; or when neglected to be supplied with such a variety of succulent food, that they fail to make the weights as recorded? And the breeder is apt to blame the breed when he is alone in fault, either in not providing the food necessary or in selecting a breed that under his conditions of farming he could not do justice to.

This is not an attack on Hampshires, but is a sort of introductory to a series of letters which I purpose writing upon exercising due care in selecting the breed adapted to soils, market, and crops.

[NOTE.—We have arranged for a number of copies of Wrightson's excellent work on Sheep Husbandry, referred to by Mr. Gibson, and which was reviewed briefly in these columns some time ago; and a copy may be obtained by sending us the names (accompanied by three dollars) of three new subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.—EDITOR.]

#### The Sheep Industry in New Brunswick.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have only a dozen ewes, and sometimes think I should not keep any, as I am only about two miles from the town, and think cows are more profitable where we can sell milk. Then there is the dog nuisance to be considered, though our Assembly passed an act last session which I hope may diminish that. My sheep were turned out in excellent condition. The hay crop being short and grain very cheap, we fed more grain and less hay than usual. I certainly think sheep raising might, with profit, be very much extended, particularly in these Maritime Provinces. The business here has declined greatly in the last three years, as the price of lambs which were bought in September and October for the American market fell from an average of about \$3 to about \$2, or perhaps a little less. Almost all the sheep in our county are Shropshires or Shropshire grades; in fact, I might almost say the same of the whole Province. There are a few people who breed Leicesters, and a very few others who stick to the Cotswolds. I had many enquiries for lambs last year, and could have sold many more than I had at fair prices. Only a few days ago a neighbor who has Shropshires came to see if he could get two or three Cotswold ewe lambs. He said the Shrops were good, hardy sheep, with nice fine wool, which was much liked at the factory; but when he asked if they would give any more for it than for coarse wool, they did not respond, so he had concluded to make a change, and wanted something which would give him more wool. I think one of the very best lambs I ever saw was a cross of a Shropshire ram and Cotswold ewe, and I dare say crossing the other way would be good also. When Shropshires were first introduced in our county most of the sheep were Cotswold grades, and the first cross was so successful that it gave the new breed a great boom. Now, however, I find there is quite a demand for Cotswold rams to increase the size and length of wool. Our Government is going to buy quite a number, I believe, to be disposed of at the time of the Provincial Exhibition about the first of October.

Carleton Co., N. B.

C. R. CARMAN.

#### The Sheep-Worrying Dog—A Subject Needing Ventilation.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I was particularly well pleased with the last issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, more especially to observe the increased attention you are giving to sheep raising, an industry which, to my mind, will give us a better net return than some branches of farming about which more noise has been made. All your correspondents overlook one hindrance, viz., the sheep-worrying dog. Possibly they have not personally experienced losses through one of these raids, but I believe with a good many it has really been more of an obstacle than low prices for sheep products. Now, while I am thankful for the valuable information already given in your journal, on sheep raising as well as other practical subjects, I would appreciate a discussion of the best way of abating this hindrance to sheep farming.

S. B.

[NOTE.—Our columns are open for a discussion of this subject, and we invite correspondence thereon, believing that its ventilation will prove beneficial to the industry. Three points suggest themselves to us:—

1st. What steps may the sheep raiser himself take to prevent or abate the danger from sheep-worrying dogs?

2nd. What should be done, in the event of a raid, in caring for injured sheep, etc.?

3rd. What changes, if any, should be made in the laws bearing on this subject?]

#### The Philadelphia Horse Show.

The horse Show Association of Philadelphia held its fifth annual exhibition in the open air, St. Martin's Green of Wissahickon Heights, on May 26-30. A couple of rainy days materially interfered with the attendance, while they lasted, but caused a great crush upon the two final days. The exhibits surpassed those of last year in numbers, which increase was made up in the Hackney, Thoroughbred, hunter and jumper classes. Breeding classes and trotters in harness were rather light.

Hackneys, of course, made the big showing. This immensely popular breed, which is being given the advantage of the best purses and the highest class of schooling and skill in breeding, is well-nigh totally eclipsing all other classes of horses at these great modern horse shows. The race track has had its day a long time, and still holds sway in many cities, but when the great enthusiasm of the trotting or running meet is remembered to result largely from "jockeying" and "bookmaking," an honorable, fair-minded horse lover cannot but feel it a dishonorable enthusiasm as compared with the expressed appreciation of really meritorious beauty and style of the animals themselves.

The Hackney judges consisted of Messrs. A. B. McLaren, Alexis, Ill.; Robt. Graham, Claremont, Ont.; and H. K. Bloodgood, New Marlboro, Mass., who executed their duty in a critical, intelligent and conscientious manner, commanding the approval of all fair-minded persons who witnessed the placing of the ribbons.

Canadian Hackneys were not in evidence on this occasion. Keen competition was a marked feature of the various classes. The recipients of the awards in the mature stallion class over 15.2 hands were: Langton Performer, from the stud of F. C. Stephens, Maplewood Farm, N. Y.; Senator Cochran's Royalty, the head of Donigal Farm Stud, Pa.; and Mr. Joseph E. Widner's Lord Rufus 2nd, who won in the mentioned order. These are all great horses. One of Maplewood's recent importations, Clifton 2nd, scored in a hot class of stallions below 15.2 hands. We are pleased to notice that the great mare, Winnifred, taken to Maplewood along with the lamented Ottawa, from the stud of Robert Beith & Co., Bowmanville, Ont., demanded the attention and favor of the judges in the brood mare class, securing, as she honorably did, the second award. She has a noble foal at foot from Ottawa. She was defeated by a mare, Dorothy, from the stud of Mr. Widner. The championship mare of the show was found in Mr. Stephens' two-year-old, Lady Sutton, who won the first prize as a yearling in New York last year, when she also won the junior championship. Langton Performer did the job of the day by going off with the best male award. He is a bigger horse than most of them, while his quality, manners and action can hardly be surpassed.

The competition in half-bred Hackneys was keen, to say the least; in fact, the action exhibited by a number of the contestants was not surpassed by their more aristocratic brothers.

Saddle horses are undergoing a decided improvement in these days of horse shows. Quality and spirit are both necessary adjuncts to a winning saddle. Hunters, too, are improving, and were much in evidence on this occasion. Ponies were fine, numerous, and much admired.

Just two classes were provided for Thoroughbreds; both those were creditably filled. Trotters were scarcely up to standard, but some good ones were among those present.

Weak carbolic acid (about one part acid to forty of water) sponged on the hair of horses and cattle will drive away the whole tribe of flies, mosquitoes, and the like. It is easily applied and it will conduce to the comfort of both the beast and its owner.