

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

READ BY D. A. MONTGOMERY, ESQ., BEFORE THE STATE GRANGE.

North Carolina with her great water power for manufacturing purposes, with her broad bottoms for agricultural purposes, her rich hills of thousands of acres for sheep walks, should rank among the first of the wool growing States.

It has been demonstrated that wool growing in the north, with long cold winters, has been profitable, and why not be equally profitable in North Carolina, which has neither the extreme cold of the north, nor the intense heat of the south?

It cannot be made profitable in North Carolina, I should think it useless to attempt it in any other locality. Sheep husbandry was among the first necessities of the early settlers, who were confined to the resources for the greater part of their wearing and household apparel. No other branch of rural economy was so well suited to their comfortable habits. The sheep required almost no care, so far as food and shelter were concerned, but from the migratory habits of the animal, scattering and straying, the depredations of wild animals, and lastly sheep killing dogs, were the causes which prevented their flocks from assuming patriarchal dimensions.

But those days are of the past. As the country has improved those obstacles have been overcome; we are more thickly settled; neighbors can keep an eye on each other's flocks; the wild animals have nearly all been killed, and nothing is needed now to make sheep husbandry a success in the State but the enactment of a stringent law for their protection.

The whole number of sheep in the United States as per census of 1870 was about twenty nine millions.

According to the Auditor's report we had on the 30th of September, 1877, 875,808 sheep in the State, valued at \$457,871, susceptible of producing one million and a half pounds of wool, worth at 40 cents per pound, \$601,284; deducting 50 cents per head for keeping them, say \$187,950, leaving a profit of over four hundred thousand dollars from their fleece alone, to say nothing of the increase in numbers, which would amount to 30, 40 or 50 per cent, annually.

This would be an average of 4,000 sheep to each county. Why should we not have five times that number? Graham has 17,500, the largest number of any county in the State. Randolph is next on the list, and has 13,385. Only ten counties number over 10,000. Much attention is being given to the improved and favorite breeds—the Merino, Saxons, Cotswold and Southdown.

In view of the high rates of transportation by railroads to northern markets, where both wool and mutton command a high price, wool should be our main object, mutton being merely incidental. I hope it will be but a short time till our cheap and unoccupied lands will be made to resound with the bleating of sheep, instead of the howling of dogs.

The mountain region of North Carolina is an unexplored sheep range, and it is to be hoped the whole State will soon wake up to the fact of its peculiar adaptation to the business of sheep raising. The number which we have already, is but a moiety of the number that will at some time contribute to the fertilization of the soil, with food and raiment for the people, and bless the good old North State.

I have said my chief object in raising sheep should be for the wool, but the question of raising them for their meat is not an unimportant one. With the growth of our country the consumption of entrees increases, and the favorite meat now, and that which brings the highest price is lamb, and with an increasing interest in lamb, and the wool, wholesome and palatable as all meats, it is already getting so scarce and high that it has to be purchased only as a luxury by those who can afford it. Their value to the farm is not perhaps fully understood. It is an old proverb "wherever the foot of the sheep touches the land is turned into gold."

It is said that sheep will enrich land faster than any other animal. On the mountain pastures and in our fields they are valuable in cleaning up the land, keeping it from weeds and briars and bringing it to clover and nutritious grasses. They are easily raised and cared for both summer and winter, in short sheep husbandry has a value to make the land more profitable, more productive, at a less expenditure than any other animal kept on the farm. Another consideration of great and intense moment, connected with wool growing which has awakened heretofore scarcely a thought is that all important item in this increasingly populous nation termed "allimentary."

A Government or State that fails to adopt a system of political economy that provides for the obtaining of food and clothing for its subjects can scarcely be recognized as within the pale of civilization. As one of the best, cheapest, most healthful and quickest produced kinds of animal food, mutton stands pre-eminent. In view of the wonderful increase of population in our country, filling our cities to overflowing, and supplying our vast manufacturing with operatives, we cannot, in the nature of things, become "vegetarians." We are an active laboring people. No people on earth equal us in activity. The continued labor of body and mind exhausts supplies, hence we become great consumers. Our laborers ought to be well paid and well fed. The operatives of European manufacturing would feel satisfied with a sumptuous dinner of mutton once a week, while in this country nothing short of the old Whig regime or roast beef at mutton and two dollars a day will satisfy our people. The wool grower, therefore, may be recognized as one of the public benefactors of his country.

We sometimes hear the wisest men of the day predicting a future for this country which amazes us. If these predictions are to be fulfilled, or how much importance or moment is it to us, as political economists, to see that every source of supply for food and clothing be fostered? God forbid that through longer negligence and want of foresight by our Legislature, we shall ever become the land of food riots by a starving mass, when we are blessed with a domain so vast, soil and climate so propitious to this

branch of industry. Our interest in sheep is greatly enhanced in view of the fact of the unbounded facilities for producing both wool and mutton. The capacity of our country in North Carolina for sheep husbandry is boundless and even greater than our needs. In behalf of every man, woman and child in the State, who needs and appreciates warmth of clothing in winter, cheap, tender and palatable meat to eat in summer, let us appeal to the members of the Legislature, now in session, to give full, broad and ample protection to this branch of industry.

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We have purchased and are now receiving and offering at low figures for cash both by wholesale and retail at our LARGE NEW BRICK STORE, on South Elm St., opposite Odell Ragan & Co. every description of goods to be found in a first class

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We ask all to call and examine, as we are sure we can make it to their interest to buy of us. Dec. 24th 1878. FIELDS & CAUSEY

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NOTICE

At the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Alamance county, held on the 6th day of January 1879, it was ordered: That hereafter no account for making coffin for any one other than a recognized pauper, will be allowed, unless the work is authorized by the written direction of a member of the Board. T. G. McLEAN, Clerk of Board

CAROL CLUB RATES.

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Grand, Upright & Square PIANOS.

Most liberal inducements

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Any kind of marketable produce taken in exchange for work.

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Asheboro, N. C.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT of Alamance County, Joseph Tate, Ruffin P. Mitchell and wife Margaret and others. vs. William Tate, James Tate, heirs at law of James Tate, names, names, sexes and residence unknown, heirs at law of Griffith Tate, names, names, sexes and residence unknown and other if others there be who are entitled under the will of Joseph Tate dec'd. who are non-residents of this State. This is a proceeding to sell real estate described in petition for partition. The real property has been sold and the commission has made his report, and a motion for confirmation is now pending; and if objection thereto is not filed within ten days after full service of this notice by publication, and report will in all things be confirmed, and title directly to be made to the purchaser. Done at office in Graham this 9th day of Aug. 1878. A. TATE C. C. ALAMANCE COUNTY, Clerk.