



Chiloan Sheep.

Mr. R. C. Kendall in a communication to the *Working Farmer* in relation to the Chiloan breed of sheep, says:

Belonging to Chili, and outlying its Southern coast, is the Island of Chiloe, considerably larger than our Long Island of New York, and famous alike for its superior firewood, its abundance of black beans, (*Frijoles Negree*), its semi-eternal rains, and a breed of sheep remarkable for their abundant fleece, and the extremely fine flavor of their flesh.

The dried mutton of Chiloe is much sought after, always in demand, and highly prized along the whole coast, from Valparaiso to Panama. It is always tender, is more readily cured than any other flesh, and whatever may be the age or condition of the animal when killed, is always entirely free from that objectionable, *sheepy* flavor, characteristic of mutton generally.

Whatever the origin of the Chiloan sheep may have been, it is certain that at the present time, they have several distinctive features that place them something beyond a tenth cousinship to any other race of sheep extant. They stand quite a third taller than the South Down, have a form more nearly resembling the Springbok of South Africa, than the ordinary sheep, and utter the shrill, plaintive cry of the gazelle, instead of the flat, imbecile baa—a—a, of their Continental cousins. The fleece, at a year's growth, attains the enormous length of sixteen to twenty inches, hanging on either side of the animal when at rest, in a glossy fringe; or floating out like a gossamer cloud, as the startled creature bounds away with the fleetness almost of the flying antelope. The quality of the wool is certainly not quite so fine as that of several of our improved breeds, but the texture is very soft and down-like, having nothing of the harshness of our native wools, while the color is a pure, brilliant white. The fleece does not part along the spine, as in all other sheep, whom the arrangement subjects to almost inevitable death if exposed to a protracted, cold rain-storm, but lies in a compact mass along the back bone, shedding the water as effectually as the plumage of a water fowl; and thus enabling the Chiloan sheep to withstand, with impunity, the long, cold rains of the country, and the piercing south winds that come down with their ice-chills from the Antarctic Ocean.

The main subsistence of these sheep, is the black bean before mentioned, which grows in great abundance all over the island, quite as regardless of the incessant rains as the animals themselves. Failing, however, to procure a supply of beans, the Chiloan sheep will, nevertheless, manage to maintain himself in most excellent condition, on forage that would tax severely the endurance of chamois. We tested that quality once, a good many years ago, when we drove the Old Junior—"fat-catcher," down into the Gulf of Anadir after John Whale. We took in sixteen Chiloan woolly ladies and gentlemen, as passengers, when we got 'round the Horn, and every one of them took to ship's fare—beans, peas, mondy ship bread, and musty meal, with infinitely less grumling than fore-castle Jack did. And they kept in most excellent condition, too, with three splendid ewes, supplied us gentlemen of the quarter deck with an abundance of rich milk for our tea and coffee, during our four months Arctic cruising.

As none of our animals appeared to suffer in the least from the severity of the weather, I am inclined to the opinion that our climate in the Northern States would agree with them perfectly; and, doubtless, had the Island of Chiloe been but a quarter as well known to us generally, as England is, we should, at the present time, have the Chiloan sheep among us as common as our South Downs and Cotswolds.

Points of a Good Ox.—At the recent State Agricultural gathering in Boston, Mass., the following rules for testing the merits of an ox were elicited:—"You should stand before him and be sure he has a fine hazel eye, large nostrils, broad at and above the eyes, rather slim horn, toes straight out before him, straight in the knees, bosom full, back straight and wide at his hips. If you find these points, said the speaker, you need not ask of what breed he is, but if you want one, buy him. He said that he had found that a black-eyed ox was not to be depended on, as he will kick and be ugly, while a short-headed ox will start quick from the whip, but he will soon forget it."

Salt to Save Manure.—A recent issue of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* gives the following as a preservative of the fertilizing elements of manure:—"Dissolve some common salt in water, sprinkle the same over your manure heap, and the volatile parts of the ammonia will become fixed salts, from their having united with the muriatic acid of the common salt will quickly absorb carbonic acid, forming carbonate of soda; thus you will retain with your manure the ammonia that would otherwise fly away, and you have also a new and most important agent introduced, viz., the carbonate of soda, which is a powerful solvent of all vegetable fiber."

Lime on Diseased Seed Potatoes.

James Wood, of Essex, England, describes, in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, the result of an application of lime to diseased potatoes, as follows:

"They were very bad, about one part in four being fit for food. I took them up in September, and divided them into three sorts, viz.—the few that were good I put by themselves; the bad I made two sorts—the small and really rotten I threw into the hog-sty, the rest of them I put into an out-house, and sprinkled some unslacked lime all over them, letting them lie unprotected until February, the lime protecting them from frost.

I then planted what had any signs of life in them, which consisted of about three sacks. The sorts planted were the Pink-eyed, Forty-fold and Red Ashleaf. I am now raising them (Aug. 1.), and am happy to inform you that I have not found one diseased among them, and have taken up several rods; in fact, they are the best crop I have had for years, and if there was one sound potato planted, it was by accident."

Coarse and Fine Woolled Sheep.

Senator Collamer, of Vermont, in a speech on the Tariff and Wool Interest, in the United States Senate; called attention to the fact that England produces no fine wool, in the following language:—"To this day England does not raise a pound of wool out of which you can make a yard of broadcloth such as any gentleman in this house wears. For a long time all her fine wool has come from abroad. After Spain went into the business of digging gold in South America, all her wool was exported to England, there manufactured, and sent back to Spain to be sold, and they dig gold to pay for it. The result has been that while they have run down, England has run up." In regard to the quality of mutton from Merino sheep, he said:—"In Vermont, where we have so many fine woolled sheep, our people use little or no mutton, though we have a little lamb occasionally. I never saw any mutton there that compared at all with Virginia mutton which I see here."

Points of a Work Horse.—The California Agricultural Society requires that a first premium work horse shall be between fifteen and sixteen hands; quick, lively ears; broad between the eyes; round barrel; short loins; well up in the shoulder; deep chested; square quarters; flat legs; short between the knee and pastern; and hock and pastern; hind legs well under him; speed equal to eight miles an hour on the road, and at least three miles at the plow; with sufficient blood to insure spirit and endurance.—[*New Hampshire Journal of Agriculture.*]

Productive Sheep.—The *Granite State News* says that the gross product of four sheep, owned by James Piper, of Tuttonborough, N.H., during the last three years has been about sixty dollars. Allowing \$2.50 as the cost of keeping each sheep a year, and the net income will be about \$30, a good profit on \$11, the original cost of the sheep. One of these sheep reared six lambs in two years.

SOUTHERN ITEMS.

The Kentucky provisional government have passed an act taxing brokers twenty-five dollars per week, who charge a discount on Tennessee and Southern money.

Johnson, the rebel provisional governor of the state, in a message to the Legislature, says he will gladly resign his position when Gov. Magoffin shall escape from his virtual imprisonment at Frankfort.

The Bowling Green *Courier* says that fifteen thousand Kentuckians are in the rebel army.

The Wheeling Convention had disposed of the boundary question. They include, in addition to the thirty-nine counties included by the ordinance of the August convention, the counties of Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe, Mercer, and McDowell, and also take in Hampshire, Morgan, Berkeley, Jefferson, Pendleton, and Frederic, on the condition that a majority of the votes cast at the district, and a majority of the counties comprising it, express themselves in favor of coming in at the election to be held on a day appointed by the legislature.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer's* Louisville correspondent announced on Dec. 14th that Gen. Johnson, with 15,000 Federal troops, on the northern bank of Green river, and Gen. Rousseau seven miles distant, preparing to join him. Another brigade, under Gen. McCook, is also moving to concentrate at Mumfordsville. Gen. Buckner, with 25,000 men, was covering all the hills two miles back from Green river, and was preparing to prevent troops from crossing the river. Gen. Thomas's division, on the left wing, is bearing down from the east to get in Buckner's rear, and a battle was daily expected.

It was rumored at Somerset that eight hundred cavalry had surprised a portion of Col.

Hazzard's regiment and killed a few and captured some of Hazzard's camp, fifteen miles from Columbia.

Gen. Tressevant has a long communication in the Memphis *Appeal*, showing the insufficiency of the rebel defenses at and about Memphis. He says that Columbus once lost the Federals would have no trouble in marching directly to Memphis, and that Memphis is entirely defenseless and indefensible. He calls upon every male citizen of the State to enroll, and threatens all who do not with death.

A Good Take-Off.

The ominous purport of Secretary Seward's circular has turned the attention of several patriots to the condition of harbor defenses on the lakes. A writer who has given the subject much attention, and appears to be familiar with the nature and condition of the defensive works at different lake ports, communicates the following to a Cleveland paper:

BUFFALO.—This port is so nearly played out that it is of very little consequence whether it is taken or not. The bullrushes growing on the docks will afford an excellent concealment for masked batteries; however, in case there are any who feel sufficient interest in the old town from early associations to defend it. The probabilities of hostile ships being shattered on the breakwater is so great that Buffalo requires few defenses other than those which were provided years ago. Nearly everybody in Buffalo has turned auctioneer, and the enemy could not hold the city two days before they would be sold out—knocked down to the highest bidder. Then, too, the fatality of Buffalo creek, where the coroner is engaged, night and day, in looking out cold, unpleasant bodies, would have an influence in keeping the foe at a distance. If all the above means of defense are unavailing Buffalo has a final resort. Let the city give the enemy such a reception as they treated Lincoln to last spring, and they will get away as soon as possible and never come again.

DUNKIRK.—The principal defenses of Dunkirk are the high price of board and poor whisky. In case of extreme danger, Fred. Clement's Zouaves, of Fredonia, would doubtless run down. Their march from Fredonia to Dunkirk would be greatly accelerated if the enemy attack Fredonia first.

ERIE.—The sanguinary ferocity with which the Eriens once carried on a railroad war is not forgotten, and will show all foes what they are to expect, if they attempt to take the city. They make things "rip" when they get going. The United States steamer Michigan lies in the bay during the winter, and being made of iron would add great weight to the defense. Some of the Michigan's officers play a very good hand at "Dutch Rounce," which would be rendered available in a hand-to-hand conflict. Perry's flag-ship Lawrence is sunk in Erie harbor, and there are such unpleasant associations in the British mind connected with the ship, it would be no wonder if the rotten and water-logged relic of the battle of Lake Erie would be sufficient in itself to keep a British fleet from rounding the peninsula.

FAIRPORT.—A formidable sand bar across the mouth of Grand River will effectually prevent the entrance of hostile vessels—or any thing else. If the enemy take Fairport, they will have to visit Painesville to do it, for nearly all the buildings that once constituted the former place have been moved to Painesville.

MILWAUKEE.—This port is defended by three or four daily papers, mounting several editorial guns of small caliber, "en barbette." It has a so-called outer line of defense extending to Grand Haven, Michigan, which line all vessels approaching from the northward are forbidden to cross, on pain of being "blown up" by the guns aforesaid. It is also defended by an institution called an academy of music, to which the people would be sure to invite the enemy immediately upon his arrival. His only escape from such an affliction will be to keep away. But the principal defense of Milwaukee is Booth. Should the enemy attempt to take it, they would have to take him with it—a thing no civilized enemy would consent to do. Milwaukee, therefore, may be regarded as comparatively safe.

RACINE.—Should the enemy attempt to take this port, he will have to land in skiffs or flat-boats above and below the harbor, which no navigator but a flat would be fool enough to attempt to enter. The safety of the place consists chiefly in the fact that it is the residence of several Illinois wildcat bankers. Should the enemy take it, they will find that the chief luxury done will be that which it has "dun" 'em.

KENOSHA.—Defended mainly by natural earthworks, which it is safe to say no vessel drawing more than six feet of water, can by any possibility get over.

CHICAGO.—Should the enemy ever be foolish enough to make a "charge" upon Chicago, he will undoubtedly be arrested and brought for trial before the common council, and as the proceedings will last till the war is over, there will be no danger of the "charge" being sustained.

CALUMET.—The only port on Lake Michigan can not be defended.

In relation to the ports on the other side of the lake, their chief safety consists in the fact that none of them are worth taking.

ABSTRACT

Of Meteorological observations for the month of December, 1861, at G. S. L. City, Utah, by W. W. Phelps.

MONTHLY MEAN.

Thermometer in open air.

7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
35	45	38

Dry Bulb.

7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
40	45	42

Wet Bulb.

7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
34	36	35

Highest and lowest range of Barometer: Max. 25.—Min. 25.—

Highest and lowest range of thermometer in the open air: Max. 55° Min. 18°.

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

- 1st. Rainy day; wind south.
- 2d. Clear and warm.
- 3d. do
- 4th. Cloudy; wind south; rained at 4 p.m.
- 5th. Cloudy and cold.
- 6th. A.M. clear; p.m. cloudy.
- 7th. Cloudy.
- 8th. Cloudy and warm.
- 9th. Cloudy; windy and stormy at night.
- 10th. Clear.
- 11th. do
- 12th. do
- 13th. Hazy.
- 14th. Clear and warm.
- 15th. do
- 16th. do
- 17th. A.M. Clear; p.m. cloudy.
- 18th. Cloudy.
- 19th. Stormy.
- 20th. do
- 21st. Cloudy.
- 22d. do
- 23d. do
- 24th. do
- 25th. Gale at 8 a.m.; cloudy.
- 26th. Partially clear.
- 27th. Cloudy.
- 28th. Partially clear.
- 29th. Cloudy and warm.
- 30th. do
- 31st. do

The Canadian Gunboat Fleet.

This swarm of hornets, destined in case of war to play an important part in the contest, consists of about 220 vessels, and is divided into four classes. The first class, of which the Flying Fish, one of the Prince of Wales's squadron, was a specimen, is composed of screw-steamers of 200 feet in length, and 350 horse power, and carry two 100-pound Armstrong pivot guns, and four 42-pound Armstrong broadside guns. The pivot guns are placed one abaft the foremost and one between the funnels. These boats are very fast, and draw about nine feet when light. The crew is 100 men.

The second class are 150 feet long, 200 horse power, carry four 68 pounders, and the crew number 80 hands. The draft is about 7 feet.

The third class are about 100 feet long, of 60 horse power engines, armed with one 68-pounder pivot gun, and two brass 24-pounder howitzers on the broadside. This class is by far the most numerous of the flotilla, their light draft, from 4 to 6 feet, enabling them to steam into shallow creeks and inlets, while their formidable armament renders them effective against the strongest forts. The whole bulwarks are provided with movable wrought iron plates, rifle-proof, and reaching about seven feet about the deck, so as to protect the men from the enemy's riflemen, in case of having to force the passage of narrow rivers defended by sharpshooters.

The fourth class is also a useful flotilla for very shallow streams and close in-shore service. It comprises vessels of about 80 feet long, the engines averaging 20 horse power, each boat carrying two 32-pounder pivot guns amidships, the crew numbering thirty-six hands, exclusive of officers. The draft of water, with stores, ammunition, provisions, and guns on board, does not exceed 3½ to 4 feet.

The whole flotilla is provided with high-pressure locomotive boilers, the place necessarily devoted to the machinery rendering this expedient absolutely imperative to economize the limited area. Yet, small as the horsepower appears, the speed of the fleet of gun vessels is by no means contemptible, the slowest averaging 7 to 8 knots, and the fastest from 9 to 11½ knots.

The mortar boats, 100 in number, are cutter rigged, with small spars. Their tonnage averages 120 tons, and their draft of water from 4 to 5 feet. Each is about 40 feet long and 18 broad, and armed with one 13-inch mortar, weighing, with stand, 9 tons. Some idea of the immense strength of the construction of these vessels may be formed when it is mentioned that under each discharge the mortar recoils with a pressure of 75 tons.

The whole of this flotilla could be equipped for sea in a few weeks, and their hostile presence upon the Canadian lakes would not only cover all Western Canada from attack, but render the American lake cities very unpleasant places of residence for peaceable people. All can pass up the St. Lawrence canals, and a great part of them through the Chambly into Lake Champlain.