

progeny crossbred. For purely flock purposes continue on these lines. The progeny of the Lincoln ram make good commercial sheep, but unless the ewes are exceptionally strong and "roomy" a heavy death-rate at lambing is almost inevitable.

To keep up a crossbred flock a number of half-bred ewes should be bred every year, as after several crosses the progeny will have lost its more marked Merino characteristics to a considerable extent.

"Come-backs": Some flockowners seem to have been fairly successful in what is known as the "come-back" system—that is, when Merino ewes have been unobtainable, to use a Merino ram on well-bred ewes which have practically lost their Merino characteristics. This is generally recognized as crossing the wrong way, and to be adopted successfully requires the very greatest of skill and care in culling.

In the more moist hill country of the North Island a Romney Marsh ram should be used in place of those breeds recommended for dry country. The fact should be emphasized here that the Romney to be used in such cases should be of the dense-woolled active type.

Romneys or Lincolns, comparatively pure, are particularly adapted for heavy low country, especially in a fairly moist climate. Judging from present indications, the former breed of sheep, owing to its marvellous adaptability to conditions vastly different to its original habitat, is possibly destined to be the predominating breed in many districts of the Dominion, more particularly so in the North Island.

Purebred Shrops, Downs, and other dark-faced breeds are excellent sheep on suitable country; and to breeds of this type, mated with crossbred ewes, the high standard of our frozen mutton, especially lamb, is largely due; but great care should be taken to see that none of these crosses are allowed to remain in the flock for breeding purposes.

Indiscriminate crossing should be avoided, and those who may find it necessary to purchase breeding-ewes should avoid saleyard lots unless breeding and history is guaranteed.

Any breeder mating his sheep promiscuously will in a very short time find that his flock will have deteriorated into a mediocre one, however good it may originally have been. His only remedy, then, is to make a clean sweep and commence afresh.

Ryeland sheep (the "white-faced" Down) are not generally known in this country, but are proving themselves admirably adapted for present-day requirements, and give excellent results for crossing purposes in connection with the fat-lamb and frozen-mutton industry when it is considered that wool must always remain a dominant requirement.