

The three-quarter-bred ewe can be mated with a Southdown ram, the progeny making an excellent freezing line. With the first cross (half-bred) and the second cross (three-quarter-bred), the lines throw to the Lincoln ram in the length of the wool. Further, they keep the wool on well, as the tip is harder and stands a good deal more knocking about than with some other crosses.

#### ENGLISH LEICESTER.

The crossing of English Leicester rams with Merino ewes gives a very fine line of lambs, also termed half-bred. This lamb catches the eye on account of its well-shaped head (which also makes the lambing easier), well-sprung ribs, nice broad back, and full rump and short legs, with meaty hind quarters. It was on this cross that Canterbury Province mainly built up its world reputation for "prime Canterbury" in both lamb and mutton, and it will always hold good.

If not required for slaughtering as lambs, but intended for sale after being shorn as hoggets, the animals should be kept in a progressing condition up to the time required, when with but a little topping-off they are ready for the market. When intended to be kept on the place until four- or six-tooth they can be grazed on the higher country, and, according to the feed available, kept there until about eight or ten weeks before selling, when they should be brought in, put on to good feed, and finished. This line will always cut a good fleece of shafty combing-wool which is sought after by buyers. The ewes are valuable, and if it is desired to keep to the same line they can be mated with half-bred rams. If mated with the English Leicester ram the progeny will be three-quarter-breds. Wether lambs should be sold off as soon as they are fat enough for the market.

If the ewes of the line are kept and classed out the coarser-wooled animals should be mated with Southdown rams and the finer-wooled with the Shropshire. In either case the line produced will be a good freezing one, and the quality of the wool more even than would be the case if the ewes had not been classed out and mated with one breed of Down ram only. Any lambs produced by using Down rams are best sold off the place as soon as ready for market, because their strong point is meat and not wool-production. None of the Down cross should be allowed to get in among the breeding-ewes, as by keeping the breeding-flock separate the class of rams required are easier worked than if there was a mixture of all breeds throughout the ewe flock.

#### BORDER LEICESTER.

The progeny of the Border Leicester rams and the Merino ewe—again termed half-bred—is rather a smart-looking lamb with ears nearly always pricked, showing that the animal is on the alert. These lambs are good travellers, and meet with a ready sale. They fatten fairly quickly, throwing to the Border Leicester in that respect. They have to be got away fairly early, as later on they are inclined to run to leg, which, when killed, shows a bit long in the shank-bone, making the carcase look longer. The meat, however, is of a good, clean-looking colour. There is also commonly a fault as regards the wool, which is somewhat on the light side. This becomes more apparent