

as the sheep ages, and is termed "going off in the wool." If the ewes of the half-bred line are kept on the place, and it is desired to keep to and breed the same line, they should be mated with the half-bred ram. If the ewes are mated with the Border Leicester ram the progeny will be three-quarter-breds. The whole line may be sold off as fat lambs, but if any ewes are retained they can be mated with either Southdown or Shropshire rams. After the subsequent lambing, when ewes and lambs are ready for market they should be sold off.

The Border Leicester ram is used a good deal in Canterbury and north Otago for producing half-bred lambs. In the rest of Otago and in Southland the ram is used a great deal to mate with Romney ewes. The lambs from this crossing are good doers, and they usually kill out at high weights.

CHEVIOT, WENSLEYDALE, AND COTSWOLD.

In the past Cheviot rams were sometimes mated with Merino ewes, and for a while this cross progressed in one or two of the southern districts, but as time went on, and the Border Leicester, Romney, English Leicester, and Lincoln breeds and their crosses were found to be more suitable, the Cheviot was dropped.

Some years ago the Wensleydale was mated with small numbers of Merino ewes, but this cross was not kept going like the other lines mentioned. The half-bred lamb produced was somewhat similar to the English Leicester ram and Merino ewe cross, but the few farmers who had the line did not keep to it. They might have done so had the importation of the rams been more frequent or numerous.

Mating of the Cotswold ram with Merino ewes produced rather a good lamb, but there was a good deal of trouble in lambing, and the cross is now practically out of existence as far as New Zealand is concerned. In the "sixties" and "seventies" there were a fair number of them in this country.

ROMNEY.

The Romney Marsh ram mated with the Merino ewe gives a good strong lamb. The progeny (half-bred) mature fairly quickly, but they have not been bred to the same extent as the Lincoln-Merino, English Leicester-Merino, or Border Leicester-Merino crossings. It was with the Romney ram and Merino ewe progeny that the late Mr. James Little first tried inbreeding. The Romney is mostly used for crossing with other longwools, more especially in the North Island and the Westland and Southland Districts, where it gives very satisfactory results. The Romney is the predominating breed in New Zealand.

RYELAND.

The Ryeland breed is also suitable for the fat-lamb or mutton trade, the body being square, compact, with a good loin and well-filled leg. The line matures quickly, thus coming to hand early, and there is a good percentage of lambs sold direct off the ewes. Needless to say, when this can be done with any breed or cross it lowers the cost of production to the grower. Then, there is the first-cross produced by mating Ryeland rams with ewes of other breeds. The progeny