

scarcity of turnips through crop failure the runholder will pay about £5 per acre, and 2,000 hoggets will require about 50 acres. In addition, a certain amount of hay is usually bought, while droving may cost £25 or thereabouts—*i.e.*, roughly, £300 is incurred, or 3s. per hogget. This is a conservative estimate.

(2) The tussock hogget is healthy and apparently not infected with parasites to any extent, while losses on turnips are sometimes considerable, and in wet weather sufficient hay is not on hand to maintain the sheep without turnips. Some runholders maintain that, providing a tussock block sunny and free from snow is available, it is better to send to the plains two-tooths and older ewes, which have a better resistance to parasites, and keep the hoggets on the sunny blocks of the run. Against this is the argument that the hoggets thrive better in the comparatively mild plains climate. In all cases, however, the winter migration allows a higher carrying-capacity, or, what amounts to the same thing, less mortality. As an example of this, a case is known where all sheep were wintered on the run, and the death-rate was 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. With a change in ownership the country was adequately fenced and the hoggets taken out to the plains. The death-rate is now 4 per cent., the same number of stock go into the winter but a large surplus is sold, and by adequate winter feeding of hay, &c., the wool clip has been doubled. The increase in wool clip may be correlated with the introduction of excellent sires, but no Merino flock will clip an average of 10½ lb., which is obtained in the case quoted, without attention to all factors concerned. It is the general opinion that stock numbers would have to be reduced one-fifth or more if the hoggets or ewes were not away for the four winter months. The small area of turnips grown on the run is fed to hoggets before going away to the plains or fed to the rams during winter. Again, in some cases they are conserved over winter for the hoggets in early spring when they return from the plains. It is estimated that about 22,000 hoggets and ewes are migrated annually, and some of these travel for a week in order to reach their new pasture.

THE MOUNTAIN AREA OF ASHBURTON COUNTY AS A SOURCE OF SURPLUS SHEEP.

The type of sheep carried on the plains farms of the county is largely the half-bred and fine three-quarter-bred which are mated to the English Leicester and Southdown ram for fat-lamb production. The run-country ewes are in keen demand for this purpose, coming from the hard hill country. They improve greatly in condition and have a sound constitution. The following figures indicate approximately the number and class of surplus sheep which are disposed of each year:—

Ewes (mainly full-mouth)	16,000
Wethers, store lambs (mainly wethers)	8,500

The ewes are disposed of at the Methven and Tinwald ewe fairs in March. Wethers are sold soon after shearing to private buyers. Similarly, the store lambs are drafted out at weaning-time in March and go to the plains for fattening on turnips.

BREEDS OF SHEEP FOUND ON THE RUNS.

On such country as that of the Ashburton tussock land personal likes for any particular breed are restricted by the vigorous environment