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Conditions in B. C. Ideal for Sheep Raising-- Opinions of an Expert on the Subject.

"There is no country in the world where conditions for the sheep rearing industry are better than they are in British Columbia."

Speaking with a representative of Fruit and Farm the other day, this was the opinion expressed by Mr. William Miller, a well-known broker of Vancouver, who for

"In New Zealand," continued Mr. Miller, "conditions are different from what they are in Australia. The Australian climate is dry and arid, and is particularly suitable for the raising of the merino. In New Zealand it is moist and more suitable for raising the cross bred. Hence, Australia for wool and New Zealand for mut-

ships with frozen mutton is simple. To be brief, the country is slashed and laid in a labyrinth of debris. After lying a few weeks, fire is introduced, which licks up all the dead twigs and foliage and leaves the country a mass of charred debris on a bed of ashes. These fires often sweep miles of country, and frequently considerable



SHEEP RANCH IN B. C.

40 years previous to coming to Vancouver was engaged in Australia in the sheep business, and who without question knows the business almost as thoroughly as it is possible for it to be known. "Sheep breeding and the care and management of the sheep family in Australia," says Mr. Miller, "has now been reduced to a science, and the utmost care is taken among the larger ranchers in the selection of the animals for breeding purposes. If there is the slightest sign of a weakening of the strain, the animal is at once rejected. The result of all this is that Australian merino is now recognized as a standard, and has a reputation that is world wide."

ton. In British Columbia we have both of these conditions. The coast district is wet and many sections of the interior are dry."

Speaking of these facts in relation to the prospects for the sheep industry in British Columbia, Mr. Miller said that the conditions in New Zealand were in many respects very much similar to those which exist in this province. There is there the same dense forest growth which we have here and which has to be got rid of. The native grasses in New Zealand are of no account and it is necessary to sow.

"The method of bringing this dense forest jungle into a fattening ground to fill the

damage is done, but where dollars of damage is done, hundreds of dollars of good is accomplished. Directly the ashes cool the process of seeding with English grass and clover is commenced, regardless of the logs, stumps and debris. Dozens of women and children, and everyone who has time, jump from log to log scattering the seed everywhere, and after the first shower of rain the grasses spring up, interspersed with all kinds of bracken, scrub and young growth. When fairly rooted, which is in an astonishingly short time, thousands of sheep are turned on to the apparent wilderness, and the grass and young growth is eaten down and kept down until the grass