

Sheep on the Alberta Range

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There is no doubt but that, measured by its fitness with respect to climate, soil and grass, Southern Alberta should number a much larger sheep stock than it has at present. The total count is not above seventy-five thousand, and conditions generally favor the industry. The land of the third prairie steppe in which Southern Alberta is situated is in most places rolling and dry and is covered with a good sod of mixed feed such as the buffalo and bunch grasses, blue joint, white sage, wild pea and other herbs. The flocks in the country are free from foot, skin or liver troubles. Euzootic troubles do not take hold easily and are easily stamped out. The climate permits open air grazing throughout the year, which greatly reduces the cost of running sheep. If hay is put up it is only as a safeguard against starvation in case of a tie-up during a spell of very bad weather or deep-drawn snow. It would no doubt be wiser to do more feeding. By the expenditure of a little more

be an advantage; otherwise the sheep are better outside than in. A range lamb under ordinary conditions is no weakling and gets up and follows soon after dropped. It should be remembered that the natural thing for the lamb to do is to survive in the environment native to its parents and so suited to it. Open lambing, if properly managed, is free from the confusion and filth of the shed. Mature sheep do not suffer from severe weather, but there are some times losses from sheep being scattered in a storm and split up and worried by coyotes and wolves. If sheep bunch up or frequently if they are driven in a storm, they pile up and a good many smother. Another source of danger is being driven over a cutbank in a storm and piled up in the deep snows accumulated there, and once the band is started over it is difficult to stop the rest from following. These are scarcely worth mentioning. These are scarcely worth mentioning, such as seldom occur, and are all subject to good management and generalship on the part of the shepherd.

be good in a month or so, and touch the five cent mark or over by spring. The local market for it is proportionately larger than the local market for beef, in view of limited production. The mutton of the West is practically all Territorial, Manitoba has little and British Columbia almost none, while sheep keeping in the Territories is almost exclusively ranching and is limited to Southern Alberta and Western Assiniboia.

Shipping Live Stock to Argentina

For several months Mr. F. W. Hodson, Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa, has been investigating the possibilities of the Argentine Republic as a market for Canadian live stock. A good deal of information has been secured and the time seems ripe for more active measures. If two or three leading Canadian breeders were to visit Buenos Ayres, make themselves familiar with the conditions of the trade, and arrange for the handling of shipments by a trustworthy Canadian agent, there would seem to be little doubt of establishing a profitable market for our pure-bred cattle and sheep, particularly Short-horns and Lincolns.



Yearling Lincoln Ewe—1st at Toronto, London, St. Louis and Chicago, 1904. Owned by J. T. Gibson, Denfield, Ont.

Gracie Wether, 1st Prize at London and 1st and Champion at St. Louis and Chicago, 1904. Weight, 26 lbs. at 15 months. Owned by J. T. Gibson, Denfield, Ont.

labor, ewes could be brought through in stronger condition, and quite a number of weak late lambs of the previous year saved. In heavy snow, accompanied by hard frosts, little, late lambs cannot keep up on the coarse, poor feed that mature sheep can thrive on, their fleeces are light and they die of absolute cold. If they had a good quality of hay, with some oats, and little traveling except for three or four hours a day, they would reap the extra care. The weak lambs should be taken out of the bunch as they seem to need it and put back when they have gained strength again. A little more care and labor would put the sheep business on a better basis.

Many shepherds run their bands without either hay or shelter except natural shelter. They have their lambs come about the first of May, and when the lambing season begins they just hold the ewes in a sheltered valley or along the slopes of a sunny coulee with water along its little depressions. The ewes dropping lambs as the flock grazes, stay back and they are bunched by the shepherd as the lambs get old enough to move a little. If it comes snow or a very cold rain during lambing, lambing in the open will involve some loss. A tight-roofed shed and feed will then

The present season has been highly favorable to shepherds on the range. The spring losses are scarcely worth mentioning. The grass came early and there was no bad weather during lambing time. The summer has been rather too dry, and it has affected the hay unfavourably by lessening the quantity of it from too quick ripening of it, and making it less substantial in quality. Hay will be a high price in the range country before spring. A good deal has already had to be imported for town use by rail to supplement the small local offerings, and the price of baled is now from \$11 to \$13 per ton. Grain will be equally dear. Owing to the drought the oat crop in the southern part of Alberta was rather light, and the price at the opening of the grain season was an easy forty cents per hundred above the opening prices for the past two years. The prospective high cost of feed for the winter does not alter the fact that sheep men are prospering. In addition to the weather favoring their work, markets have been satisfactory. Wool went at 14 and a tenth cents this year, which is three or four cents above the ruling prices for the past four or five years. Mutton started well, but followed the slump in beef down to about the same price per pound. It will undoubtedly

It is reported on good authority that 20 per cent. of the bulls sent from Great Britain are slaughtered in Argentina at Buenos Ayres for tuberculosis. Many that fail to pass the test in Britain are bought by speculators and heavily insured till after the test on arrival in South America, the rate of insurance being 25 per cent. Though the speculators are coin money, such methods cannot fail to create an unfavorable impression, and if Canadian breeders will send only first-class animals that are sure to pass the tuberculin test they ought to win the confidence of the Argentine breeders.

HANDLING THE STOCK

The following interesting statement of the expenses to which live stock is subjected after landing which we should pay and charge in the account sales of the animals consigned to us, sending net proceeds in draft at sight on any important place in Canada.

WITH REGARD TO CATTLE
It is advisable to send only Short-horns, each consignment consisting of