

age up to 200 sheep in good weather, they are well paid.

JAPS BIDDING FOR WOOL.

The world's manufacturers of wool will be more than interested in learning that the record price paid this season for greasy wool in Sydney was the result of Japanese competition. It is only recently that the Japs have bid for high-grade sorts, confining their attention to scoureds and cross-breds. But during the past season there has been a change, and the Japs have frequently outbid the American and foreign buyers. Australian growers are pleased at this, but it is doubtful if the manufacturers will be, as it spells the entry into the fine-wool industry of the factories of Japan, where labor is very cheap.

STAR-LOT WOOL SALES.

Sales of star-lot wools are now limited to four bales at the Sydney (Australia) market. The idea is to make the sales more attractive, and give different buyers a chance to get small consignments of the high-grade wool. Each regular buyer has his operator in the star-lot sale-room. It is one of the developments of small farming, for there are many wool-growers who have only small quantities of wool of this sort to offer. Besides that, sales of these lots are held simultaneously with the sales of large lots. The six months' trial has been declared successful. It is noteworthy that the star-lots frequently make a better price than the big lines.

The plain and distinctive branding of wool, now in fashion, also, has likewise succeeded this season. Not only are such bales more conveniently handled in the store, but the brand is a plain index to the character of the bale's contents. The owner who changes his brand frequently makes a mistake, for the buyer of good wool tries to get the same wool again next year. The name is the reference. The week preceding the sale, the principal brands to be offered are cabled to the manufacturers. These have records of all important brands, and know their characteristics, and they, in turn, give their representatives instructions by cable. Very often, if a clip has given satisfaction, the buyers will be instructed to secure again without limits. J. S. DUNNET. Sydney, Australia.

A Profitable Flock of Dorsets.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

How Well do Sheep Pay?—In connection with this subject, I shall give an account of my small flock of Dorset sheep. In the first place, this flock is kept somewhat as a sideline on the farm. In the summer season their run is in a four-acre lot, where the hogs also feed. They also have the run of a small apple orchard, where they have shelter, and at the same time help to keep the orchard clean, by eating the diseased and fallen fruit. In addition, they have access to the public highway, the township council granting the sheep-breeders that privilege, claiming that the sheep help to keep the roads clean. In the fall and winter, the bulk of their rough feed is almost valueless, it being composed of corn fodder and clover straw, or, what is usually called "pug" here. This "pug" is the straw after the clover seed has been hulled from it. I make a point of cutting and curing the clover as green and fresh as possible, purposely for sheep feed in the winter season. In addition to this roughage, I feed a grain ration of 1 gallon of oats and 1 gallon of bran per day, or 28 bushels of oats and 300 pounds of bran for the winter. This would amount to about \$12.15 for the flock, or about 72 cents per ewe.

Now, as to the profits of this flock, last year I raised 23 lambs from the 12 ewes, which were sold for \$5 each, or \$115 for the lot, crediting each ewe with \$9.58 for her lambs. The year previous I raised 21 lambs from 11 ewes, which were sold for \$4.50 (butcher's price). I generally keep a few of the best ewe lambs over to replace any of the ewes which might become old or unprofitable, valuing them at the same price as the others which were sold. The wool for the last two years averaged about 4½ pounds to the fleece, of well-washed wool, which was sold for 25 cents per pound, making \$1.17 per fleece, or \$14.04 for the 12 ewes. This figures out a profit of \$10.75, minus 72 cents for grain, for each of these 12 ewes for the year.

I might say that this flock are all pure-bred Dorsets, are never housed at any time in the year, and have won their share of prizes at the fall exhibitions. A. R. J.

Successful Pig-feeding.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have seen a great deal of late in "The Farmer's Advocate" regarding success with swine. I built a hogpen, with cement two feet high, double-boarded, with tar paper between; cement floors and troughs; one-inch lumber on top of cement floor. I found this pen very satisfactory in hog-raising. This year I had Chester Whites and Yorkshires. We fed one litter of ten which averaged 224 pounds at six months old. Another

litter of five, at six months and four days old (pure Chester White), averaged 270 pounds each. The mother of those five, shipped with them, at two years and nine months old, weighed 710 pounds. W. A. KOYL. Elgin Co., Ont.

A New Zealand Sheep Enemy.

A correspondent of the Edinburgh Scotsman gives an interesting account of the supposed origin and depredations of the New Zealand Mountain Kea, or parrot, a bird about the size of a pigeon, which infests the barren wastes above the snow line. Originally a vegetarian, and insectivorous, it is believed to have acquired the taste for mutton and sheep's blood by alighting on



New Zealand Kea. (From life.)

their backs and hunting with its beak for ticks or grubs. Curiosity and hunger were the stimulating motives of the bird, resulting in the backs of the sheep being torn to pieces down to the kidneys and other organs. What was destroying the sheep was a mystery till about 1868 or 1869, when a shepherd discovered that the new foe of the flock was the Kea, on the head of which a long price has since been set, and he is now hunted as a profession.

A handsome, forty-piece Austrian China Tea Set is yours for sending in four new yearly subscriptions to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," at \$1.50 each; or a set of Staghorn Carvers for sending in three new names at \$1.50 each.

The Lambing Season.

The approach of the lambing season may account for the publication of some hints regarding the management of the ewes preparatory to and during parturition. If the ewes have not been fed a ration of grain or roots, or both, in order to induce a supply of milk for the coming lambs, provision should be made for such feeding. No more suitable grain ration can be given them than oats and bran, in addition to good clover hay. Turnips or mangels are also almost essential. Preparation for lambing should be made well in advance of the season, so that all that is needed may be at hand and ready for use. A supply of light, low hurdles, to be used for enclosing a ewe with weak lambs, or one that disowns her lamb, will be found a great convenience, as, by the use of these, tied together in a corner of the sheep house, one or more temporary pens may be improvised, to be used for a few days, or until the ewe and her lambs become sufficiently acquainted to be allowed to run with the rest of the flock. A supply of raw linseed oil, and a small bottle of carbolic acid, to be used, if necessary, in or after cases of difficult parturition, should also be kept on hand. In such cases nature should be given ample time to work out its own deliverance; but if, after a reasonable period, progress is not made, an examination should be instituted to discover whether the presentation be normal, and, if so, further time be given; while, if not, action should be taken to put things right, and then more time be given before force is used, which should be only in unison with the efforts of the ewe to expel the foetus. The shepherd should see that the lamb gets its first nourishment within a reasonable time after birth; and, if it be too weak to help itself, the ewe should, if necessary, be laid gently on her side, and some milk drawn into its mouth, when it will, as a rule, suck its own supply. The ewe should not be fed highly directly after lambing; a bran mash or a mixture of oats and bran or other light food which will not heat her blood, is the safest feeding to avoid sore teats and udders. If practicable, the ewes that have lambed should be separated from those that are due to lamb later, and somewhat better fed, as the lambs tend to pull them down in condition. And the lambs should have a separate corner to which they can have access, while the ewes cannot; and the lambs will very soon learn to eat clover hay, oats and bran, and sliced or pulped roots, from a trough, which should be often cleaned out if they do not take all that is given them.

Cost of Wintering Sheep.

For the following figures on the cost of feeding sheep, we are indebted to Lt.-Col. McEwen, of Middlesex Co., Ont., who obtained them by weighing the feed given per day to a flock of 81 pure-bred Southdowns being wintered rather better than the average flock of grades, as the statement of feed indicates:

58 pounds bran and oats, at \$1.10	\$.65
220 pounds roots, at 10 cents per bush.....	.37
60 lbs. clover hay, at \$10 per ton	.30
25 lbs. cut alfalfa and corn silage	.18

Total

Cost of one sheep per day, 1.8 cents; cost of one sheep per month, 54 cents.



"Oh, for a Tongue to Voice the Poetry of the Hills."