

it comes down over the end of the joint, which induces coagulation of the blood and facilitates healing. A little disinfectant on the wound assists the healing and prevents infection. The tail may be placed on a board and severed by means of a chisel and mallet, but the knife is more accurate and is not so liable to bruise the tail bones. In the second method, the operator requires an assistant and a pair of iron pincers are used. They are heated in a fire and the operation is performed while they are hot, thereby searing the wound which prevents bleeding. However, pus not infrequently collects underneath the scab which forms, and the suppuration which ensues may cause an aftermath of greater pain to the lamb than the sharp, clean cut of a knife. Of course, danger of infection is more liable from a knife wound, yet when clean bedding and strict sanitary measures are employed this will, to a very great extent, be obviated.



Method of docking lambs with the knife.



Even a woman can perform the operation of docking successfully.

A few extracts from letters follow. These will serve to illustrate the viewpoint of packers, drovers and live stock commission agents with respect to the castration of ram lambs sold for slaughter.

"We believe that one-third of our total receipts of lambs are not docked nor castrated and these practically all come from the northern part of Alberta. Might say that a large percentage of the lambs from the southern part of the province are docked and castrated. On account of the above we figure on deducting about 1c. per pound on all the buck lambs after they get pretty well grown."

"Might state that the percentage of lambs not trimmed that I am handling would be about 30 per cent; the reduction in price runs about \$1 per cwt., due to omission of castration."

"The percentage of lambs coming to market here not castrated is about 15 to 20 per cent. Good ewe and wether lambs weighing from 80 to 90 pounds each are selling here now at 8 cents per pound. Heavy buck lambs sell at 6½ cents a pound, and there is also the reduction in price made by the buyers."