

Winter Management of Sheep.

Sheep should have better care in early winter than farmers are in the habit of bestowing. Wintering sheep to make them live only, is not attended with profit, let prices rule high or low. Sheep are commonly neglected more in early winter than any other farm stock, for they are often the very last taken from the pastures.

If sheep go into winter quarters in a declining state, the result is a demand for extra feed and care during the winter, and a light clip of wool in the spring. When a sheep is thriving, wool grows rapidly; when a sheep is declining the growth is checked. If kept fat, large fleece; if poor, a light one. Sheep should have a little grain every day, from the time grass begins to fail in the fall until it has a good start in the spring. I would rather my sheep would have a gill of corn or oats per day from the middle of November till April, than a pint a day from January till June. There should be one object constantly before the mind of the flockmaster, and that is, to keep his sheep in a thriving condition.

Shelter is one of the first objects in wintering sheep successfully. Farmers often condemn barns and sheds as unhealthy places for sheep, when it is a want of ventilation that does the injury. It is no argument against housing because some people keep them so poorly ventilated as to injure their health. Nor is it an argument against shelter for stock, because it is improperly used. I am no believer in having sheep shut up too closely; I like warm comfortable quarters for them at night, but they should not remain there all day. They should go out, get some exercise, and have some sun-shine after a storm. We ought to know and appreciate its beneficial effects on animals.

Too large a number of sheep should not be wintered together. I believe seventy-five is enough for one lot; by no means let there be more than one hundred. There is much more danger of disease in large flocks than in small ones. The division should be made so as to put sheep of about the same strength together. Lambs should be by themselves, with a few old tame sheep to keep them tame. All large and strong wethers should be by themselves, also all breeding ewes. By this system of division all have an equal chance, which is impossible where large numbers of all ages and conditions run together.

Feeding sheep cannot be too carefully and scientifically done. It should be attended to, as near as possible, at the same time every day. Sheep, above all other animals, should have a variety of food. They are naturally very particular about their diet, are fond of dainty bits, and refuse everything not clean and wholesome; they will go hungry before they will eat musty hay or grain, or that which has been trod under foot.

No other animals should be tolerated in a yard with sheep, for it will only result in vexation and loss.—[Ex.]

Were it not for the very poor crops in the old world, prices for crops in the new world would rule very low. Farmers should think of this. Suppose that there are large crops in the old world next year and large crops here. Prices for our crops will be very low, hardly paying the cost of production. The production of stock, however, is not likely to be overdone for a long time, if ever. There may be too much wheat raised, but not too many fat cattle and sheep. The wise farmer, therefore, will enlarge his means for the production of beef and mutton, well knowing the foreign demand will continue and good prices will prevail for them.—[Rural World.]

Canada is the only cattle-raising country in the world free from contagious diseases. All other countries are more or less affected by it, which necessitates the slaughtering of animals at the port of entry, while, on the other hand, Canadian cattle can be raised for any market and shipped alive. This gives at least an advantage of thirty per cent. in favor of the exportation of Canadian stock over all other competitors that can't be so shipped.

Miscellaneous.**The Wealth of our Dominion.**

The wealth of the Dominion is such that it can not be told in figures. The natural resources of the country in timber and fisheries, and in mines and minerals, great and almost unrivalled as they are, are but a small portion of her wealth. Her great resources are in a soil as fertile as any on the globe and as vast in extent as that of her southern neighbor, the United States. In a very suggestive article on the great wheat crop of the Western States, an American agricultural paper—the Factory and Farm—estimates the wheat and corn crops of one State, Illinois, at nearly one hundred millions of dollars; the wheat crop of the State is estimated at not less than forty-two million bushels, and worth in the hands of the producer the sum of thirty-seven and one-quarter millions of dollars. It is estimated that the Indiana wheat crop is worth nearly as much as that of Illinois, and that of Michigan as more than twenty-five millions of dollars.

The wheat-growing territory of our Dominion is of greater extent than that of the United States, and, what is of greater importance, it possesses greater fertility, the produce of the Canadian North-west being from thirty to forty bushels per acre, whereas that of the Western States is only from twelve to twenty bushels. Of the Western States Factory and Farm says: "The fabulous stories told of incomprehensible fortunes being dug from the gold and silver mines of the great silver belt of the West, cannot compare with the sum which the farmer has plowed, reaped and threshed from the bosom of mother earth; and no more is the gold and silver that is dug from the earth an addition to the wealth or a created sum than is the return from the harvest gathered by the husbandman."

The great North-west of Canada, the best wheat growing territory on the continent, is yet to give forth her abundant harvests. The farmer has cultivated sufficient to prove what the country can produce. The brawny hands of the emigrant farmers from Europe and from Ontario will, we have no doubt, gather in harvests from her fertile plains such as have hitherto been unknown. Such is the wealth of our Dominion.

In Canada we are happily exempt from losses occasioned by an excessive humidity of climate. We can welcome the emigrant farmers of England to a home in this country, we having a soil and climate favorable to the production in perfection of cereals and other products. If proper measures be taken, their leaving the old home will be no loss to the Empire—they will here remain loyal subjects, and they will add to instead of diminish her power. We hope our Government and that of the Old Country will unite in aiding the enterprise. Farms can be had in our wide Dominion for every family in Britain who thinks that the acquisition of a new home would be to his advantage.

The Bulletin (Cincinnati) says: "In the first place, only the varieties of wheat should be sown that find readiest sale. In the second place, seed wheat should be selected with as much care as a prudent farmer is likely to select his year's seed-corn after this year's experience. With the improved fans in the country, or screens that are accessible to every one, there can be no excuse for sowing a single defective grain of wheat. There is just as little excuse for having smut in wheat, if soaking in blue-stone before sowing will prevent it; or for having the crop ruined by rust, if sowing a bushel or a bushel and a half of salt to the acre in the spring will prevent it."

If it pays farmers to raise scrub stock, how much better will it pay them to raise the improved breeds. Now that we have good crops, when we get the money for them will it not be wise to invest some of it in the choice breeds? It would be better in our opinion than loaning it out at interest. Buy thoroughbred males, if you are not able to buy the females, and grade up your flocks and herds.

What English Agricultural Papers Say.

The average under the main crop in the United Kingdom, adding the Irish, are as under:

Wheat, 3,048,000; barley, 2,931,000; oats, 3,987,000; potatoes, 1,384,000. These returns show an important decrease in the areas under wheat and oats, and a considerable increase as was to be expected under barley. A sunless spring and summer accompanied by excessive rains and low temperature, leave no reason to doubt what must be the inevitable result. I have, therefore, very little hesitation in estimating the probable outcome of each of these crops at one-third less than an average yield. This deficiency of grain at 50 cents per acre will amount to a loss of twenty-five millions of pounds sterling to the cultivator, nearly \$75,000,000.

At an equal rate of loss for the partial failure of beans, peas, and rye, we have an additional sum of £3,000,000 (\$15,000,000 to add, making an aggregate deficiency equal to a money loss of \$28,000,000, on our cereal and pulse crops alone. Taking the next most important crop—potatoes—£10 an acre will not compensate growers for the blight that has come upon it. On the 1,384,000 acres under this crop the loss cannot be less than £15,000,000. Taking the loss at 25 cents an acre on the areas under artificial and natural grasses it will amount to £15,000,000.—[T. C. S., in London Times.]

A PLAIN CASE.—A friend who has thoroughly tested the comparative value of beef cattle, says that his late experiments are the most conclusive of any he has tried yet. He had several grade Shorthorns and an equal number of common steers, of the same age. He gave them the same feed, grazing and treatment in every respect. When he put them into the market at the same time he found that the lot of Shorthorn grades had increased 708 pounds, while the lot of common steers had increased but 502 pounds on the average. He sold his grades at 3½ cents per pound, and he could get but 2½ cents for the common steers. This is a plain case. Now let any one count the difference, and he can decide whether he can afford to fritter away his time and feed with common stock, when he can buy Shorthorns, now so cheaply, to produce grades with. Both lots of cattle were fair representatives of their class.

WHEAT AND OATS.—In Iowa an experiment has been tried of sowing wheat and oats together. In the fall two bushels of wheat mixed with one bushel of oats were sown upon an acre of ground. The oats grew rapidly, but were of course killed down by frost. They, however, furnished warm covering for the earth, and when the snow fell among the thick stalks and leaves they kept it from blowing away. This covering prevented the winter killing of the wheat, and the rotten oat leaves and stalks afforded a rich top-dressing for the crop the following spring. The result was an abundant yield of wheat, while land precisely similar alongside of it, and treated in the same manner with the exception of omitting the oats, was utterly worthless.

WORTH OF A PURE BRED SIRE.—The gist of the whole matter is simply here. A bull, for instance, is sufficient, if rightly managed, for a herd of fifty cows. Suppose he costs \$100, the increased cost of each calf over and above that of a sire costing \$50 is simply the interest on \$50 a year, with 10 per cent. on \$50 added for deterioration as age grows on the animal. The calves are certainly worth \$5 each more than from the inferior bull. It would seem that here was a proposition that should commend itself to every farmer in favor of good breeding. Yet how many look at it in this light? Nevertheless, this is the only way in which it can be estimated.

PLASTER A DEODORIZER.—An excellent use for plaster is as a deodorizer for stables. Sprinkle over the floors liberally. It will absorb the ammonia in the manure and sweeten the air of the stables, thus making them more healthful, and improve the quality of the manure. Dry muck and road dust are also good for the same purpose, but where it is much trouble to procure them plaster is a cheap substitute.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says he has had an experience of more than 25 years in the use of lime, and he finds that when his land is well supplied with alkali (from lime) the clover and grasses crowd out sorrel and other sour weeds, and return him large crops of sweet hay and pasture.