



Synopsis of Canadian North-West Land Regulations.

THE sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. Applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or sub-Agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any Dominion Lands Agency (not not Sub-Agency) on certain conditions.

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One of finest Pure Bred Holstein Bulls in the Province just purchased from Agricultural Farm, Truro, Ingleside Farm, Sheffield Mills, Kings Co. 1 oax

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KARAKUL SHEEP BEFORE A BRITISH COMMISSION IN P. E. ISLAND.

(From the Family Herald and Weekly Star, May 17, 1916) In the reclusive kingdom of Bokhara, a vassal state belonging to Russia, and situated in Central Asia, there thrives a breed of sheep, from which lambs of which are produced the famous and much-coveted Persian lamb skin.

Some idea of its commercial worth is obtained from the fact that, last year, the import value of the skins shipped to the United States amounted of \$14,000,000! The popular name of the sheep is Karakul, which means "Black Lake," the district of Bokhara in which they flourish.

The skin of its young—which are killed from three to six days after birth—fetches at present from \$12 to \$18 each in the New York market. That price is upward in its tendency, and will increase, it is believed. A most suggestive and promising attempt to foster this inquiry in Canada is worthy the attention of every enterprising farmer occupying soil favorable to the rearing of the Karakul and that applies to a large part on the Dominion, east and west.

Another authority—Mr. W. W. Birch—tried the breeding of broad-tails to Delaneys and Lincoln Delaneys. They produced, he says, a marvel in size and constitution. By August some attained a size as large as their mothers and went through a most severe drought well—in fact they gained vitality.

Persian Lamb as Canadian Product.

The obvious deduction from this experiment is that if they can thrive under such conditions there is at once a new industry for the farmers in the stormy and biting conditions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

The care of the sheep is not difficult, and a pure-bred ram will serve approximately one hundred ewes. Mr. Tidmarsh, in submitting evidence before the British Royal Commission on Natural Resources, Trade and Legislation of Canada in 1914, stated that since the breeding of the Karakul had been carried on in Prince Edward Island he was more than satisfied. They had on the farm there 100 full-blooded sheep, 200 Lincolns, 200 half-bloods, and 500 to 600 spring lambs.

They had also 21 sources of unrelated blood supply, upon which he hoped and believed to establish a very lucrative industry, and one of national importance to Canada. Fox farmers on Prince Edward Island were asked to express their views before the Commission referred to as to the Karakul sheep farm, and without any variation they said the outlook for the trial was most gratifying.

The Commissioner for Agriculture in that Province stated that he believed that the experiment would grow to be one more great industry allied to that of wild animal farming. Professor W. E. Cameron said that Dr. Young in crossing the Karakul sheep with English long wools such as Lincoln, Cotswolds, and Highland Black Face, had produced some very valuable Persian lamb skins.

Belong to Broad Tailed Family

Correctly speaking, they should be called Arabi, not Karakul sheep. They belong to the broad-tail class, their tails being triangular in shape and larger in some strains than in others.

from the unborn lamb. As a matter of fact the grade of fur on the market known as Persian lamb is taken from the young lambs of from three to six days old. The texture resembles Astrachan, but superior, in that the curl is not so open. The industry, in short, is one that presents no serious problem.

Karakul Good Foragers.

It has been pointed out by the promoters of the industry in Prince Edward Island that the sheep are contented, show no sign of any disease, and require a minimum of care. Like the ordinary sheep they can forage for themselves. Given lake or sea atmosphere, Karakul farming can, no doubt, be made an easy adjunct to the general farming of the Dominion.

Several farmers have already inspected the work of Dr. Young, and but for the pressure brought to bear upon them by the Patriotic and Production Campaign last year would have started experimenting. The farm at Prince Edward Island is not run, however, for the value of the skin. The promoters feel that commercially and disinterestedly their aim should be for some years to come to provide stock for the multiplication of Karakul sheep farms.

There is one obstacle to the promotion of the industry, which should not be overlooked, but which, with a closer commercial agreement with Russia may be overcome by negotiations between Ottawa and Petrograd. The trouble is the procuring of foundation stock. The undertaking is expensive in consequence of the stringent laws against importing from Asia, and which explains the immense sum that Dr. Young had to lay out in connection with his first journey to Bokhara.

It is, therefore, clear that farmers must depend upon the companies that are undertaking the domestic farming of the Karakul in order to overcome these difficulties. But the war, when over, may pave the way for quicker and freer export of the sheep. How soon that will be remains a secret which only more strenuous events will decide!

British Army Now Ready to Advance at Joffre's Order.

Paris—June 15—Great interest has been aroused here by a statement made by Bonar Law to The Matin that the British army was completely in accord with General Joffre and was prepared to move whenever the French headquarters staff saw fit.

The statement is accepted as a sufficient answer to the charge of British indifference to the French losses before Verdun. The press expresses much satisfaction over Bonar Law's frank statement. From the outset here the military authorities have insisted that it would be playing Germany's game for the British to move before the psychological moment, and have scouted anti-British rumors as idle or malicious gossip. Bonar Law's statement will go far to reassure the people here.

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