

LIVE STOCK.

The Wool Situation.

A short time ago orders came through that no wool was to be exported from Canada. Immediately the price dropped several cents per pound and the wool market became very unsettled. Considerable wool is still in the hands of the growers and large quantities are held by dealers. All those interested in the wool business will read with satisfaction the following announcement made by John Bright, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner:—

WOOL MAY BE EXPORTED.

"I beg to state that a new Order now permits the exportation of wool grown in Canada to the United States, under a guarantee that the wool shall be used for manufacturing purposes only in the mills of that country, and that no part of the wool nor any wool tops or yarn made therefrom shall be re-exported from the United States.

"Applications for licenses to export wool grown in Canada should be made directly to the Department of Customs, Ottawa, where full information will be furnished. Under these arrangements the markets of the United States will be open to the Wool Growers of Canada."

Old Country reports, and, by the way, the Old Land is the wool-market centre of the world, indicate that the high prices which have ruled during the past few months have been a direct result of the war in Europe. The bulk of the output for soldiery is cross-bred combing wool, and, according to some who have been watching the market in Britain, the summit has been reached. The Government call for khaki is said to have ceased for the time being. Military orders alone put up the price in Britain.

It is estimated that the English clip will be less this year than last but the British manufacturers are said to have "tremendous weights" on hand. Colonial wool has been held up in transit and prices have been forced up beyond normal. London, England, reports considerable enquiry at export houses but the tendency seems to be toward lower levels over there.

In Canada the embargo announced a short time ago completely upset the market as embargoes always do. There was no outlet to the United States and in one month wool dropped 10 cents per pound. A few figures recently published in "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal" of Winnipeg, Man., show the extent of the industry.

The wool prices of the world are set in London, England, and the countries influencing prices to the greatest extent are the South American states and Australia. The approximate production in the various countries is as follows, indicating in a comparative way those controlling the market:

	Sheep	Wool, lbs.
South American States	112,000,000	700,000,000
Australia	85,000,000	510,000,000
United States	50,000,000	300,000,000
Asiatic Russia	32,000,000	192,000,000
Great Britain	27,000,000	162,000,000

These figures have a very direct bearing on the world's market, impressing one with the strong position of the South American states, and Australia, especially in view of the fact that their production is nearly all exported, while that of many other nations has to supply a heavy local demand.

The total world's sheep population is approximately 648,000,000, with a wool production of about 3,888,000,000 pounds. This output we understand has not materially increased to correspond with that of the world's population. This situation would naturally tend to produce a firmer market. To offset this, however, several factors are evidently important, among which are the decreased yardage in the manufacture of women's wear, and the tendency to economize. In consequence of this situation considerable wool was carried over from last year due to insufficient demand. From a well-known wool expert we gain the information that in consequence of the above mentioned condition wool prices would have been lower on the world's market this year than previously if the war conditions had not prevailed. Much clothing has been and is needed to clothe the armies of the world, good fat contracts for wool have been given, and considerable speculation has been done. It is believed that due to the speculative element prices have ranged higher than justifiable.

Both Canada and the United States are importing countries. The United States supplies only 50 per cent. of her demand, and Canada only a limited proportion of her requirements. During the past year the American market has been open, and American buyers competed with the Canadians for our wool output. The situation since May 1 has changed considerably, due to the Dominion Government order preventing the exportation of wool to countries outside the British Empire. As a result of this restriction Canadian wool houses have dropped quotations

temporarily. One of the large Toronto houses quoted prices six cents lower owing to the confusing market. In face of these facts the ultimate strength of the market is somewhat uncertain.

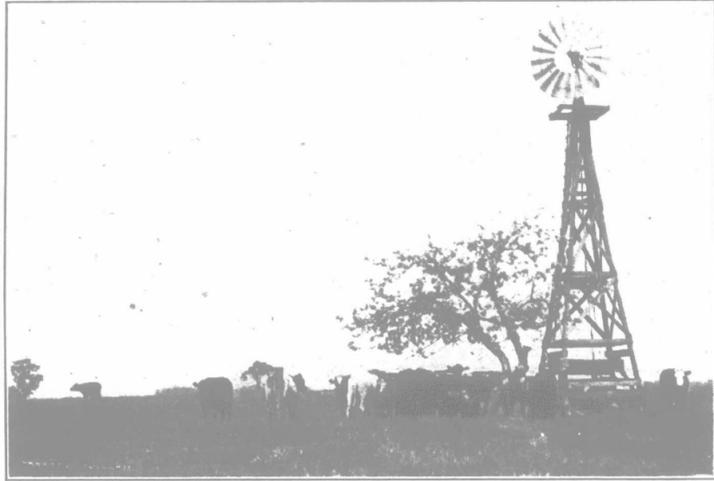
It would seem that prices should not have dropped as much as 10 cents per pound simply because export was prohibited, when in reality Canada is an importing country, but as previously stated embargoes always bring uncertainty and lower prices.

Undoubtedly the new order permitting wool to go to the United States under agreement will somewhat stimulate trade but prices are not likely to go as high as they were again this summer, although 7 cents per lb. advance came with the lifting of the embargo.

Some system of grading and selling wool would undoubtedly aid the grower to higher profits. Last year in the West the association method of marketing was tried out and the producers as a result got from 7 to 9 cents per pound more for their wool than they did the previous season. The whole situation is problematical but it looks as though the high point has been reached in the wool market for the year. The demand is not at present so great for the army and some restrictions as to export are sure to remain. There is more wool than demand at the present time.

Sweet Clover as Green Feed.

Visitors who have seen the excellent stand of sweet clover on a one-half acre plot at Weldwood have been favorably impressed with the crop. Readers will remember that this plot was sown in the spring of 1914 in an experimental way and two cuttings were taken from it that season, the last being made in October, rather late, and the crop was cut too close to the ground. A favorable winter was easy on the clover but the unprotected roots heaved somewhat and a lesson was learned. It is not good practice to cut too late or too close. However the crop came through all right and at time of



Plenty Water but Not Much Shade.

writing, June 1, the stand is very thick and averages two feet in length. It is nearly ready to cut and will likely be harvested before this is read. We are giving the crop a thorough trial as a feed. The old complaint has been that stock will not eat sweet clover. All we can say is that our stock will and do eat it. They ate it last year as green feed and as cured hay and if anyone doubts its palatability they should see our bull, the calves and pigs of all ages devouring the green feed. Pigs running in red clover eight inches high will leave the pasture and come to the fence and eat an armful of sweet clover thrown over to them. The old sows and the nursing litters relish it and the bull simply "hogs" it down. It was sown thickly and will be cut early so as to prevent its becoming woody. It looks good as far as we have gone with it in an experimental way.

Lice Caused Listlessness.

A Northumberland Co., Ont., correspondent writes in explanation of a bull refusing to serve cows, that after trying almost everything he found that lice were the real cause of his Short-horn bull being off in condition, listless and dull to such an extent that he would not attempt to serve his cows. After killing the lice with a proprietary dip the bull soon began to pick up in flesh, and now works well at the head of the herd. There is no doubt but that lice cause a greater loss of vitality in stock than most people believe.

The British Government have requested the stewards of the Jockey Club to suspend race meetings for the duration of the war.

FARM.

The Farming Situation in Yorkshire.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The farmers of Yorkshire, England, are considered models in the matter of high-class farming, and I do believe that some impressions I have made from a recent tour in the northeast and west ridings of that big county will interest readers of "The Farmer's Advocate." This spring-time, however, matters look equally cheering and dispiriting. On the one hand excellent use, all things considered, had been made of the delightfully seasonable weather that has favored spring cultivation and cropping. Pastures and arable land alike bear testimony to the energy with which seriously depleted staffs of workmen must have struggled with tasks hitherto allotted to twice or thrice as many men. The total acreage of wheat and other grain crops and potatoes that has been got in is quite marvellous, and the tilth and general appearance of the soil indicate that neither early nor late sowings have been shuffled through anyhow. How second ploughings where they were necessary have been accomplished, it is as difficult to surmise as it would be to guess how the shorthanded farmer will get through the work which the advancing season will bring with it.

There are scattered up and down Yorkshire farms of from 100 to 500 acres with only the farmer, one son, and one or two laborers to look after them. One case has been heard of in which only about half a dozen men were available to farm nearly a thousand acres. The Board of Agriculture, in its circular on April 28, express a fear that farmers think that Labor Exchanges are ineffective to help them, and say that 600 laborers have been supplied to farms in the last two months. The Board add that "the failure of farmers to make use of this source of supply has given rise to the belief in some quarters that the alleged shortage of agricultural labor does not exist, and that complaints to that effect are due mainly to unwillingness on the part of farmers to offer an adequate wage. The Consultative Committee are, however, pleased to think that the latter contention has been disproved by the fact that since the commencement of the war circumstances have in most districts justified an increase of farmers' wages averaging 15 per cent. in addition to the rises of 5 to 10 per cent. which took place during the 12 months prior to the war."

As a matter of fact, a vast majority of Yorkshire farmers would be glad to give any wages in reason to competent men. The advances already given range from 2 shillings to 6 shillings a week. As a great number of the laborers who have gone to the war live in with the master or with his hands on the farm, it is difficult to house substitutes for them near enough to their work. It is admitted that Labor Exchanges are doing something, but it is also asserted that the machinery of the Exchange is cumbersome and tiresome, and that only a small proportion of the helpers procured by this agency are useful on a farm. Yorkshire farmers are making the best use they can of the women and boys who come to their rescue, but when the Board of Agriculture, the Labor Exchanges, increased wages, Belgian refugees, and women and boys have lent willing and sympathetic help the shortage of skilled men in North and East Yorkshire almost seems to threaten coming disaster. Take one startling fact alone, for which the present writer has the highest possible authority. In one division of Yorkshire 60 farms will shortly be tenantless, and when Colonel Sir Mark Sykes and the splendid contribution of men he took with him to the Front return they will find somewhere about 2,000 acres of the best land in England awaiting their attention should the totally unexpected not happen.

All that has been said about the scarcity of competent men may be repeated with reference to horses, in many cases with two-fold emphasis. Upon light, heavier half-breds, and Shire horses alike, the War Authorities levied such heavy tribute in this country that there are few more left for them to acquire. Army buyers now are quietly purchasing all they can to repair the wastage of war, and, without thought of commandeering, feel constrained to give almost the