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WINNIPEG, MAN.

The Feeding of Sheep

Professor Thomas Shaw, director of the Minnesota State Agricultural Experimental station, has been making some interesting experiments in sheep raising. The usual way of feeding sheep is in natural pasture, and one acre of land will not feed to exceed two sheep during the season, and these sheep will not be kept as well as the sixteen which Prof. Shaw is feeding on the same amount of land.

The plot of land which has been selected for this experiment is situated on the experiment farm at St. Anthony park, and is high prairie land. There is a gravel sub-soil and the land has not been manured for over four years. The six sheep and ten lambs with which the experiment was begun have not been able to keep the pasture eaten so far, and a large additional flock has been put upon the land to assist them. Judging from the present prospect, a little less than three acres of land will feed sixty-five sheep and lambs during half of the pasturing season.

Prof. Shaw is deeply interested in the experiment, which he says, is the find of his life, and he is very glad to explain his work to anyone who is interested. He said to a reporter: "I have, as you know, always made a specialty of stock raising, and in my investigations have been struck with the fact that a large amount of land was required to raise a few sheep. Now, there is nothing the farmer can raise that will bring a better price in the market than mutton. The only objection there has been to raising sheep is the fact that it costs so much to feed them properly. I therefore, decided if possible to find a plan whereby I could feed more sheep to the acre. How well I have succeeded is shown by the fact that I have already raised 309 pounds of first-class lamb on the acre which I am using for my experimenting, and will in all probability obtain 700 pounds by the end of the season.

"My plan is this," he continued. "I divided my acre into four equal parts, each part surrounded by a portable fence. Two of these plots were sown to rye last fall. In the spring, as soon as the rye was well out of the ground, the sheep, six full-grown ones and ten lambs were turned onto it. As soon as they had eaten the rye well down they were turned into the next plot. While they were eating from this second quarter the first was growing up again from the roots which were left and by the time the second plot was cleared off the first one was ready to be eaten for the second time. This was repeated three times, and when the sheep were on the second plot for the last time the first plot was ploughed and sown with a mixture of corn and rape. A drill was used and the seed was planted very thick. After the sheep had eaten off the second plot for the third time they were put upon the third one, which had

been planted with oats and peas, and the second plot was put into corn and rape. The sheep were unable to eat the third plot off in time to get to the fourth before the feed here was so far grown as to be too tough to be easily eaten, so about 50 other sheep had to be brought in to help them out. When the plot was finally eaten the original sheep were turned onto the fourth plot, which had been sown to rape alone, as the ground was very dry. This piece has turned out the best of the lot. By the time that the sheep had obtained all the food possible on the fourth plot, the first was ready for them to eat again, and they were put upon it.

"The corn and rape were well up, and made most excellent feed, as soon as it was eaten close, a small quantity of sorghum seed was added and the plot harrowed. This plot will be eaten off twice more this season, and no more seeding will be necessary. The second quarter has been handled in the same way, and will be eaten twice more. The third plot has now been eaten twice, and has furnished pasture equivalent to that required for one sheep for 225 days. After the second eating it was sown with rape and sorghum and harrowed, and will be eaten three times more this summer. The fourth plot has been eaten off twice, and has furnished food for one sheep for 230 days. It has again been harrowed without reseeded, and will be pastured off twice more this season.

"We are experimenting with various other foods, such as a combination of tares and oats and sorghum. We expect better results from sorghum next year than from any other plant we have hitherto tried. We have tried various other foods, but have not as yet found any that will compare with those we are using this year, with the exception of those named."

"Would you object to enumerating the good points of your discovery, professor?" he was asked.

"The strong points of the system are these," he replied:—"First, the production of a very large amount of strictly first class mutton; second, the complete removal of all kinds of noxious weeds from the upper section of the soil; third, the fact that the ground is left in a richer condition at the end of the season than it was at the beginning, for the reason that the sheep manure it thoroughly; fourth, the impaction of the spongy prairie soil, caused by the many feet constantly pressing it, which is very helpful to the growth of the succeeding crop; fifth, the land only needs to be stirred on the surface to prepare it for the crop to follow, no ploughing being necessary; sixth, and perhaps the most important, the good crops that are sure to be produced after land has been pastured in this way. This is due to the various points that I have mentioned, the hardening of the ground, the manuring and

the absence of weeds. I fail to see how the much dreaded Russian thistle, or any other weed which takes root on the surface, can live through such a discouraging experiment. If there were no other advantages to this plan, it would be worth the attention of the farmers of the Northwest who wish to have farms free from weeds.

Politeness as an Advertisement.

I have been shopping, and while I started out with the usual reluctance, I think I got some new ideas about the value of politeness. My wife and I went into a hardware store and the polite porter directed us to the proper counter at which to find the goods we were looking for, and the salesman began to show them, when the proprietor of the store came along in company with a gentleman, and as he passed us he remarked in a very audible voice: "By—, I don't know what in h—l I will do about it!" and passed on, and so did we, and a sale was lost.

Then we went to another store, and the porter met us at the door, conducted us to the proper counter, addressed the salesman politely asking him to please show us what we wanted, and when the purchases were completed and we turned to leave the store the porter gave us a pleasant adieu and an invitation to call again. Now, all this polite attention might have been from a selfish desire to make money, but it is pleasant, and when I see the big ads. of that firm in my daily paper they bring with them a pleasant memory, while the just as big ads. of the other two bring to mind a vulgar, foul-mouthed proprietor or a languid and lazy salesman. This sort of an impression, I presume, is not at all uncommon with a good many people, and according to whether it is pleasant or the reverse depends, in some measure, whether a given person will return to the advertiser or not.

At another store, where they were not busy at the moment, the proprietor came up and talked pleasantly while we were looking at the article, talked about the relative merits of them, called our attention to something new, and asked us to come back, all of which did not amount to much in the course of a life-time, but made the visit to the store a pleasant one.

At another store I made a small purchase, and after getting home concluded to duplicate it, and sent a little girl for the article, with the result that she was charged a larger price than I paid. The transaction involved three cents, but it showed that the store-keeper was not to be trusted for if he would overcharge a child he would not hesitate to cheat an adult if opportunity offered.

Some stores made one feel out of place, because the clerks are noisy, and make a constant uproar with the cash boys, while others

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