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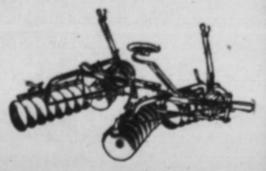
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"Bissell" Disk Harrows

The Bissell Disk Harrows have great capacity for hard work, the disk entering the ground naturally and leaving behind it a finely pulverized soil.



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THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES

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you do not see what you want advertised in this issue, write and let us know, and we will put you in touch with the makers.

Wool Grading and Grades By W. S. Napier

WOOL grading can be placed in the category of skilled labor. become an expert wool grader requires many years ex-perience. The grader has to be familiar with all sorts and conditions f wool, and to be able to determine e grades with certainty and despatch. aking broadly, wool can be classified under two heads, i.e., fleece wool and pulled wool. Fleece wool is, of course, the wool clipped from the back of the sheep and is practically the only kind graded in the West. It is generally regarded as finer in quality than the pulled wool. Pulled wool, as its name implies, is wool pulled from the sheep skin after the sheep has been slaughtered, and is graded in the first instance, by "pullers" who pull the wool from the pelt. The grade of fleece wool is determined by the quality of the fleece as a whole, but the grade of pulled wool can only be determined by the quality of wool on the several parts of the skin, or by separating in

To make this clear it is necessary to know that on an ordinary sheep there are several different qualities of wool. As a rule the number of qualities is governed by the quality as a whole. A pure-bred Shropshire, for instance, will yield a majority of first quality wool, whilst a low-bred sheep will yield only a small percentage, if any, of first quality wool with several other inferior analysis. inferior qualities. Place a fleece clipped off a Shropshire beside wool pulled from the skin of a sheep of the same breed. The whole fleece will be graded with reference to the whole as one quality, no attention being paid to any inferior qualities of small quantity which the fleece may contain. But the wool pulled from the skin will be graded according to the quality on every part of the skin, consequently, there will be several grades. The way grey wool is being graded in some centres in the West, affords a striking example of this. All greys and blacks are bulked together greys and blacks are bulked together as grey. This method is not always followed in grading fleece wood, as there are several qualities of greys just as there are different qualities of white. Evidently, the grading is being governed by the price. To bulk all greys and black of pulled wool together, and strike an average price would be a matter of impossibility. There are as many as six qualities of wool on a grey skin; the first quality resembling the first quality of white the grey in it. the first quality of white, the grey in it lowering the quality, and so on with seconds, thirds, etc. In pulled wool, seconds, thirds, etc. In pulled wool, before it is sold, all these qualities on a single skin are carefully graded and binned accordingly. It would seem that the buyer of grey fleece wool in bulk should be able to strike more than a favorable margin of profit, as he will have all the wool regraded, and the good quality separated from an inferior quality.

Pulling or Fellmongering

As has been said "pullers," in the first instance, grade pulled wool. hrst instance, grade pulled wool. But before the wool can be pulled, it is first necessary to prepare the skin. It is a comparatively simple matter to separate the wool from the pelt of a live sheep, but to separate it when you have only the skin to deal with, calls for an entirely different process, and is a much more intricate business. The business of pulled wool is called fell. business of pulled wool is called fell-mongering. Fellmongers yards are mongering. Fellmongers yards are common in the East, in Britain and in other countries. They are often situated in the midst of beautiful surroundwhich they certainly afford a direct Contrast, for neither nor construction are they objects of beauty; and they give out a very ob-jectionable odour. Anyone who has the misfortune to get to their windward side will not readily forget the exper-ience. The incongruity of their situation can be explained, however, by the fact that a plentiful supply of running water, is an essential requisite to fellmongers, and in the hills and valleys

this supply is generally found.

We can best see how a skin is prepared for the puller, by tracing it from

the time it enters a fellmonger's yand until it is ready to be stripped off its wool. As soon as the skins are invested In the yard they are thrown into large pits of water from six to ten feet deep covering an area of 15 to 20 square yards. With the aid of long poles with curved horns at the end, men give them a thorough washing being careful to wash out all the sand and mud athering to the wool. The skins are then pile and left to dry.

The next process is what is called "chemiching," that is, applying a chemical compound to the pelt side of "chemiching, the skin in order to loosen the wool At one time lime was used for this pur pose, and is still, in places, though it takes much longer as it is necessary to store the skins in a special room for two or three days before they are ready for pulling. The liming process is, however, steadily dying out as it is impossible to work anything like the same quantity of skins as can be done in the same time, and with less labor by aid of the chemic, which is just as efficient and does not harm the pelt. The chemic is applied with brushes made of fibre and gives the skins a blue appearance. It was thought at one time, that the chemic would injure the pelt but tanners have found a way to eliminate the chemic and leave the pelt without injury. After the chemic is applied, the skins are hung over long trestles about six to eight feet high, and the next day are ready for pulling. As a matter of fact it is necessary to

Pulling and Grading

pull the wool not later than the second

day or loss will occur through the wool

dropping off the skins.

Now the "puller" gets to work. He wears a long thick leathern apron and rubber gloves to protect his hands from the chemic. Each man has a pulling board made of strong smooth wood and oval shaped. He throws the skin over the board, head downwards, bends over it, places both hands a little lower than the middle of the back of the skin pushes downwards towards the neck. He then examines the wool in his hands and throws it into one of the sections of the bins in front provided to catch the different grades. The best quality is found near the neck, the next at the back, and then decreasing is quality at the sides and belly. Experience has taught the puller where the qualities are located and he pulls from position and not with reference to the quality. After a time it becomes merely mechanical process, and he scarcely looks at the wool as he throws it into the different boxes.

The wool is then collected in bags and taken to the drying room, care, of course, being exercised to see that the grades as they are taken from the boxes, are kept separate. Drying is an operation which requires good judg ment, as it is important for the dryer to see that it is not over dried and all. the substance taken out, or under dried with too much moisture left in. After it is sufficiently dried it is brought into the store room where it is spread and graders are ready to inspe They examine it very carefully, and remove any wool which has been under graded. It is then piled into large bins specially allotted for the varying grades. This finishes the grading of pulled wool so far as the fellmonger is concerned. When it reaches the wool merchant or manufacturer, however, it is subjected to a much more searching scrutiny, and it is here that the wool grading for gractical purposes takes

A Comparison of Grades

The writer recently paid a visit to the wool warehouse in Regina, where Saskatchewan wool is being graded under the auspices of the co-operative organization of the provincial depart-ment of agriculture. A record quantity is being handled by that body quality of the wool is high, and its condition shows that care has been exer cised in clipping and packing. The grades in order of quality are: fire combing, fine clothing, fine medium

September

combing, media combing, low juda (burry a gray and black In comparison England the qu s no quality so English grades Pick fine, sheet for combing Scotch, britch, The first three the combings from Leicest Then there with rejects, It does not n best quality of price, as a ru quired in larg

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