

tures. I think a good plan would be to paint each coop used for each family in a different color which can be done cheaply by using the Asbestine paint which may be mixed with water. As it is made in several different colors and is very durable and easily applied, I presume it can be bought from your hardware dealer. I have seen it in use in the vicinity of Montreal where it had been put on by a farmer on a new house and had been in use two years and I am told is still in perfect order.

S. J. ANDRES.

## The Flock

### SHEEP RAISING UP THE GATINEAU

#### Farm of Messrs. Martin & Murrill

*Visited by a Journal Reporter. Two hundred sheep kept last fall. How they were wintered. Animals are very easily kept. They require little care.*

Five miles northwest of Chelsea in among the Gatineau hills—lies a sheep farm.

The "M. & M. ranch, as it is sometimes called from the fact that it is owned by Messrs. D. A. Martin and Milton A. Merrill, of Ottawa, although still only in its infancy, bids fair to be a first step towards the opening up, in this part of the Ottawa Valley, of an important branch of farming.

Situated, as it is, among a number of well-cleared high hills, which make almost ideal pasture land for sheep, the farm is in every way admirably adapted for its purposes.

Some time ago Messrs Martin and Merrill, having become convinced that if properly handled, there was money in sheep raising in this section of the country, they determined to make a venture in that direction. The Gatineau hills they decided would be the district in which they should make their first effort. Sheep are noted climbers and grazers and find no difficulty in making a living where no other farm animal could possibly thrive. On that account many of the Gatineau hills and mountains, when once cleared of brush, although suitable for no other purposes still afford first-class pasturage for sheep. Such land is also always cheap.

These facts were all apparent to Messrs. Martin and Merrill, when a little over a year ago they bought the farm of Mr. James Russell (one corner

of which borders on Meach Lake), and made their first start in sheep raising.

#### THE FARM.

The farm is a large one containing in all some 350 acres. It is a mile long, by half a mile wide. Some 16 acres have been cleared and are used exclusively as pasture land for the sheep. One hundred and fifty acres covered with light brush are also suitable for sheep grazing. A creek runs across the farm.

Having heard of the farm, a Journal representative recently paid it a visit. Neither Mr. Martin or Mr. Merrill were present, but Mr. Geo. Watterson, the farm foreman, took charge of the newspaper man and kindly supplied all possible information.

#### NUMBER OF SHEEP.

"How many sheep have you got altogether?" was the first question asked by The Journal man.

"Just now," replied Mr. Watterson, "we have only about 142 head, including some 20 lambs. Last fall, however, we had more as we started the winter with 200 head."

"Where," was the next question, "did Messrs. Martin and Merrill secure all their stock?"

"By buying on all sides," was the reply. "When they bought the farm from Mr. Russell a little over a year ago, they secured 36 head of sheep along with it. During the summer also Mr. Martin went around the country and bought stock wherever he could. The sheep he bought were forwarded to the farm and put on pasture until finally there was a flock here of some 200 in all. In addition to the sheep some 35 head of cattle were bought at the same time."

"Do not the sheep and cattle raising conflict?"

"No," said Mr. Watterson, "we find the cattle always prefer to stay down on the low land and graze along the banks of the stream, where the grass is long, while the sheep on the other hand, stay up on the hills."

"How late in the season," asked The Journal, "were you able to keep them out on pasture?"

"Until," was the reply, "well on in November. We then put them all, with the exception of a few head, into a big pen in the shed. During the greater part of the winter they were allowed to run out in the yard in the day time, as they can stand almost any amount of cold. On stormy days, however, we shut them in the pen. The other sheep were kept separate."