

Coyote Proof Sheep Fencing

One of the most encouraging signs of a tendency towards more diversified methods in the agriculture of the Middle West, and more particularly in those sections where noxious weeds are becoming a serious menace to successful cereal growing, is the awakening interest in sheep breeding.

Reasons for this are easily seen: Unlike some other branches of live stock husbandry, there has for many years been little fluctuation in the prevailing high market values for mutton sheep. A flock of sheep call for practically no increase of labour on the farm—a most important factor in these days. Sheep may be marketed at almost any season of the year, at good prices, in small numbers, less than car lots, and with little trouble. There is a good local demand for mutton in every town. Sheep and lambs can be killed and utilized on the farmer's own table more conveniently than any other class of fresh meat.

As farm scavengers, sheep surpass all other kinds of stock, and be profitably utilized in cleaning dirty weed infested land, as they will eat with avidity almost every species of noxious weed with which our prairie lands are becoming overgrown.

A few breeders of pure bred sheep who have persevered through all these years of little appreciation, now report greatly increased demand, and are taking courage, feeling that at last their favourite hobby is coming to its own.

The one thing that prevents hundreds of farmers in Manitoba, Eastern Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta from immediately establishing small breeding flocks, is the Coyote.

How can sheep be protected from the ravages of this pestiferous sneak thief of the prairies is the deterring question.

Enquiries for coyote proof sheep fencing are being received and are being attended to by George H. Greig, Western Representative of the Live Stock Commissioner for the Dominion Government, as to how best such protection may be provided at reasonable expense.

Nearly all experienced sheep men agree that any of the ordinary woven wire fences now on the market, if properly erected, will suffice to keep sheep in and coyotes out. The most satisfactory fence when cost is considered, is a strip of regular sheep fencing about 30 inches high, placed close to the ground on posts from 16 1/2 to 25 feet apart, with one or two strands of barbed wire stretched above, at intervals of 6, 8, or 10 inches. Such a fence, if properly built, care being taken that no holes are left underneath the woven strip to allow the coyote to crawl under, makes a good and lasting fence for all classes of farm stock. Horses or cattle are seldom or ever injured by barbed wire when used as described, as long as it is kept tight. The use of it above the woven wire keeps a stock rearing over the fence and on the top of the wire. Further, the barbed wire helps to save the woven fence from being crushed down in the winter by the weight of the snow drifts, the barbed wire in cases cutting its way through the drifts.

Good woven wire fencing, from 25 to 30 inches high, suitable for sheep, can be got at from 40 to 50 cents per rod, and on most farms there is plenty of old barbed wire to complete the job.

Permanent line fences built as above described help toward clean farming by preventing stock wandering about and indiscriminately scattering weed seeds; encourage seedling down to grasses and clovers, and make possible the pasturing of such land. Cheaper inside division fences would suffice to hold sheep on temporary pastures rape or fallows.

(Continued on page 5)

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Montreal Gazette: There were distributed from government establishments in the west this spring 2,570,000 trees to 2,010 applicants. There have already been received 2,255 applications for trees for next year's planting. The varieties raised in the nurseries including Manitoba maple, ash, American elm, willow and Russian poplar, pines, spruces, larches and firs. The demand for them indicates that in one part of the country the people have come to understand the value of trees, even when they are not all of a superior kind.

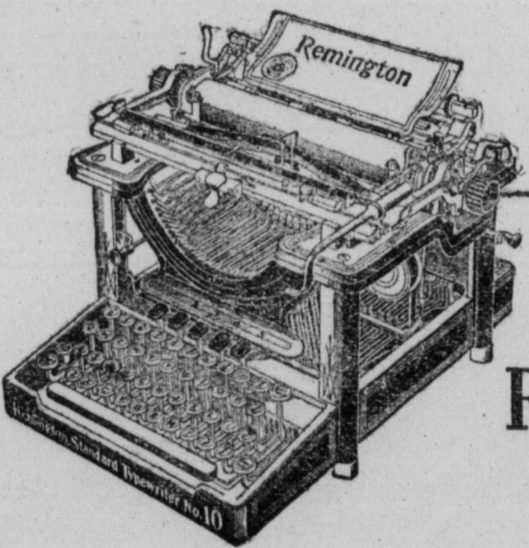
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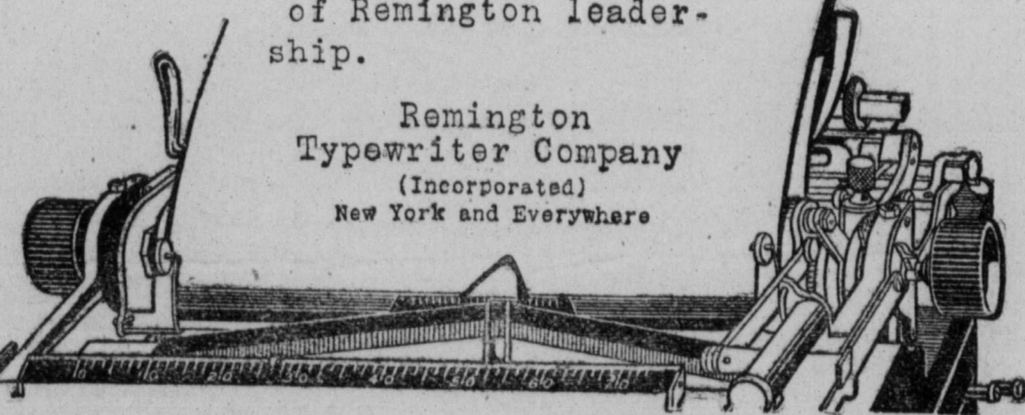
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