

## Assisting the Sheep Industry in Quebec

(Continued from page 3.)

ditions counties might be grouped to advantage. Wool grading centres are arranged at various business centres convenient for the members, and where at least three thousand pounds of wool can be collected. In some cases the wool has been shipped to these points, and in others, loads were brought in by members or directors of the association. The local grading centre and sale has meant really more than an outlet for the wool. We have found that it has afforded, through its close contact with members, not only a tangible means of interest but a splendid means of education, thereby enlisting the confidence of its members in a way that the larger centre would not likely do. Moreover, through it the association can control the sale through its own sales committee.

### Results of Wool Grading.

In the spring of this year, 169,629 lbs. of wool was graded and sold co-operatively for an average price of 41.3 cents per pound, f.o.b., at country points. Of this 51.4 per cent. graded medium combing and brought 43 cents a pound; 34.3 per cent. was low medium combing and sold at 43 cents a pound; 8.1 per cent. was coarse combing, selling at 41 cents; 6 per cent. was rejections and black and gray, bringing 38 cents. Local prices for ungraded wool ranged between 31 and 35 cents a pound, so that grading and cooperative sale netted members a gain of 7 to 13 cents a pound, or 20 to 40 per cent. advance. A fee of four cents a fleece was found sufficient to cover all expenses, such as

postage, printing, wool sacks, paper, time, labor, etc.

### Purebred Sales.

The introduction of sale and exchange of purebred stock has received a good deal of attention. The local sales policy inaugurated last year was again adopted and two purebred auction sales were held, one at Lennoxville and the other at Shawville. Fifty-three head, mostly rams, were sold at these sales. The stock was consigned by breeders and was subject to a reserve bid. Prices averaged considerably higher this year than last, which was to be expected, owing to prevailing high prices for commercial stock. In addition, districts which require only a few head of breeding stock are supplied privately from breeders, and where possible a change of sires is effected. Owing to organization the purebred breeders are now in a position to fill outside orders at short notice. Orders of considerable size from Prince Edward Island, New Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan have been filled and this outside trade in addition to the home trade has taken care of practically all available breeding stock this year. This ready market is having a stimulating effect on purebred breeding.

### Cooperative Lamb Sales.

Cooperative lamb marketing was tried as an experiment for the first time by five associations this year, and while only a small percentage of the lambs were handled cooperatively the results obtained justify a further extension of the work and the adop-

tion of a more permanent policy next year. Some 2,750 head in all were graded and sold according to grade. Lambs were graded as follows: No. 1, 70 to 55 lb. weights; No. 2, 55 lb. and over; No. 3, 70 lb. and under; and ram lambs of all weights. Aged ewes weighing 100 to 140 lbs. were classed as No. 1; 140 lbs. and over as No. 2; and 100 lbs. and under as No. 3. From 40 to 75 per cent. of the lambs graded No. 1; 10 to 20 per cent. No. 2; 2 to 10 per cent. No. 3; and 20 to 40 per cent. ram lambs. Only a small number of ewes were marketed and the bulk of these graded No. 1 and No. 2. No. 1 lambs averaged \$9.26 a cwt.; No. 2, \$9.14; No. 3, \$8.73, and ram lambs, \$8.89. Aged ewes, No. 1 and No. 2, averaged \$6.68, and No. 3, \$4 a cwt. All prices were f.o.b. at country points. The best results were obtained in those districts lying farthest from market points and in districts where there was little competition among drovers. Lambs that were suckling their mothers and shipped during September in warm weather were found to have a greater shrinkage than lambs shipped later in the season. The shrinkage per lamb on shipments varied from 5.5 to 11 lbs., depending on time in transit, breeding, age and weight of lambs and weather conditions. Sales were arranged in so far as possible to avoid low markets, the first sales being held during the early part of September and the late sales during the latter part of October and the first of November. These marketing uncastrated lambs were often under the necessity of marketing early, thereby being deprived of the added weight obtained from fall feeding as well as receiving a cut in price. Each shipment was thrown open for bids and

sales were made to the highest bidder. A large number of sales were made direct to the packing houses, while in other cases sales were made to local dealers. In some instances local prices were advanced a cent and a half a pound and in others from a quarter to one cent a pound advance was secured. Co-operative marketing and grading leads to a more careful study of the lamb crop and markets and must eventually lead to a more severe culling of the undesirable breeding ewes. A cost of five to ten cents, varying with districts, covered all expenses in connection with lamb selling.

### Roughages for Winter Lamb Feeding.

Experiments were conducted with fifty lambs of uniform type. These were divided into ten lots of five each to ascertain the feeding value of various roughages, silage and swedes in various combinations along with a standard grain ration. The lambs fed on alfalfa hay consumed more roughage and meal, but made seventy per cent. more gains than those fed on timothy hay, and made the gains at a lower cost of \$3.75 per hundred pounds. The addition of two to four pounds of swedes to the alfalfa ration increased the daily gains and reduced their cost a further \$3 cents on a hundred pounds. The addition of two to four pounds of swedes to the timothy ration caused a slight increase in daily gain, but had no effect on the cost of gains, the roots apparently not influencing this poor ration sufficiently to effect economical gains.

Silage produced gains at a lower cost of \$3.00 per hundred pounds than timothy hay, but at 56 cents more than alfalfa hay and \$1.46 more than

(Continued on page 19.)

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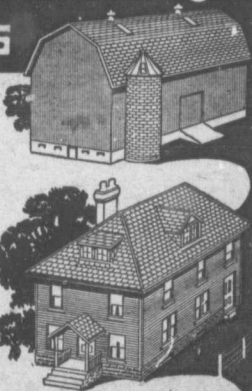
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