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CANADA'S SHEEP INDUSTRY

(By E. S. BATES in "The Journal of Commerce")

CHAPTER VI.

Improving Canadian Methods of Sheep Husbandry

Perhaps the greatest need of the sheep raising industry of this country consists in generally improved methods of preparing and marketing the production—mutton and wool. In order that sheep raising may be a profitable undertaking, attention must be paid to the attainment of the several requirements of both markets, namely: quality, proper preparation for the market, and efficient marketing arrangements. When these requirements are fulfilled the market for either commodity is only limited by the limitations of the world's demand, and invariably the average ruling market price for the commodities on the world's markets leaves a wide margin of profit to the sheep-raiser. In fact, on farms throughout the Dominion where these conditions prevail, it has been thoroughly demonstrated that the returns from a small or comparatively large flock, are larger in proportion than any other live stock. The requirements for such success entail neither additional expense nor effort but rather a livelier interest in the production of a higher average quality of mutton and wool and better methods of preparation and marketing the same than has been the custom in Canada, in order to bring about a development of the sheep-raising industry on a scale proportionate to the opportunities offered. To this end the Live Stock Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture is providing facilities and assistance to improve the average quality of Canadian flocks and institute the proper methods of handling the wool on sheep farms throughout the Dominion.

States buyers at equally good prices. The result has been that the farmers have secured good prices so long as they follow the methods adopted by the associations under the direction of the branch.

Good quality, saleable wool and mutton depend more upon the quality of the flocks from whence it is obtained than upon any other factor. The best quality of mutton produced in Canada is unsurpassed by any other country in the world, and under the conditions outlined, it is possible to produce an average quality of mutton equal to this standard. The Canadian production of mutton at the present time falls far short of filling domestic requirements. The imports of mutton and lamb during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1915, amounting to 3,466,876 pounds, valued at \$369,967, offer an immediate inducement to the Canadian producer to supply this demand, and he will control the home market provided he maintains the quality of his product. The foreign demand for fancy mutton, including the United States and England, offers an additional market that will absorb the Canadian production at prices satisfactory to the producer.

The Canadian wool producer has never depended upon domestic consumption for the sale of his wool. The quality of the wool is equal to that produced in England which commands the highest prices on the world's markets. It is in demand in the United States and England when it is properly prepared, packed and marketed and brings good prices. Facilities are now provided to enable the producers to meet these conditions without additional expense or effort.

CHAPTER VII.

Sheep Raising in Other Countries

The work is being done chiefly through sheep breeders' associations formed in the various sheep raising districts throughout the country. The branch maintains a staff of sheep and wool experts to assist all and sundry in carrying on the industry. These men are stationed in specified districts and are controlled by officials who direct the larger work of developing the industry. A feature of the work has been the provision of pure-bred and grade rams in all the sheep-raising districts, special attention being paid to the breeds suited to the needs of the district, with the idea of improving the quality of the flocks and standardizing the grades. The farmers are being encouraged to pay more attention to breeding and are given instruction in the methods of husbandry adapted to their peculiar conditions, are being supplied with instructive matter dealing with this occupation, and in every way are being encouraged to produce a quality of stock equal to the excellent grades maintained on the most successful sheep farms of the country.

The proper preparation and marketing of their wool is also receiving much attention from the officials of the branch. In the East, co-operative methods are now being carried out for the purpose, through the associations of breeders and wool-growers. The members of an association are instructed in the washing and shearing of their flocks. The wool is then brought to some central depot, where it is graded by Government experts, and sold by grade by the officials of the association on a very small commission basis to cover the expenses of maintaining the depot. In the West the branch has arranged for assembling stations in each of the sheep-raising districts, where the sheep are clipped and the wool graded and packed under the direction of the Government experts and sold by the officials of the station on a small commission basis. The branch is assisting these associations in placing their clips on the English wool markets, by advancing money for freight and other incidental expenses. The clips shown at the London sales during the past year or so have invariably brought top prices, although the major portion has been bought up by Canadian or United

land, Oxford, Hampshire, Suffolk, Southern, Dorset Down, Dorset Horn, Norfolk Horn, Wiltshire, Radnor and Gritstone.

The industry is carried on in such a way that all districts are utilized whether they be highly cultivated, park lands or otherwise waste lands, which accounts for the comparatively large sheep population of the country amounting to over 33 millions. The industry is popular among the great land owners who have done much to maintain the high quality of breeding stock. In the mixed farming districts flocks averaging from four to five hundred sheep are common. The principal factor in such cases is the raising of fatted lambs and mutton for the meat trade in which quality of the breeding stock counts very high, and wool of excellent quality is the incidental result. The climate, although much varied, permits of keeping the sheep out all winter. The sheep are grazed both on natural grasses and cultivated grasses and fodder crops, a common method in the cultivated districts or parks, being to enclose sections of the flock in portable fences which are moved every day, or at most every few days, according as the pasture is cropped. The hilly and rough parts of the Kingdom are utilized for maintaining comparatively large flocks in which case the sheep are placed under the care of a shepherd or sheep herder. This method of husbandry is common in Scotland, where large flocks are pastured in the mountain districts. The success of the industry throughout the United Kingdom is due to two things, first successful husbandry methods, involving careful breeding and accurate maintenance of the breeds, and grazing under conditions peculiarly adapted to the districts. The methods are applicable in this country and have been followed on the majority of the successful sheep farms in each of the Provinces.

Although Australia is to-day the greatest sheep-raising country in the world the introduction of sheep into the country is of comparatively re-

cent date, the first importation having been made from Cape of Good Hope in 1788. The present sheep population is over 85 million, of which about 74 per cent are Merino and the remainder cross-bred—a mixture of English breeds and Merino—there being few pure-bred sheep in the country. Husbandry is mainly carried on under the ranching system, but the cutting up of the arable land into farms is bringing about a change in methods. This is typified by the State of Victoria, where, in 1913, the sheep population numbered 12,113,682. The number of flocks was 24,834, or an average number of sheep to a flock of 478. There were 19,582 flocks of under 500 sheep and only 25 flocks of over 20,000 sheep. The flocks of New South Wales and Queensland, where the sheep population in 1913 numbered 39,842,518 and 21,786,660 respectively, have not been reduced in size to the same extent but the change is being made as the country becomes more closely settled. In spite of this, however, the sheep population has not decreased to any appreciable extent on account of the changed conditions, which is due to the development of the industry with proper attention to quality, preparation and marketing of the products.

FALL IS THE TIME TO PREPARE SOIL FOR EARLY VEGETABLES

November Plowing Insures Good Seed Beds and Favors Rapid Growth of Garden Crops

November is the proper month to prepare the ground for the planting of early vegetables and garden crops in the following spring. Quality in vegetables is largely dependent on rapid growth and, this, in turn, is dependent on the early tith and the richness of the soil. Fall plowing and other preparations bring about the ideal conditions of the soil as seed-beds and favor quick growth of vegetables.

For onions and other heavy-feeding crops a good coat of manure should be turned under, and, if possible, another coat added to the surface of the plowed ground. If the land tends to wash it would be well to let it mix with the soil, but leaving the rough surface exposed to the weathering action of the winter frosts, snows, rains and thaws.

These operations will insure there being in the Spring a finely pulverized seed-bed, very favorable to the growth of delicate and shallow-rooted seedlings. But if plowing and other preparation of the ground is left until Spring there is a loss in time from other work that should be done then, and the delayed preparation results in the soil not being what it should be to favor rapid growth and fine quality of early vegetables and garden crops. Plow and manure your garden patches now.

"De trouble wid me and muh wife," admitted old Brother Gaumpers, "am dat, w'ile we 'gree mos' of de time, we don't 'gree at de same time. I kin 'gree 'bout anything, an' she kin 'gree 'bout anything, but we kain't 'gree wid each odder 'bout it. When I'm willin' to 'gree wid her she won't 'gree wid me, and when she is ready to 'gree wid me I've changed muh min' and kain't 'gree wid her. We kin hafe 'gree separate, but we kain't 'gree togedder on de same thing at de same time, and de mo' we tries de wuss we gits."

THE SECRET OF A GOOD COMPLEXION

Did it ever occur to you that there is a reason for your sallow complexion, pimples, blackheads and other skin blemishes? Your skin, when healthy, has to excrete 17 per cent of the waste matter of the body! If the pores become clogged, this poisonous waste is imprisoned and skin troubles follow. To rid yourself of these blemishes the skin must be cured of its sluggishness. This is just what Zam-Buk does. Zam-Buk is composed of stimulating and healing herbal essences, which penetrate the skin and enable it to expel the accumulated poisonous waste matter. A clear, healthy complexion is your reward.

The folly of endeavoring to cover up skin blemishes with powders and other cosmetics is quite apparent. Use Zam-Buk; remove the root cause of the trouble, and enjoy a good complexion without resorting to artificial means. Apply Zam-Buk at night when retiring, and wash with Zam-Buk soap.

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