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PROFITABLE SHEEP RAISING ON CANADIAN FARMS

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Early maturing sheep of good mutton form, liberally provided with suitable feed, are sure to produce a profit. Some comment on the quarantine. The future of the industry forecasted

TWO factors enter into profitable sheep farming in Canada. These are the breeding of a good type of mutton sheep and the provision of a liberal amount of feed. The sheep must be of good mutton type, so that they will give the greatest gain in flesh for the food consumed.

In reference to the ordinary farm, this implies that the ram at least, must be pure-bred and of a good mutton breed. The better this requirement is followed, the greater will be the profit obtained, since higher prices will always be gotten for sheep possessing a high standard of excellence in regard to mutton type.

EARLY MATURITY AND ITS VALUE

Early maturity sheep, that will make rapid progress and be ready for market any time within a year, are most likely to give the best results. A sheep that will weigh, when liberally fed, 130 to 140 pounds within a year from birth will always be a profit producer. To get such lambs requires the use of a strong, vigorous ram, weighing 200 pounds, upon ewes weighing from 100 to 175 pounds.

LIBERAL FEEDING SHOULD PREDOMINATE

Liberal feeding must be the daily duty of every progressive shepherd. The ewes should be fed a mixture of bran and oats with the addition perhaps of a little oil cake, so that the lambs may come strong and vigorous. The lambs should also be fed grain even before weaning, and afterwards the quantity should be increased in consistency with the appetite and in conjunction with this should be fed plenty of good alfalfa hay and roots, until the time arrives for turning them out to pasture.

Throughout the entire feeding operations the one feature of liberal feeding should predominate. By liberal feeding is not meant wasteful feeding, simply feeding in accordance with the appetite of the sheep, or what they will eat up cleanly and at the same time appear satisfied. The feed should always be of a palatable and nutritious nature. Liberal feeding from birth to the shambles is a sure source of profit when the sheep are of such breeding as to enable them to utilize to advantage the food that is given them.

It is not uncommon to find among many grade flocks that the breeding ewes receive no grain whatever, hence the lambs that they do raise, and they are generally scarce, are thriftless and do not present the qualities of an admirable butcher's sheep.

During recent years there have been influences in operation that have led to a sacrifice of sheep in this country and a consequent decrease in the numbers raised. The imposition of a quarantine by the United States upon all Canadian sheep entering that country has been responsible for this condition to some extent. Canadian breeders of high-class sheep are dependent upon the United States for their most extensive sales. Canada is famous for the high quality of its sheep, and at international live stock exhibitions on this continent has indicated its reputation by carrying of the majority of the premier prizes. For this reason American buyers have always been eager to obtain high-class Canadian sheep for improving their flocks, and, Canadians have catered directly to this trade.



A Splendid Type of an Oxford Ram and his Enthusiastic Owner

This yearling Oxford Down Ram was first and champion at the Canadian National Exhibition, 1908. He was owned and exhibited by Henry Arkell & Son. The son, T. Reg. Arkell, B. S. A., bandry in the New Hampshire State College.

knowing that in this direction lay their most substantial and profitable sales. Naturally, the quarantine placed a damper upon the pure-bred sheep trade, from which it will take some time to recover.

However, the prospects for the mutton sheep industry are bound to improve. The sacrifice of breeding stock upon the market, that has occurred in the past, is likely to react owing to decrease in the number of sheep being bred and the smaller number that will in future go upon the market. Besides, the quarantine cannot remain permanent. In fact, its removal may be expected at almost any time. This will then most likely give an impetus to the sheep trade, so that it will by far exceed its former extent. Again, new regions being opened up in Western Canada should provide

an excellent field for sheep raising. The sheep industry, it may be expected, will soon enter upon a period of new development in which the possibilities seem unlimited and profits well assured.

Canadian Meat Inspection

J. G. Rutherford, Veterinary Director General and Live Stock Commissioner

The Meat Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa is carried on under the authority of the Meat and Canned Goods Act, a measure which received the Royal Assent at the prorogation of Parliament in June, 1907, and came into operation on September 3rd, of that year. Present-day sentiment in Europe and elsewhere, especially since the recent revelations in Chicago, is arrayed very strongly against the use, as human food, of any meats save those duly inspected and certified by proper government authority. It was in conformity with this sentiment, and chiefly with the object of preserving our valuable export trade in bacon and similar products, that the Meat and Canned Foods

Act was passed. With the view of clearing up any misunderstanding which may exist in the public mind as to the exact nature of the legislation under which the present Meat Inspection Service is conducted, the following explanation is given:

Before the Meat and Canned Foods Act was introduced in the House of Commons by the Honourable Sydney Fisher, the Minister of Justice was asked for an opinion as to the powers of the Federal Government with reference to Meat Inspection. His reply was that while these powers undoubtedly warranted the Federal Government in undertaking the inspection of articles exported from the Dominion or from one province to another, there was very grave doubt as to whether they would permit of a similar inspection of articles, the trade in which was confirmed within the boundaries of any one province. This provision was especially applicable to meat inspection, a subject intimately associated with public health, one of the matters which, since 1872, has been dealt with altogether by the provincial authorities.

PROVISION FOR MUNICIPAL MEAT INSPECTION

Provision is made either by the Municipal Act or by the Public Health Act of each province, and in some cases by both, for the establishment and carrying on of municipal meat inspection, and that this legislation has, up till now, in too many cases, remained a dead letter, or at best, been very ineffectively enforced, is no fault of the Federal authorities. Further, a little consideration will, I think, demonstrate the utter impossibility of any Federal Department undertaking the supervision, in all its ramifications of the local meat