

Extra Manitoba hard—Nos. 1, 2 and 3 hard; Nos. 1 and 2 Northern, and No. 1 frosted. These are different from last year's standards. Last year there was no frosted wheat grade or No. 3 Northern. The Manitoba extra hard is selected to comply with the statute. It is a choice sample of wheat, and is used principally for seeding purposes. A committee was appointed to meet later on if necessary and select standards for oats, barley and No. 2 frosted.

For some time there has been a bitter feeling between the cattle and sheep men on the ranges in the Western States. Cattle men claim that the sheep poison the grass and their cattle will not eat it, or they bite so close that it is useless to graze cattle where sheep have been. The sheep men have offered to divide the ranges with the cattlemen, but the latter seem to want the former to get out altogether. Recently this feeling has been intensified by the death of a sheep man in Nebraska in a fight between the two elements. The sheep men are now organizing to avenge his death, and it is hard to say what the outcome will be.

There has been much interest aroused among the farmers in the Lothians of Scotland recently, respecting an experiment in regard to winter-sown barley. The barley in question was grown on a field which was cropped with potatoes last year. No artificial or other manure was applied other than what had been applied to the potato crop the previous year. The field was seeded on December 11th with three bushels of barley drilled in. As the winter was mild it continued to grow all winter. The crop was very thick on the ground, and was cut on September 5th last. The color was good, and the sample weighed fifty-seven pounds per bushel, and, when threshed, there was seventy-five bushels of dressed grain per acre.

The workers in a bee-hive are all females, in whom the sex organs are present but undeveloped. The development of the sex organs depends upon the food supplied to the young bee when in the larval stage. By feeding certain foods the bees can produce a developed female or a "queen bee," and this queen bee, when impregnated, will produce eggs that will hatch out either as workers or as drones. If a queen bee has not been impregnated she can produce fertile eggs, but they will all hatch out males. Impregnation is, therefore, absolutely necessary to the production of females. Thus it would appear that there may be some truth in the old belief that males take chiefly from their mothers and females from their fathers.

Deptford is the foreign cattle market for London. Here the cattle from South America, the United States and Canada are landed. The enclosure contains thirty acres, and in the huge building 8,000 cattle and 14,000 sheep can be kept under cover and as comfortable as you please. Two thousand men are directly or indirectly engaged in keeping the place sweet and clean. A reporter of the *London Leader*, who paid it a visit recently, says: "The cattle were as characteristic of their countries as their men are. The States cattle ranked first—fine broad backed beeves these, weighing a good twenty to thirty per cent. heavier than even the Canadians. These ranked next. Argentines were scraggy beasts comparatively."

Many Manitoba farmers claim that they are unfairly treated in the system of "mixing" and "skimming" wheats by the large elevator men. They are able to do this because every bushel of wheat graded as No. 1 hard when taken from the farmer weighs from 61½ to 62½ pounds to the bushel, while the law demands that No. 1 hard should grade only 60 pounds. This being so it is claimed that by a judicious mixing of inferior grades with No. 1 hard it is reduced to 60 pounds the large dealers are making a large profit which should go to the farmer. The remedy suggested is for the legal standard to be made 61½ lbs. instead of 60 pounds per bushel. The injurious effect of this "mixing" is that, when a lot of wheat so "doctored" arrives in the British market or is received by the Eastern miller, it is not the real No. 1 hard as sold by the Manitoba farmer.

There seems to be a good opening in China for certain kinds of Canadian products. Mr. H. J. Craig, a Canadian resident of Shanghai, China, in a recent interview at Winnipeg, said:

"In my opinion Canada should have a share of Chinese trade, and there is no reason why it should not. China wants flour, lumber, butter, canned goods, hams and bacon, and they want the best of them. The only Canadian article now sold in China, to my knowledge, is Canadian club whiskey.

"I believe a commission was sent from Canada some time ago to investigate China as a market for Canadian products. I don't think that anything could be accomplished in that way. Let the goods be sent. If they are of the right quality and handled by a man on the spot they can be sold at good prices.

"While I am in this country I will see some of the large milling and lumbering firms with a view of securing trial shipments to the East. If the freight rates are not prohibitive these goods can be handled with profit. If Canada is to make a bid for Chinese trade it should be done now before the Americans get a 'cinch.'"



The Worrying of Sheep by Dogs

In a recent issue of *The Canadian Statesman* a correspondent discusses in a practical way this subject. Referring to his own township, he points out that the amount paid out in sheep damages each year by the treasurer is but a fraction of the total loss of the municipality through this evil. In proof of this he states that a number of farmers have gone out of the sheep business altogether owing to the danger from dogs; that the council only allows two-thirds of the value; that often a number of sheep are bitten, but not serious enough to claim damages; that when only one is killed the farmer will not go to the trouble of calling a valuator; that if a flock is scared by dogs at night they do not thrive as well as they otherwise would, and that, to save their flocks, owners house their sheep at night and in so doing deprive them of their best feeding time. With these difficulties and losses, is it any wonder that many farmers are giving up sheep-raising altogether?

In regard to the remedy for these grievances the writer says:

"Let our Council pass a by-law that dog owners shall tie up or confine their dogs, say from 6.30 p.m. to 5 o'clock a.m., during sheep-killing season, which lasts about three months, commencing about 1st September. To facilitate the carrying out of this plan let the path-masters (or other persons agreed upon) be empowered to report any man on his beat who does not comply with the law, and let a suitable penalty be imposed. In return for this trouble given to dog-owners let there be no tax on dogs or else let the tax be in proportion to that on other live stock. As a dog-tax is levied to pay sheep damages, and as such a law would prevent most, if not all, of these damages, such a heavy tax would not be required. The tax as now levied is very unjust. It is probable that most of the sheep killed are killed by a very few dogs in proportion to the number kept, so that as a consequence a majority of owners pay out each year a large amount of money for sheep damages for which they are not really responsible. Even the present law could, by a little change, be made just, by changing it so that owners who secure their dogs by night be exempted from the dog-tax, or the most of it, and those who do not so secure their dogs be made by increased taxation to pay the whole of the damages caused in all probability by their prowling dogs."

From the above it may be gathered that the existing law which imposes a tax upon every dog kept in the country has not been effective in preventing the worrying of sheep by dogs. Though the farmer who has sheep destroyed or injured in this way may be compensated to the extent of two-thirds of the value of his sheep, this is not sufficient to cover the total amount of the loss sustained, and