

at a fair price has now advanced them fifty cents a barrel on the chance of ours not coming at all. And the other interests—their name is legion. The banks with their 12 per cent. interest, the machine man, the mortgagor, the real estate dealer, the baliff,—with the doctor and the undertaker trailing along in their wake. All must have a bite before we can take any apples home to the kiddies. So, Peter, don't roll any apples down the hill. Leave them for the old sow."

There is some food for thought in that letter that you can chew over while sitting by the fire eating apples.

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Here is an indignant letter from Edmonton:

"It seems perfectly absurd to have to pay such awful freight and express rates. Well, it is too much for words. We got a barrel of Georgian Bay No. 1 Spies for \$5.50 delivered to the cellar, and we are having more "Apple Delights" than George Foster ever dreamed of. I think he might use his energies in trying to arrange better railroad rates for the people. But no doubt it is easier to sit in your office and dictate recipes for 'Apple Delights.'"

I wonder if they haven't heard out West yet that they should say Sir George Foster when speaking of the Minister of Trades and Commerce? This letter also contains some food for thought, for it suggests a certain amount of Western indignation that may yet bear fruit politically.

On Karakul Sheep.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Several live-stock men and government experts have sent me copies of your issue of October 8th, 1914, which contained an article by Harlan D. Smith, who has variously ascribed his residence to Oregon and several other states, but really is in the employ of the Kansas Agricultural College, and L. M. Crawford of Topeka, Kansas as advertising agent for the latter.

There are several other points in the letter which I would like to elucidate. L. M. Crawford did not introduce Karakul sheep into America.—C. C. Young is the sole importer. He imported in 1908, in 1912, and again this year for the Dr. C. C. Young Karakul Sheep Company of P.E.I. Crawford bought no imported rams whatsoever. He purchased descendants of the first importation from Dr. Young in 1912. It will be noted later, that only one ram of the first importation consistently produced lambs of commercial value. The head of that ram is in this room where I write. He died on June 5th, 1914, and was never owned by Mr. Crawford.

These matters of history are of little comparative importance, if what Mr. Smith states in the second paragraph is true. He says that Mr. Crawford's lamb-skins were priced by New York furriers at from \$3.00 to \$10.00 each. That would imply an average price of six or seven dollars per skin, and would be more profitable on a pelt basis than rearing lambs of commoner breeds. We challenge Mr. Smith to publish the New York furrier's signed statement. We ourselves, have published New York furrier's statements which set the prices at from \$5.00 to \$12.00 each, but first took the precaution to have the United States Government's mark on the skins. Some of Mr. Smith's statements may permissibly be doubted, when his article is illustrated with a cut of a lamb from our flock held by Joseph Simonson. Can it be that Mr. Smith is unable to show the photograph of a wavy, curled lamb from Mr. Crawford's flock?

It might be well to find out also from Professor Nabours, whether what I have stated above is true. Dr. Nabours is known to me personally as an honorable gentleman. He was in Europe and Asia last summer. Let him speak regarding what he saw, and what Dr. Young's position in the Karakul sheep industry is, in both America and Russia, even though Mr. Crawford and he are co-operating in this industry.

I bred the pick of the rams of the first and second importations last year to full-blood Karakul ewes, and to common breeds including Lincoln sheep from the same flock of which Mr. Smith speaks. I have spent much time studying the fur business, and particularly perfecting myself in judging the wholesale prices of Persian Lamb fur in such houses as that of Theodor Thorer of New York. I think that the average wholesale value of the skins of the Lincoln-karakul lambs was about \$7.00 each when sired by our rams. That would not justify the prices mentioned by Mr. Smith for half-bred karakul rams, namely \$300.00 as they would assuredly throw lambs worth only three or four dollars each, even though the lambs might be black. All Persian Lamb fur is dyed in any case. I have concluded, that half-karakul ram lambs as a whole are useless as commercial producers of Persian Lamb fur, and have slaughtered all whose skins were judged worth less than \$9.00. These will be tested before our company offers them for sale.

As for the hardiness and mutton qualities, Mr.

Smith is right. He quotes letters in proof, the originals of which are in Dr. Young's files.

The cross of Karakul sheep with Lincolns gave the cheapest skin in the offspring of any of the breeds tested. Short or fine wool sheep like Shropshires give a skin almost worthless. As this was well proved in Texas we did not breed any fine wools. All pure-bred Karakuls do not give highly priced lambs. The quality which seems to be a necessity is the absence of fine wool in the fleeces of the parent. When two such coarse-wool parents are mated the result is a magnificent lamb whose skin is worth \$12.00 wholesale. We had several such from crosses of some of the rams of the second importation and coarse-wooled ewes of common breeds.

The importation of 1908, from which all of Mr. Crawford's stock was descended was a failure as a commercial venture. Only one ram—Teddy—gave reliable results, and Mr. Crawford never owned the original Teddy. It was only when Teddy happened to mate with a coarse-wooled ewe that high-priced fur was produced. It was this fact that led to the discovery of the requirements in the parents for costly fur production—namely coarse wool with freedom from fine wool. Dr. Young divided his flock in 1911 on the basis of wool quality, and sold half the flock to Mr. Crawford, and it is significant that Mr. Crawford and he have not since been associated in business. Neither has Mr. Crawford been able to import nor benefit from the importations. Mr. Crawford has been selling animals broadcast; Dr. C. C. Young Karakul Sheep Company have consistently refused to sell, and will sell only tested and guaranteed stock.

We believe, that practically speaking, it will require two crosses with Lincoln ewes to breed out the fine wool sufficiently to insure an average of \$10.00 a skin from the best rams. If this be so, companies purchasing half Karakul-Lincoln bucks from Mr. Crawford will not make their



Good Holsteins and Tall Elms Beautify Any Landscape.

flocks very profitable unless they can later obtain better rams to grade up the flock. We doubt the ability of the ordinary American to achieve the importation of Karakul sheep from Asia, so that the rams must be purchased in America,—but from whom?

In order to secure an ample supply of the best blood procurable on earth, our company at Charlottetown sent Dr. Young to Asia for the best herd that could be secured at any expense. The herd secured cost upwards of \$51,000.00. Through a series of fortunate circumstances, access was obtained to the remotest places where the Karakul sheep is reared, and one sheep was chosen from each district. They were brought out to civilization in July, and came to America on the last trip made by any Russian steamer out of the Baltic before the war. They are now in America, and soon from the crosses of these on sheep already in our possession, a pedigreed herd will originate, that will not depend on quack advertising for their sales, but from estimates of their fur values by reliable furriers.

The Karakul sheep in America can number two millions, before the American market will be supplied. That fact assures the sale of pedigreed stock for years to come at high prices. But the public should remember, that a sire should be able to do more than project a black color into the lamb skins,—he must be able to produce a tight, close, wavy curl covering the body even on the belly, legs, and face. Harlan D. Smith should not be allowed to injure a first-class live-stock industry in his advertising zeal.

P.E.I.

J. WALTER JONES.

Remember the faithful rural mail carrier with a kindly Christmas greeting and word of thanks if you cannot reach his stocking. Few public officials render the country folk a more arduous service or one more deserving of appreciation.

Still Assisting Tile Drainage.

Shortly after the outbreak of the European war a report gained some circulation that the Ontario Government would discontinue loans to farmers under the Tile Drainage Act, until after the close of the war. I am commissioned by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Duff, to say that such is not the case and that loans under the Tile Drainage Act are being made as usual. As a wrong impression has been created by these erroneous reports it is thought best to explain the situation clearly. On Nov. 4th, the Hon. Mr. Duff wrote me as follows:—

"In reference to your enquiry of a few days ago in regard to loans on drainage, I beg to advise you that the Government will continue to grant loans on tile drainage applications. The rate of interest will be 5 per cent. as fixed by the legislation of last Session. This, as you will readily agree is necessary owing to the fact that the Government has to pay that rate for its loans at the present time. Some Councils evidently by mistake passed their By-laws at the old rate of 4 per cent., and these had to be altered before the loans were paid out. This was probably the foundation of the report that the Government had discontinued payments on tile drainage. I am pleased to be able to state that this is not the case. The Government, however, is not purchasing municipal drainage debentures at the present time."

It is also probable that some confusion arose from this last mentioned fact. On Sept. 30th, I wrote the Provincial Treasurer's Department asking "whether the war is likely to interfere with loans under the Tile Drainage Act." The answer was: "The Executive Council does not approve of the purchase of drainage debentures at the present time." I naturally thought this included the tile drainage loans about which I had written, and, consequently, informed some enquirers that tile drainage loans were discontinued. I can readily understand how the same confusion may have occurred with some township councils.

Whatever the origin it is gratifying to know that the reports were erroneous and that tile drainage loans are being made as usual.

WM. H. DAY, Professor of Physics,
Ont. Agr. College, Guelph, Ont.

THE DAIRY.

Changing a Cheesery to a Creamery.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There is considerable uneasiness in some cheese factory districts. Where the condenser had cut into the cheesery patronage and almost wiped the cheese manufacturer out of existence, the condenser has closed down in at least one place and the cheese man is almost flooded with milk. There is no good reason for the "panicky feeling" among manufacturers of condensed milk, except the nervousness due to "war scares." In the meantime the cheese trade is having the greatest "boom" it has had in many years. One of the Eastern Ontario Cheese Boards reports an average price for the season of 1914, one-and-a-half cents above the average price for 1913 and about 1,000 boxes more cheese boarded for the present year as compared with last year. However, we may expect a reaction after the war is over and cheese factory patrons should prepare for it. In the meantime we may as well take full advantage of the "boom" while it is on. There is no use following the example of the old lady who said, "It always made her feel bad when she felt good, because she knew she would be worse after she was better."

One cause for the exceptionally high price paid for cheese and the relatively low price of butter is given in the letter of a member of the First Canadian Overseas Contingent now located on Salisbury Plains, England, who says: "We get plenty of good bread and cheese, but no butter." In consequence of this unusual condition of affairs regarding the relative demand for cheese and butter and its effect on the price, patrons and managers of cheeseries, would do well to consider carefully the advisability of changing from cheese to butter manufacture at the present time.

Not long ago we had a letter from the President of a Farmer's Co-Operative Cheese Company, saying they had a nice little cheese factory, were doing a nice business, but a number of the patrons wished to change from cheese to butter manufacture. He wished to know what the writer thought of the advisability of changing, what the change would cost, and any other points likely to be interesting to farmers who contemplated making such a change in their methods of dairying.

Our advice was not to make the change just at the present time, unless the farmers intended going into live-stock raising quite strongly, in which case skim-milk is almost a necessity, especially for calves and pigs. While it is undoubtedly true that the development of our live stock interests is very important, it is questionable whether or not farmers act wisely in making a

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