

parts of the world, where proper care is taken to place it upon the market in the very best condition. We have no wool market nor any system of selling. We do not offer large enough amounts for sale at a time to make it worth while for a buyer to go any distance. This can be remedied if more sheep were to be raised.

That almost every known breed of sheep is kept in Ontario, with the exception of the Merino, and no two breeds of sheep produce exactly the same kinds of wool, although the Lincolns and Cotswolds produce very similar wools.

Roughly speaking, there are three great classes of wools:

1. Clothing wool—short.
2. Delaine—fine, strong, short wools (Worsted).
3. Combing—long wools.

That for the fine classes of goods the wools have to be imported, but for the coarser clothings, blankets, etc., for which there is a large and growing market, our Canadian wools cannot be outclassed. The rapid growth of some of our establishments manufacturing such goods and using Canadian wool only is sufficient proof of this. The "Cornwall" blanket, which had a world-wide reputation for its quality, was made entirely of Canadian wool, and would still be famous but for the use of cheaper materials.

The question of breeds of sheep and kinds of wool is not so important as the proper care of the wool while it is on the sheep and at shearing time; uses can be found for the wool from every breed of sheep, provided it is properly cared for. In many cases the weeds are not combated and the sheep are allowed to wander all over the farm, gathering up burrs and boot-jacks as trophies. After these, too, often comes a straw or hay stack, which adds its quota of foreign material to the wool.

While many provide proper places and take care of their sheep, a great many more do not. In many cases the sheep are underfed during the winter, which causes them to lose flesh. When this occurs, a weak spot in the wool fibre can be found which detracts greatly from its value, as the wool will become clotted and will not divide, making it impossible to properly comb or card it. To provide wool of good quality, the sheep must be kept in clean quarters and fed well enough to be in a healthy condition.

Breeds should not be crossed, as it produces a nondescript wool which is not well suited for any particular purpose, and consequently is not very marketable. Excessive inbreeding or anything which weakens the constitution of the flock will have a bad effect on the quality of the wool.

Though the producer may not always take proper care of the wool while it is on the sheep, there should be no excuse for not delivering it in better shape. A great many fleeces are rolled up without being trimmed in any way, including all the burrs and dirt which they originally contained. Too often the fleece is tied up with binder twine, and it is next to impossible to prevent strands of the hemp from being mixed with the wool. This vegetable material will not take the dye which is used for the wool, and it therefore detracts greatly from the value of any piece of cloth into which it happens to find its way. The manufacturer prefers to obtain unwashed wool, as he has to furnish machinery for washing and scouring anyway, and they do it more thoroughly than the farmer can do it with the means at his disposal. It is also better for the sheep, as there is no delay in shearing due to waiting for warmer water.

The producer, however, is not altogether to blame; the practice of selling to small dealers is a great drawback. They pay an average price, and if a man has only a small quantity, no matter what the quality, he cannot command any higher price. Too often the dealers cannot distinguish between the various wools, and cases are on record where they have bought unwashed wool for washed wool.

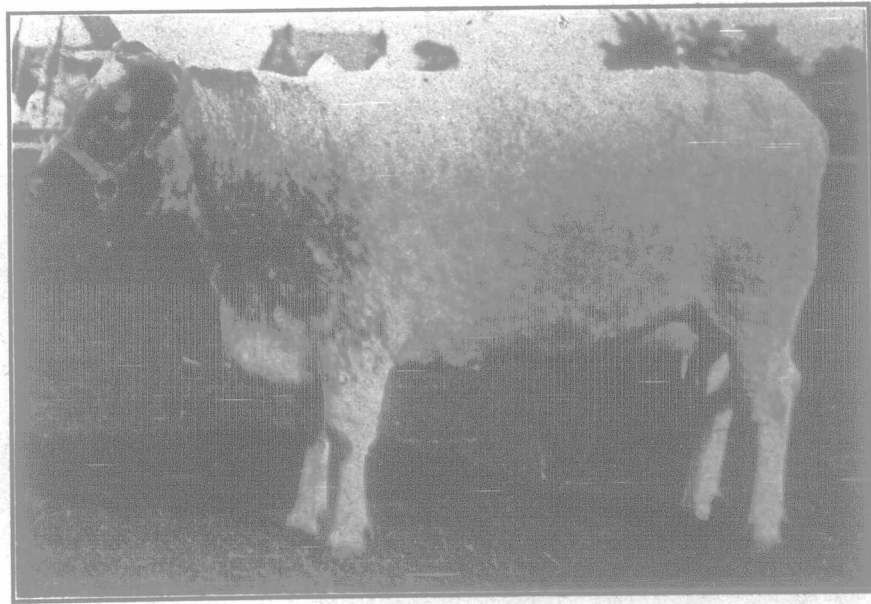
There is now some encouragement for the farmer to take better care of the wool, but he must, in most cases, change his system of marketing to obtain the full benefit which might be obtained by taking better care of his product. There is no money in it under the system of marketing generally practiced, unless he produces sufficient to attract a manufacturer. There is no business in Ontario where the inexperienced middleman is doing more harm than in the wool business. The farmers should deal directly with business. The consumers or large wool merchant. This is being done in some districts. Around Lindsay, where the producers have been selling directly to the manufacturers according to quality, the standard of wools has risen considerably. The small dealers sell by bulk, and no large dealer can afford to give them the best price because there can be no guarantee given as to the quality, cleanliness, etc., of the wool. This class of dealer should be eliminated. It is not a business, but a sideline with most of them.

It is estimated that there is an average loss

of 17 per cent in all Ontario wool, due to dirt, poor wool, etc. Were it possible to have every sheep owner visit some mill and have the various processes pointed out to him and shown how, with the most up-to-date processes and machinery, it is impossible to prevent some dirt occasionally finding its way into the manufactured article, he would, no doubt, take greater care to prevent dirt getting into the wool.

The farmers can individually do a great deal to improve the quality of the wool placed on the market, by taking care to prevent dirt getting into the wool while on the sheep, and by being more careful at shearing time in trimming the fleeces. Instead of using twine to tie them, a small strand of wool from the fleece itself should be twisted and used for this purpose. It is not necessary to have the fleeces tied up tightly, so long as they are tied neatly enough to keep each fleece by itself, it is all that is required.

In marketing, some scheme of co-operation as practiced by the fruit men should greatly help to solve the question. In Tennessee, great benefit has been derived from wool clubs. The clubs were formed for the purpose of helping each other in the matter of selling only. Each member of the club furnishes an estimate of the amount of wool which he will have for sale to the Secretary of the club. Arrangements are made to have the wool delivered at a sorting shed, and an expert sorter secured for a time to sort the wool. The wool from each farmer is sorted and he is credited with so many pounds of each grade. When the clip is all in, the club is able to say to buyers we have so many pounds of wool of each grade, what will you pay? The manufacturer or large wool merchant knows the quality of wool, and, as he is buying in fairly large quantities, he is enabled to offer the highest possible price. This scheme eliminates the middleman, and gives the farmer all there is in his wool. Then there is encouragement offered to produce the best grade of wool.



Bankfields Belle.

Champion Shorthorn heifer at the Oxfordshire Show, in England.

If clubs of this sort were formed in districts throughout the province, it would help to increase the profits from sheep-raising, and also create more interest in the industry. This would be a step towards establishing a market, each club centre would be a market on a small scale, and afterward, if it appeared to be advisable, co-operation among a number of clubs would make larger markets and attract more buyers.

The End of All.

The end of all beef cattle, pigs, and sheep is the butcher's block. All breeding is, or should be, done with a view to improving the type of the animal and quality of the meat as desired by the butcher. There are a few things which the butcher would just as soon do without, but which must go along with what he wants, however, and these are the portions of the animal frame developed as a result of strong constitution and good feeding qualities. For instance, a good feeder's head is desirable, and the animal must be well let down at the front and hind flank, and should carry a fair amount of brisket. The butcher cares nothing for these cuts. He wants an animal well developed where meat is of the highest quality and well covered with firm flesh. He wants the one which is likely to shrink the least, but the feeder must keep in mind constitution and feeding qualities as well.

In all stock breeding utility is the determining factor. It is a nice thing to feel assured that no matter what fads and fancies arise, the product of the herd can be sold at a profit for consumption. The best animal to breed is the pure bred, all things considered. It costs no

more to feed and care for a pure-bred animal than a cross-bred mongrel or grade of the same class, and the animal is generally worth much more for feeding purposes. Paying high prices for animals as a result of fads is a losing game. Breeding animals should be able to pay their way even though some of them must be sold to the butcher, but none should go to the latter as anything but first-class stuff. If there is anyone in a position to put on the market the best that the market gets it should be the man who from years of breeding up his herd has it on a high plane. He is the man who should be able to produce the highest-priced baby beef, the choicest leg of lamb, and the richest loin of pork. Every breeding animal to be what it should be must be a market topper, or producer of market toppers, or animals which were they not used for breeding purposes would command highest market prices. This is what often saves the breeder when he is overstocked at the time the breeding-stock market slumps. The real lasting value of a breed of live stock is its utility. Milk or meat must form the foundation of value.

Pasturing Hogs on Clover and Alfalfa.

It is generally agreed that pork may be made at smaller cost in summer than in winter, because the pigs may be kept outside in field or paddock and so get the benefit of exercise and fresh air, and, at the same time, a good pasture will aid in rapid growth and fattening. Clover and alfalfa are two of the most suitable crops for the purpose, and a bulletin of the Missouri Experiment Station, just issued, takes up these two crops among many others and also gives a good idea of how to carry the pigs over summer if the clover crop has failed. The bulletin is loud in its praises of these two

the great hog pasture. It furnishes an abundance of excellent pasture that supplies the necessary nutrients lacking in corn; it fertilizes the ground while growing; and fits perfectly into a rotation where corn is the principal crop. The general distribution and popularity of clover as a forage crop is due to its general adaptability to conditions. There is no serious drawback to it as a hog pasture. It is, however, in addition to being a biennial, more easily killed by heavy pasturing than is bluegrass or timothy. If heavily pastured when small the hogs eat off the crown and kill the plant, or too heavy pasturing at any season of the year may cause serious injury. If the clover is to be pastured heavily the hogs should not be turned in until the clover is several inches high. Clover is at its best for hog pasture when heading and blossoming, but if the hogs are not turned in until the clover reaches this state it will take a very large number to keep the pasture from getting too ripe. After the heads are ripe the plant is so woody that the hogs do not relish it as pasture. When the plant is in this stage it should be cut or clipped, and a new succulent growth allowed to spring up. The clover can be pastured heavily enough to keep the pasture from getting woody, but when pastured too heavily a short dry spell is liable to cause it to die. Alsike clover is better in some regions than red clover, especially in low, moist ground. It will supply about as much pasture as red clover, if sown at the same time, and furnishes for about the same period.

Alfalfa is shown by the experience of its users to be somewhat superior to red clover as a hog pasture, both as to quality and amount of feed furnished. While an acre of clover will pasture from eight to twelve hogs averaging 75-125 pounds per head, the same area of alfalfa will pasture fifteen to twenty head of the same kind of shoats. Alfalfa comes earlier in the spring than clover, and, if kept from heading, will make a green succulent nitrogenous forage from spring until heavy freezing comes in the fall. Not only does this plant give a good forage during the growing season, but the hay, especially the last cutting, will furnish a high-class roughage for hogs in winter, and anyone who has used alfalfa hay for this purpose never fails to recommend it very highly.