



Ewes that have Reared Lambs for the Early Market.

Where ewes have reared lambs for the early market, they can be more profitably disposed of early in the season than at a later period. To stimulate the milk flow, they must be well fed while nursing their lambs; and if due care is exercised in adjusting the food to their needs, they will not fall away in flesh during this period. When the lambs are sold, they will have to be fed with a prudent caution until the milk functions have ceased to be active. As soon as they have been properly "dried," the free, full diet should then be resorted to, and its character should, to some extent, at least, be changed. It should be made more carbonaceous. Peas, as the grain food, or peas and oats, would be preferable to oats and bran. Oil-cake also may be freely used. The dams will, in a few weeks, if thus fed, be ready for market; and as soon as ready they should, if possible, go at once. Where they have reared spring lambs they should go to the shambles before being turned out on grass. They will not, of course, bring as high a price as young, well-finished animals, but they will bring a much higher price than can be obtained from them at any later period of the season. More, probably, can be obtained from old ewes thus handled than can be got from them in any other way.

Spring Lamb.

Spring lamb is a luxury. Luxuries usually fetch a high price. But when luxuries are not of excellent quality, or when they are out of season, they are not wanted. Let these facts be borne in mind by those who are engaged in growing spring lamb. If good prices are to be obtained for the lambs, they must be fed as well as the owner knows how to feed them. If he doesn't know how to feed them properly, then he cannot grow spring lambs successfully. In the first place, there should be good dams. In the second place, there should be good food, and plenty of it. And, in the third place, the lambs should have suitable quarters. By good dams is meant those which milk reely. It will be a hard matter, indeed, to

make a good lamb for the early spring market when suckled by a dam that will not give enough milk to sustain it. By good food, under Ontario conditions, is meant plenty of nice clover hay for the dams, and a free supply of oats and bran. With oil-cake added, the grain portion will be improved. If a free supply of roots can be given after the lambing season it will greatly stimulate the milk flow. Ensilage will have a similar effect, but not probably to the same extent. The lambs, also, must needs be given such foods as oats, oil-cake, and bran, and all that they will eat of these apart from the ewes. To stint either dam or lamb in their food supplies would be to court failure. The quarters suitable may vary, but they should furnish to the lambs plenty of sunlight, plenty of fresh air, protection from cold winds, and a nice dry bed on which to sleep.

The Quality of Our Mutton.

Canadian mutton stands high in the markets of this country. The inscription "Canada Mutton" on the butchers' wagons in New York is something to be proud of. It is at once a tribute to the diligence and skill of our farmers who have given attention to growing sheep. Let us not rest, however, in a false security. This vantage ground can only be held by progress. Our American cousins are making progress. They are taking a leaf out of our book. They are growing rape and some of them are growing roots, and they are giving more attention to their sheep. If we are long to retain any hold upon that market, we must look well after our methods, for nothing but quality can enable us in the future to hold the fort.

But suppose that we should lose that market entirely, the argument remains that we should try to maintain quality in our sheep; for in any market quality is of great account. If we send our sheep over the sea, they must have quality to make the venture pay. And the more of quality they have the better it will pay. If we sell them at home, the argument is the same. A butcher will give us a good price for a good sheep, but a poor and inferior one he does not want at all.