

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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country, provided they are selected according to General Booth's plans, and the emigrants, when they come, display something of the patience, courage and faith of many of our forefathers, from the Old Land, who, a few generations ago, faced the Canadian forest to hew out homes for themselves, rather than endure oppressive conditions, miserable class distinctions and stunted living of the Islands that gave them birth.

Canadianize the Immigrant.

Referring to the decision of the Canadian Government, communicated to Mr. Israel Zangwill, the writer, that it will not be possible to set apart a tract of land in the West for the occupation of the Jews, as desired by a European organization, of which Mr. Zangwill is one of the moving spirits, Toronto Saturday Night makes the following sensible comment: "The Jew gets a square deal in Canada, but he cannot get a square Province set apart for his own particular use. Popular opinion would not approve the giving over to these people, of a large tract of country. In fact, experience condemns the practice of permitting any kind of foreigners to set themselves apart in that new country, where they can remain impervious to the nationalizing influences of laws, language, politics, business and habits of living. After some experience, the authorities would much rather break up some colonies that already exist, than permit the establishment of others. People get into the way of speaking about the Jew as if he were always of one type, whereas Jews, like men of other races, come in all shapes, sizes and degrees of possible value for the purposes of citizenship. Those who come to us from countries where they have endured centuries of oppression, have had beaten out of them almost the last vestige of self-respect, and they are poor material for use in the big job of nation-making that we have on our hands." From wherever they spring, our immigrants should become Canadian.

Our Maritime Letter.

In connection with the revival of the sheep industry, now so earnestly recommended in many quarters, it may not be out of place to cite here for Maritime shepherds, actual or prospective, the commercial reports bearing upon the market prices for meat and wool, and the prospects which loom up in the eye of the investor from trade in this particular branch of animal husbandry. Not only may we expect to get good prices for sheep and wool and pelts, but the inducement of being able to supply breeding stock to Australia and New Zealand is being held out to us with more than ordinary persistence. Of course, Australia has ever been regarded as a fine-wool country, and not particularly desirous of excelling in meat production. However, the great place her frozen mutton holds in the meat markets of Britain has forced pastoralists to the consideration of such an improvement of their flocks as may add to their meat qualities, without impairing the wool product. This may be no easy task. Specialists have been engaged upon working out its details for some time, and shortly it will be decided whether experimentation on a large scale, and by personal endeavor, will proceed further in these lines. At any rate, the general faith increases in the general-purpose animal as a greater money-getter than the pure-wool grower or the good-meat maker among the sheep families. Necessity has frequently brought about in other things similar results.

The fact that in 1906, 375,563 carcasses of frozen mutton, as against 120,097 carcasses in 1905, were exported from Australia, shows how rapidly this branch of trade is advancing. This is almost up to the highest figures in exports within a given period, and clearly indicates an enthusiastic and prosperous return of the industry from the general depression which overtook it a few years ago. The customs returns from this source, in New South Wales alone, for the past six months of the year, show an increase of £142,078—over one-half a million dollars. The Merino, which is the class of sheep that Australia has been devoting all its care to, is not a mutton breed, as all know; hence in meat form it is not an economic shipper in any sense. Cross-breeds between a ram of British stock and this wool-producer of the country are looked to, then, to make every end of the business return its utmost to the raiser. And Canadian stud sheep, unsurpassed as they are by those of any other part of the globe, might, Agent Larke thinks, share the immense prices paid for pure-bred males to head Australian flocks. The recent exhibitions in that country evoked much interest in British breeds of sheep, we are told, and, whilst the prices of prime individuals did not reach at all the Merino figure (in one case 475 guineas), there was a marked advance in the numbers and values of the stock presented. An average of £35 for ewes, and as high a figure as 185 guineas for a Shropshire ram, was reported. New Zealand and Tasmania are raising stud sheep of our breeds for Australian ranchers, but it is considered that going far afield for new blood would immensely help the upbuilding of composite flocks; and then, our skilled breeders could have an opportunity of doing a good trade amongst them. Canadian breeders of pure stock would do well to consider this Australian opening; they have advantages over other competitors which should stand them in good stead in the struggle for ascendancy.

The demand for mutton—lamb, principally, it is designated now—is becoming greater and greater on this continent yearly. We have here, in Prince Edward Island, raised 20,000 sheep per annum, and now can scarcely reach half that figure. They always decrease as countries develop. It is the poor man's animal. The raw wool on a farm is no longer a necessity, either. Everything the farmer's sons wear, unfortunately, is purchased at the country store. As waste land becomes reclaimed, many felt their inability to fence for sheep, and they could not be kept otherwise. When they would not look after themselves in summer, they got rid of them, regardless of the profit that is in them, directly, as meat-makers and wool-producers, or the indirect value flowing from the enrichment of the soil and the keeping down of harmful weeds. A few years ago we sold our lambs for 1½ cents per pound; to-day they offer us 4 and 5 cents, almost before they are weaned. The American markets, paying an economic duty on them, takes almost everything we raise. The Canadian Maritime cities are every year becoming greater consumers of this kind of meat. Even here in this rural section it is hard to get lamb when wanted, and we have to pay from 15 to 20 cents per pound for it. Half a decade ago, 8 or 9 cents would constitute an outside price. Ranch wool, too, fetches 30 to 35 cents, as against 16 cents in 1900, and there is no end to the demand for local woolen mills of the Provinces, having gone up in prices to compete with other producers.

will find it difficult to climb down again, at least whilst any vestige of prosperity haunts the land; and, therefore, it seems to us highly proper that as many as can at all attempt it, should make up their minds to raise sheep—to organize flocks where they are not now, and extend them where they are. Our sheep flocks are, thanks to the principle of payment for results, pretty generally well developed; the quality of our mutton is excellent; we should have a little gold mine here all to ourselves in sheep-raising, if gone into properly.

Agent MacNamara, at Manchester, writing of the British wool market last month, said: "At no time in recent years has the price of raw wool reached the high level it commands to-day, and every indication points to its maintenance. Three years ago the price was from 6½d. to 8½d.; the other day its sold briskly at 14½d. and 15½d. for washed lots, and 11½d. for unwashed. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are the great sources of British supply. In 1905 England imported 615,708,727 pounds of wool, valued at £23,821,350 sterling. The value of imports for five months of this year, ending May 31st last, was £16,967,542. This is an immense amount of money, of which we can have our proportionate share when we are ready to furnish the required material." A. E. BURKE.

HORSES.

The Question of Bone.

There can be no doubt among horsemen that there is a vast difference in the wearing quality of the bone of horses' legs, although they are of the same breed and reared in precisely the same manner; but whether all or many of us can discriminate the relative merits with accuracy, is very doubtful.

I have always held the opinion, says a writer in the London Live-stock Journal, that those reared on soft ground, such as the Fen country, were much more likely to be the possessors of the objectionable round description of limbs, rather than the razor-shaped, flat, and steel-like quality which horsemen describe as wearing bone. Probably this applies more with heavy horses than with the light breeds, as the Shires of the Fen country used to be round-boned and curly-haired—these two conditions being apparently inseparable, and they were referred to as the "sour Fen country sort." But it is noticeable that the Shires from that country to-day have almost invariably got flat, although immense, limbs, and that the tendons can be felt in a manner impossible in bygone days.

This is doubtless attributable to the attention which is and has been paid to breeding, and to the custom of hiring high-class sires from other districts to do duty in the Fens, for it is a recognized fact that when a Shire, whether stallion, mare or gelding, has to be sold, the purchaser prefers the flat bone and long silky hair invariably associated with it to the kind above described. For quality of bone in draft horses, it is probable that the Clydesdale breed wins, and it is a fact that most of the best Clydesdales of to-day are more or less indebted to the Shire blood of Derbyshire for some of their qualities, and it may be that the soil of Scotland helps in the matter of producing the flinty, steel-like cannon-bones of the modern Clydesdale. I have found that the modern razor-shaped shanks are far less susceptible to grease and sidebone than the round description, which feel as if they had a thin beef-steak wrapped around them, and also that the durability of the flat sort is incomparably more lasting, and also the feet attached thereto, and I think this is also the case with light horses, whether hunters or harness horses.

It appears, therefore, that the flat, flinty bone is the sort to encourage and strive after, even though it measures less than round limbs, and it is no doubt a fact that there is more strength in it inch for inch, and it is also a fact that the shape and quality of the bone of a horse's limbs are inherited from his parents to a very large extent.

Still, there is no doubt that soil and situation are factors to reckon with, and for hardness and ability to stand roadwork, cobs and ponies bred on the Welsh hills are hard to beat, which goes to prove the truth of this contention, as it seems impossible for the soft, spongy bone to be produced there.

As regards hunters, the great majority of weight-carriers are bred in Ireland, which country seems eminently suitable for producing them, although it is a wetter country than this, and in many districts soft and marshy. Yet, Irish-bred hunters when set into English show-yards have been of great utility, as well as more substance than the majority of English-bred hunters. In years to come the lightest weight-carrying hunter, a "pony" hunter, is a very salable horse when bred in the right way. There appears to be an increasing