

## FOREWORD

The well cared for sheep flocks in Canada, that is, those sheep that are given the protection of suitable buildings, abundant good feed, a frequent change of grazing ground and a suitable vermifuge at regular and appropriate intervals, should suffer but little from parasitism. Unfortunately many of the flocks do not receive the necessary care, but are left to shift for themselves under conditions that favor the advance of parasitism. We see all degrees of neglect in the care of sheep flocks and consequently we have all degrees of parasitism, from the "just noticeable" down the scale to "utter ruin" of the flock. Hence we see many flocks that pay but little profit to their owners. These worm-ridden flocks are often sold to farmers that are quite inexperienced in sheep husbandry. The sheep carry the parasites with them to their new home, and in spite of the change to new ground, the infestation is as heavy as ever at the end of a three year period. Under such conditions the inexperienced sheep farmer becomes discouraged and looks for a remedy or an outlet. Unless the sheep farmer has a knowledge of the numerous parasites and their life history, he is unable to institute methods of sheep management that will reduce and control the worm handicap. Internal parasites work in an insidious way, they are hidden from view, and unsuspected they carry on their destructive and parasitic existence. They have become increasingly numerous, until today but few flocks escape their ravages. The internal parasites take the sheep's blood, they take the sheep's food, they destroy the sheep's tissues and organs, they irritate the sheep beyond endurance, they poison the sheep with their toxins and they work hand and hand with disease producing germs to create conditions that bring the unfortunate parasitized animal down to its death. The work of the breeder and feeder is frequently defeated, due to the presence of parasites and the lack of the application of the principles of control.

Many thousands of lambs have perished needlessly on the farms of Eastern Canada during past years. Many thousands of lambs too light for slaughter reach the stockyards each year, between September and December, to be returned to country points for further feeding. These feeder lambs are light because of parasitic infestation, and represent a large loss to the industry in that they must be fed for an additional period. About twenty percent of the Eastern feeder lambs die between November and March, and those that survive make a very inferior carcass. A type of carcass is produced that can never make a "roast of lamb" popular on the dinner table. Many shipments of inferior wool go forward to the markets each year, gathered from sheep that have been left to suffer the misery caused by keds, lice and worms. Such parasitized sheep yield but three or four pounds of fleece and frequently abort their lambs, or produce a lamb that is too weak to live. It is to change this picture and help the sheep industry of Eastern Canada, that this bulletin is written.