

SHEEP FARMING ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

Interesting Evidence Given Before Royal Commission on Industry in Canada Sitting in Victoria Yesterday

A searching illuminative inquiry into the condition of sheep farming in British Columbia, especially on the Islands, was held at the City Hall yesterday by Commissioners W. A. Dryden and W. Keith, who have been appointed by the Dominion Government to investigate and report on the sheep industry in Great Britain, the United States and Canada.

In a few well chosen introductory remarks Dr. S. F. Tomlin spoke of the investigations already held by the commission in British Columbia. They had studied the conditions and results of sheep raising on the open ranches at Kamloops and on the rich land pastures of the Fraser river and around New Westminster.

Dr. S. F. Tomlin then read several letters from gentlemen who were unable to be present, but who had replied to an invitation to make any recommendations or to give any data that might be of use to the commissioners. The following letters from Mr. J. D. Reid, Methosin; Mr. John Stewart, West Valley; Mr. Washington Grimmer, West Pender Island, are particularly interesting and informative:

Say to the gentlemen that I have been running a flock of from 200 to 500 sheep on the open hill range around Pender Bay for 15 years, with a fair measure of success. I have found sheep very healthy and free of all disease, and have dipped my flock only twice. I used cotton for dipping, and the sheep, the former for skin, the latter for early maturity, and most of my sheep are pure bred and registered. One hundred and twenty per cent lambs may be relied upon with ordinary care, and last winter I fed no extra feed of any kind. The rough hill range is well adapted for sheep raising. A great variety of grasses and other food abound, and the only drawback to the business is the occasional froed of a panther, which, with the settlement of the country, will yearly become scarcer. All most every farm contains rough pasture land that makes ideal run for sheep. I recommend fencing with netted wire, and a row of curb wire on top, which will keep out anything. I doubt if a panther will tackle it. Sheep give very little work, lambs being from \$5 to \$7 per head, and the demand for lamb and mutton is increasing. Wool is worth only 10c and 12c per pound, and we need woolen mills. There is a profit of 100 per cent in a flock of sheep, well managed, and if farmers understood how to handle them and how they may be kept so cheaply and used as weed and bush destroyers on every farm, I feel sure the number of flocks would be greatly augmented.

J. D. REID. Dear Sir: I notice by the Colonist that the Dominion sheep commissioners are going to be at Victoria on the 6th inst. to discuss the sheep industry of British Columbia, and that they request the presence of the sheep breeders of the province to be present.

I am too "small" to be there, notwithstanding the fact that I have had a long acquaintance with maturity. I suppose it is the "big" men you require. Just the same I have had some success with sheep in a small way, and at the request of an agricultural paper have written up my experience. I have not a copy to send you as I do not know if the article has been accepted, but I will give you some brief extracts from memory.

This letter may be of use to read at the meeting. I first started to keep sheep in 1894. The first year I was "green." You will see I paid for being so by the small returns that year. But I soon changed that.

Commencing with a flock of sheep in 1894 returns were \$17.50, in 1895 returns were \$28.25, in 1896 returns were \$47, in 1897 returns were \$135, in 1898 returns were \$210.70, in 1899 returns were \$215.32, in 1900 returns were \$238.76, 1901 value (estimated) \$478; total, \$1,723.02. Fifty-four sheep, including nineteen yearlings, valued at \$7.00 each, \$378; sixty lambs for the season at \$5.00 each, \$300; total, only twenty-one sheep for foundation stock costing \$140; total, \$1,583.02.

These returns are not the apparently easy money that some things give, but for the labor involved, I know of nothing on the farm that gives proportionate returns.

If you will study the returns I give you will see that it is much more than 100 per cent a year and you must remember that in each year I do not give credit for young stock for breeding but only for stock, wool and mutton marketed, otherwise the figures would be much larger. For instance, if I sold my complete stock now they would return at least \$800, against \$238.76 for 1910, away over 30 per cent profit.

The first year I lost heavily by dogs, but by judicious management I have not lost a strand of wool since, that could be laid to the door of any vermin, a stretch of seven years. Of course this is unusual.

You can figure that when each 20 sheep clip, say 140 pounds of wool, and 100 lambs without loss, that it is satisfactory to the farmer doing this. It is about 130 per cent profit. Thus: Twenty sheep (ewes) at \$4.80 each, \$130; profits by wool, say \$14; (no beef cattle can do this); by 20 lambs at \$5.00 each, \$100; total returns, \$184. From twenty ewes as capital being \$34 (over 100 per cent), \$150.

The value to the sheep as a fertilizer is not taken into account, but there is no question but that it is greater than any other farm animal. A great deal can be done, of course, by watchful at all points, especially by attention to careful breeding the flock may be brought up to a high standard.

There is much more I could say, but this is perhaps enough to illustrate an ordinary farmer's experience with a few sheep. JOHN SPEARS, Cowichan Valley. Buckland Park, West Pender Island, B. C., April 5, 1911. Dear Sir: In answer to yours of March 28th, etc. I am sorry that I cannot spare time to attend the meeting. There are several neighbors interested in sheep, but like myself in a small way in conjunction with dairying. Far more sheep were kept on the islands that at present, but the miserable price of wool prevailing (often 6 cents to 8 cents per pound) makes it very difficult to farm on farms and in this humid climate) combined with the strong competition in mutton and lamb from the Coast States, has made us take more and more to dairying. One gets nearer to the consumer or retail price with co-operative creameries than conveying lambs, etc. to the butcher in the cities.

In the latter seventies my brother and I handled and shored eight or nine thousand sheep for Van Volkenburg Bros. on the Upper Fraser river, just below Chilloeth mouth. We introduced a new method of shearing, wool handling, etc. The sheep (mutton breeds) did remarkably well, and when the duty of 25 per cent was put on mutton it looked like a successful industry. Some young men, including myself, seriously thought of starting in also, but then the cattle-keeping so largely in the majority soon got the law passed to stop sheep grazing on the public domain (a huge bug that they could not have passed in any part of Australia). So with low wool, very strong competition from the south in mutton, and this law passed, forced even the Van Volkenburgs out of the business.

I have kept more or less sheep here the last 23 years on Pender Island, and if I reckon the value of the cleared land that keeping sheep straight allowed me to do, I may say in spite of drawbacks you may call sheep farming in my case a success. For getting a new wild land proposition into some kind of agriculture, in condition, I claim (if wild animals are not too numerous) that sheep are the best domesticated stock to keep, and I may modestly say I have had 50 years' experience with the keeping of live stock. But in this province, at least, very few men seem to have the necessary patience and stick-to-it-iveness to make a success of sheep keeping. We Anglo-Saxons are too restless now in British Columbia. We have at present a small stock of pure Hampshires and seriously wish the sheep industry to go ahead with leaps and bounds. At present we demand for good breeding stock is at remunerative prices almost dead. There is something wrong with the duty on wool at Ottawa, but not at Washington (at least not at present) hence the industry is actually declining in Canada, but flourishes in the United States like a green bay tree. When is it going to do likewise in Canada?

Remember, gentlemen, farmers do not keep sheep for the honor and glory only of the business. With these remarks I beg to close. WASHINGTON GRIMMER. Object of Inquiry. Mr. Commissioner Dryden, in opening the inquiry, thanked those present for their attendance and help. It was an extraordinary thing that while Canada was developing so fast in all other respects the number of sheep in the Dominion has actually decreased steadily during the last ten years. The Dominion government was anxious to do something to revive sheep raising. Sheep were a most important and profitable factor in farming, particularly in countries which went in like Great Britain—for intensive farming. Sheep, too, were very popular for "soil fertilizers and scavengers on farms. Where sheep were kept, there the farms were cleanest. Conditions, they had found, were entirely different in Western, as

distinguished from Eastern Canada. The sheep industry had received practically no assistance from the Dominion government at present, as they did not know where to begin or how best to help.

Mr. W. E. Scott, the deputy minister of agriculture, and one of the three authorities on farming in the province, was of opinion that to obtain success on the Gulf Islands—at all events—the sheep must be fed during the winter months. Though they could stand the cold, they could not stand the wet in the winter. The fleeces got soaked by constant contact with the dripping undergrowth of the woods, which remained wet long after the rains had ceased. On his farm from about the middle of November to February, he had kept Oxford and Southdowns and considered that it was essential to feed in on the Island during the winter, as the ground would get too sparse where the sheep were kept out all the year round.

Commissioner Dryden—"Would English sheep, Mr. Scott, be hardy enough to be kept here with profit?" Mr. W. E. Scott—"It depends on the breed entirely." But sheep on Vancouver Island are not so compact, short-wooled sheep.

Commissioner Dryden—"The Cheviot have a short fleece and are close packed and very hardy." Mr. W. E. Scott—"I don't think either that rain fleeces very much here." Mr. W. E. Scott—"I think the intelligence of the moisture is very different here. In the Old Country when the rain stops, the open ground there dries, but in this wooded country it remained damp and the atmosphere more humid; so took longer to dry and exposed the sheep more."

Reason for Bad Wool Prices. In his (Mr. Scott's) opinion, the cause of the present bad prices for wool was this. About fifteen years ago sheep reached their lowest ebb in price. Wool that then went down to only five cents a pound. Sheep began to appreciate in consequence. People started to abandon sheep farming and take up dairying. Their profits were increased considerably by the formation of co-operative creameries. The price of lands now was as much as six to seven dollars when only two or three months old. The evil was that too many farmers had overstocked here. More intensive farming might pay, but there was the ever-present labor difficulty. This problem, however, was only another argument in support of sheep farming, which required far less labor than dairying. He thought that the people of the province had not yet realized the advantages of keeping sheep, and with cattle. Mr. Scott proceeded to strengthen in favor of more mixed farming such as had proved most profitable in England. He reminded the commission that while the Dominion government had assisted both in fruit and in horse and horse ranching, sheep farming had been absolutely neglected by them.

Commissioner Dryden said that they had heard the same song right through Canada. Valuable evidence was given by Mr. Heatherbell on the price of wool and best four for sheep; Mr. Enke on comparative profits of cattle and sheep breeding; Mr. L. Goodacre on the question from a slaughterman's point of view. Dr. Tomlin on co-operative ramming had assisted both in fruit and in horse and horse ranching, sheep farming had been absolutely neglected by them. Commissioner Dryden said that they had heard the same song right through Canada.

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Body of His Wife. BOSTON, April 6.—While assisting to carry the body of a woman who had committed suicide by jumping into the Charles river basin from the West Boston bridge tonight, Patrolman Timothy W. Hurley lifted the sack placed over the face and found the woman was his wife, Mrs. Mary E. Hurley, 35 years old. The couple had been separated for some time. Despondency is believed to have caused Mrs. Hurley's act.

Berl-Ven on Board. PORT TOWNSEND, April 6.—The steamer Bossard, Dollar, arriving yesterday from Mexican ports, reported three of her crew sick with beri-beri and two others under suspicion. While at Mastatan one of the crew died from the disease. All those afflicted, as well as the dead, are Chinese. As beri-beri is not a contagious disease, the Bossard Dollar was not quarantined, but was allowed to proceed to Everett, where she loads lumber for China.

TEACHERS MEET IN ANNUAL SESSION

Convention of British Columbia Provincial Institute will be Held in Victoria this Month—Big Gathering Expected

On April 18, 19 and 20 the annual convention of the British Columbia Provincial Teachers' Institute will be held here. A large attendance of delegates is expected and many matters of importance to the teaching profession will be discussed. The sessions will be held in the George Jay school, opening with an address of welcome by the President of the Institute, Mr. Edward B. Paul, M. A., and an address by the Mayor of the city. The programme is arranged for the three days' sessions as follows:

Tuesday, April 18, 10 a. m.—Address by the president and address of welcome by the Mayor and entolment of members; 2 p. m.—"The Staff of Life," by Mr. Ian St. Clair; "The Intelligent Observation of Children," by Miss Alice Ravenhill; late lecturer in hygiene, King's College for Women, University of London; 8 p. m.—"At Home" of the Victoria Board of School Trustees and "Victoria City Teachers."

Wednesday, April 19, high school section, 10 a. m.—"Athletics in Relation to the High School," Mr. Percy H. Elliott, M. S. C.; Mr. H. P. Hope, B. A.; and Mr. A. G. Smith, M. A.; "The High School Teacher and the Social Life of the School," by Miss A. B. Jamieson, B. A.; Miss Adele MacLeod, M. A., and Miss Catherine McNiven, B. A.; Senior section, G. H. Deane, chairman; 10 a. m.—"Model Lesson," "Memory Maps," by Miss C. M. Long; "Aims and Objects of Teaching History," by Mr. E. H. Murphy.

Thursday, April 20, junior section, 10 a. m.—"Model Lesson," "Reading," by Miss E. Gregory; model lesson, "Writing and Brush Work for Beginners," by Miss M. Lucas; manual training section, "Are We Achieving the Desired Results in Our Work," by Mr. H. Nelson; "Drawing, Its Educational Value and Relation to Manual Training," by Mr. W. A. Hill; 2 p. m., general session, model lesson, "Nature," by Mr. E. B. McLean, B. A.; literature, "The Lady of the Lake," by Mr. William Burns, B. A.; 8 p. m., lecture, "Earthy Objects and Other Phenomena," (illustrated), by Mr. F. Napier Denton, B. S. M. S.

Friday, April 20, high school section, 10 a. m.—"Catharine Bursarings and Length of High School Course," by Mr. T. A. Brough, B. A., and Mr. E. H. Russell, B. A.; "Hints on Methods of Teaching Science in the High Schools," by Mr. MacMillan, B. A.; Senior section, 10 a. m., model lesson, "Literature," by H. H. Mackenzie, B. A.; model lesson, "Grammar," by Miss Alice Ravenhill; junior section, 10 a. m., model lesson, "Arithmetic," by Mrs. L. B. MacKenzie; "A Plea for the So-called Old Fashioned Methods in the Junior Grade," by Mrs. M. B. Johnston; general session, 2 p. m., "Requirements of Healthy School Life," by Miss Alice Ravenhill; F. R. San, inst.; resolutions, 8 p. m., addresses by Hon. Richard McBride, Hon. H. E. Young, M. D., LL.D., minister of education, and Mr. George Jay, chairman of the Board of School Trustees.

SCARCITY OF LABOR. Alaska Canneries Search Far and Near for Workers—Recruitment Senator Sent to Honolulu. SEATTLE, April 6.—Laborers for the Alaska canneries are being sought in this city. As a result of the scarcity of labor, the Alaska Packers' association has begun recruiting in every city and town on the Pacific coast.

Agent H. L. Tibbels of the Pacific Coast company, announces that the steamship Senator has been chartered by labor agents of the Alaska Packers' association to transport them to Honolulu on her way to Honolulu to bring laborers for the northern canneries. Before sailing from San Francisco, the Senator was hurriedly equipped with radio bunks to accommodate about 800 men.

Advices have also been received here that the Pacific Mail steamship Korea, which called at Honolulu on her way to San Francisco, will bring 264 Portuguese, Filipino and Russian laborers. Immediately upon her arrival at San Francisco the laborers will be dispatched north on one of the packers' association's vessels. The Korea sailed from Honolulu on March 31, and is due to arrive at the Bay City today.

few days. The men affected include painters, carpenters, laborers and other trades, while blacksmiths, machinists, boilermakers are also included in the negotiations.

Fatal Fire in Cleveland. CLEVELAND, O., April 6.—Two persons lost their lives, and three others were badly burned in a fire which destroyed the dwelling house of Henry Marston late tonight. Mrs. Henry Marston, 69 years old, and her son Henry Marston, Jr., are dead; Henry Marston, her husband, 35 years old, and her two daughters, Alice and Ellen are seriously burned. The blaze was caused by a defective gas mantle. The mother, who was blind, made no effort to save herself. Alice Marston threw her baby sister Ellen from the second story window into the arms of a neighbor.

CASE OF HORNET. Trial of Owner and Master of Craft Used in Bombing Expedition to Honduras. NEW ORLEANS, April 6.—The federal grand jury today returned an indictment against Captain Charles Johnson, who was master of the filibustering steamer Hornet on its recent trip from New Orleans to Honduras, charging him with violating the neutrality laws.

Previous indictments containing similar charges had been returned against J. W. Beer, owner of the Hornet; Manuel Bonilla, the revolutionary leader; General Lee Christmas, the American soldier of fortune; and F. D. David. Captain Johnson and Beer were immediately arraigned before Judge Foster. They pleaded not guilty and the selection of the jury was begun.

David P. Rowland and F. J. Phillips, respectively chief engineer and mate of the Hornet, Mr. Linard and several other witnesses, testified for the government this afternoon. According to them, when the Hornet left Ship Island where General Bonilla and the other revolutionary leaders got aboard, it was found that there were many rifles aboard.

Two sloops with 500 men and 500 rounds of ammunition were taken in tow by the Hornet at Three Points Island, off the coast of Guatemala and from there the expedition proceeded to Ruanan Island, which was captured and used as a base for operations against Honduras.

Mr. Beer, according to the witness, owned the Hornet and paid for her provisions. The defence introduced a bill of sale purporting to show that the Hornet was sold by Mr. Beer to Captain David at Ruanan, where the American flag was replaced with the Honduras colors. The government expects to complete its case tomorrow.

MORMON MARRIAGES. President Says Rules of Church Should Be Better Observed—Fines Imposed. SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, April 6.—The position of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or as it is commonly called, the Mormon church, on marriage, was reiterated today by President Joseph F. Smith in his sermon opening the eighty-first annual conference of the church.

He said in part: "We ought to obey the rules of the church with regard to marriage. I appear to find marriages contracted last year, not in accord with the law of God. As announced time and time again at these conferences, plural marriages have ceased in the church. There is no man authorized to perform a plural marriage. "We have been doing in our power to stop this. We have been doing all we can to trace the men who are performing these ceremonies. It is hard to locate them, but when we do find them, we will deal with them."

"With respect to the idea proposed by some to induce the congress of the United States to amend the constitution so as to give the federal government power to regulate plural marriage, so far as I am concerned, I have no objection whatever to such an amendment. Neither has any other Latter Day Saint. Let the states petition the congress to regulate the whole subject of marriage in the United States, and it will be a Godsend to the people everywhere."

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Spiced Herring, per tin25c
Herrings in Anchovy Sauce, per tin25c
Deville Herring, tin25c
Golden Haddies, 2 tins25c
Fresh Mackeral, per lb.25c
Deville Crab Meat, tin25c
Fresh Crab, per tin25c
Behring Sea Cod Fish, per lb.10c
Norwegian Herring, 4 for 25c
Large No. 1 Mackerel, each50c
Kippers, 2 lbs.25c
Finnan Haddie, 2 lbs.25c
Holland Herring, 6 for25c
Norwegian Stock Fish, per lb.25c
Dry Codfish Square25c
Olympian Oysters, pint, 60c
Morgan's Eastern Oysters, per tin85c
Smoked Salmon, per lb.20c
Smoked Halibut, per lb.20c
No. 2 Mackerel, each25c
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CI

With a program out in its entirety, ture of nearly two, upon street paving next year Victoria, doing her share to good roads movement. If any city of its size the results will be big outlay is the case. The city is moment to let tend yards of asphalt in all and an equal and will be offered the contractors can Never before in has the good road appreciated and mo at present. From comes the cry for work has been com cities better provide roads, those leading the city with the growth of popul provided for, the re ing attended to and giving the downtown properly constructed.

The history of in Victoria is a hist and rapid developm ago a paved street but a few blocks had are well paved thro the entire business c ments are being co as fast as an over can prepare the nec conditions. With the passing auguration of paving come a change in pu the class of paved wood block found fa favor until a year a Macadam was also a are no less than 25 of roadway laid. Bu climate in the winter found to be unsuitab be laid, though sever passed for a bitum Now it is the as in favor and which, clustively. The city 55 miles of this ty the demand for al for more.

The relation betw welfare of the resi amply demonstrated, appeal to a stranger has always been a V where else will a m found. But it has convince a visitor t roadways which lay and upon arises in i fort of the pedestria scheme of beauty. are a joy forever an is aiming at and so kept closely to the There are now in wood block paving pavement, one and o adam, one-half mil ment and one-third c pavement, in all ten as the better class of addition to this, 25 ways. The city coun and is prepared to c the next month for pavement or 23.4 m pavement does not of the amount of pavem has committed itself 1011. It is proposo tenders for the abov yards of trunk roa cludes the trunk roa arteries leading from the principal suburb It is the intention soon as this scheme and under way to call

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"The cult of the deal of injury to the chants and manufact falling returns as a re says a Times correspo coats and full skirts w would require from s costume. Now he on and a half to six. In End tailor has affirme to cut a full costume double width for all th be worn during the c means that the merch from 40 to 50 per ce in order to keep up appears to be no appr price between the new difficult to see how la buy two costumes wh