

ever growing dairy herds and will likely attain much greater proportion as the markets improve, because the breeds for the production of excellent bacon and hams are on the Island in goodly numbers.

Sheep husbandry declined very fast for a time, but the retrograde movement seems to be checked. New markets and new methods of marketing are responsible in many cases. Freedom from disease and dogs and suitable climatic conditions favor the increasing of the existing flocks. All breeds well known in Canada, and some that are not so well known are represented.

The scrub sire, as in other provinces, is still

to be found, but the efforts of the Departments of Agriculture are becoming felt and many of them are disappearing. Market demands are making it more difficult every year for the farmer to continue his use without courting heavy loss. The need for quality is becoming more firmly stamped on the general public.

When the markets are made as available as they are to the people on the mainland, then there is every reason to believe that the live-stock industry will steadily and surely advance, because the Island has the natural requisites and already the foundation has been ably laid by men of wide experience.

is one of the most profitable by-products of the farm.

The following paragraph casts an interesting sidelight on existing market conditions,—

"The clothing makers of Manchester are paying out such wages as were never known in the trade before. A girl who was machining bright red trousers braces for the troops of some nation told me without stopping in her work that she and her older sister had taken home for the previous week's work 57s., which was more than they had ever earned in their lives before, her normal earnings being about 14s."

Will current prices be maintained? The most suggestive reply which perhaps can be made to this question necessitates a reference to prevailing conditions in Australia. This country is the largest source of supply for the British market and is accustomed to forward annually to Great Britain in the neighborhood of 600,000,000 lbs. of wool. Australia, at the present time is suffering so seriously from drouth that losses of stock by death are likely to be enormous. One authority estimates that in New South Wales alone the losses in sheep will amount to little short of fifteen million head. In South Australia, Queensland and certain other of the States, similar conditions exist. Not only will heavy losses in sheep occur but the ewes will die with young and there will thus be little natural increase. The short supplies of stock have induced one or more of the States to place an embargo on meat exports and notwithstanding the high level which has already been reached, further increases in price are expected.

What these facts suggest as regards the output of wool needs little further comment. Authorities confirm the opinion that, in view of existing conditions and in face of the current demand, the World's supply of wool is likely to be seriously short next year. It is altogether unlikely that relief is to be expected from other sources of supply not here considered and one is led, therefore, to venture the statement that the tone of the wool market will, in all probability, remain very firm for some time to come.

Apart altogether from a review of market conditions and national and imperial needs, there is a growing sense throughout Canada of the utility and advantage of sheep farming as a profitable part of our regular farm operations. The whole industry from a purely commercial point of view exhibits a healthier time than has been apparent for years. Unquestionably, the product—both meat and wool—is readily absorbed by the market and perhaps, therefore, the suggested change of sentiment, while confirmed and safeguarded by existing trade conditions, is based, in part at least, upon a tardy though genuine realization of the economic value of sheep in the country. Improvements in methods of marketing wool, frequently leading to an increase in price of from 4, 5 to 6 cents per pound, is placing the industry upon a firm, businesslike footing. Improvement in methods of marketing lambs, which will provide against the unreasonable glutting of the market in the fall, is likely to follow. The general campaign of instruction and demonstration which is being undertaken by the Federal and certain of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, is making a live issue of sheep keeping in Canada. The war is giving the needed "push" and stimulus to the whole propaganda. Organization will perfect what the war has begun. The industry will never again die.

### Cleaning Stables in Wet Weather.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having completed a new poultry house and having removed the birds to the same we decided to thoroughly clean all the stables through which they had been rambling. This decision was somewhat clinched by an editorial which we read in "The Advocate" some time ago which suggested that the webs be cleaned from the stable windows.

To begin our cleaning we took out all the old, badly-shaped and patched up boards and replaced them with straight ones of the proper length. Next we took an old broom and swept down all the ceilings, walls and windows. We then cleaned and scraped out all the manure, mildewed straw and dirt from the floors, after which we mixed up our whitewash, which was made strong with good lime, got our small spray pump into position, filled it and began the white-washing operation. We sprayed thoroughly all the walls, around the windows, doors and posts, the mangers, stall-boards and all boards in the building. We sprayed some of the ceiling and floor too. Then when that had dried we took some warm water in an old pail and washed down the windows inside and out, using an old cloth. As we washed a window we dashed cold water on it with a dipper to clear it of dirt, and so on till all the windows were done. One would really be surprised at the sweet, cool and refreshing smell which greets a person when entering the stables instead of the old dirty, musty smell, and it looks a hundred per cent. better. True, it takes time, and time is money, but what lovely weather the first two

## The Sheep Industry in War Time.

By H. S. Arkell.

It is announced that the Minister of Agriculture for France has agreed to the importation annually for the French army of 120,000 tons of refrigerated meat for the period of the war or until December 31st, 1916. Such an importation represents an amount equal to fully twice the quantity of meat which would be rendered available by the immediate slaughter of all the sheep in Canada. Speaking conservatively, it represents at least four times the quantity of mutton and lamb consumed in Canada in one year. The latter statement is arrived at by calculation based upon the following facts,—

inspected houses—1914	453,618 head
Mutton, representing 75 per cent., averaging 75 lbs. per carcass, yields .....	25,516,050 lbs.
Lamb, representing 25 per cent., averaging 35 lbs. per carcass, yields .....	3,969,140 lbs.
Total	29,485,190 lbs.
Estimate mutton and lamb slaughtered in other manner than through inspected houses, representing, it is believed, two-thirds that amount .....	19,656,793 lbs.
Mutton and lamb imported, 1914	4,178,908 lbs.
Mutton and lamb exported, 1914	1,056,287 lbs.
Balance available Canadian consumption .....	3,122,671 lbs.
Sheep imported, 1914.	131,931 head
Sheep exported, 1914.	42,075 head
Balance available Canadian consumption ...	89,856 head
Estimate yield meat at 60 lbs. per carcass .....	5,391,370 lbs.
Total consumed	57,656,614 lbs.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, it should be made clear at once that mutton and lamb are not used at all extensively for army supplies. This fact is substantiated by inquiries, addressed by Australia to the British Government, which elicited the reply that "all lamb from Australia and all mutton and lamb from New Zealand, then on the market for sale, was for the civilian population. It was also stated that part of the mutton from Australia would probably go in the same direction." As is well known, all mutton and lamb forwarded overseas must be supplied in a frozen state and as, when take out of refrigerated storage, it deteriorates very rapidly, much more rapidly than in the case of beef, the explanation of its non-suitability for army use is sufficiently obvious.

The effect of the war, therefore, upon the consumption of mutton and lamb is indirect. Its use and its market status is dependent upon the utilization of other meats for the commissariat and upon the extent to which a shortage may occur through the diversion of the normal meat supply into consumption outlets created by the war. The situation in this regard is reflected in part at least by the following table of statistics respecting market prices in Canada and Great Britain.

### AVERAGE MARKET PRICES—CANADA.

	Mutton (live)		Lamb (live)	
	July 1914	July 1915	July 1914	July 1915
Toronto .....	5.19-6.00	5.25-6.31	6.63-	8.50-
Montreal .....	5.19-5.56	5.81-6.19	5.94-6.69	5.58-9.15
Winnipeg .....	5.00-5.50	7.15-7.62	6.31-7.25	6.00-8.63

### WHOLESALE PRICES—SMITHFIELD MARKET—LONDON.

	Mutton (dressed)		Lamb (dressed)	
	July, 1st week, 1914.		July, 1st week, 1915.	
Scotch .....	16 to 17 cts. per lb.		19 to 20 cts. per lb.	
Australian .....	7½ to 8 cts. per lb.		13½ to 13½ cts. per lb.	
New Zealand .....	12 to 12½ cts. per lb.		16½ to 17 cts. per lb.	