

DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

LIVE STOCK BRANCH.

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Commissioner.

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SHEEP AND GOAT DIVISION.

THE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL FLOCKS SERIES.

ADVICE TO THE BEGINNER IN THE SELECTION OF
BREEDING STOCK.

By T. REG. ARKELL.

Many men think that, after they have spent a few months in learning the theory of sheep husbandry, they are capable of pursuing practical management with an assurance of easy success. They have possibly learned the symptoms of diseases with their remedies and in detail scientific management, but exigencies always arise for which they are unprepared and which probably, when studying the subject, they did not deem worthy of their consideration. It is strict attention to the little things in sheep raising that so generally leads to a great success. No one should enter extensively into the business without having had a thorough practical experience. Otherwise it is best for him to commence in a smaller fashion. As his flock increases in size so will his experience and he will learn for himself the proper methods to apply to every condition that may arise.

Too many beginners display an over-confidence in their prowess and knowledge of the sheep business. This makes them a prey to the salesman who sees no need of correcting mistakes that the beginner may make in the purchase of his breeding stock. Most generally this class of novice wishes to make personal selection of the animals and, if his ideals respecting type are somewhat astray, as is by no means infrequently the case, he gets in his flock many sheep which he would be better without. Had he been sensibly disposed and confessed his ignorance of many points of breed type, the salesman, unless he were most unscrupulous, would have aided him in choosing animals that would prove valuable to him. Few breeders who have any sort of reputation at all to sustain will take a rank advantage of a man who ingenuously leaves the selection of his purchase with them. In fact, many breeders state that they much prefer a buyer to make a personal choice than sell by description through the mail, since in the latter case they feel compelled, in order to uphold their honesty and trustworthiness, to send a better animal than the price really calls for. With personal selection the seller's liability is limited, since he does not feel himself responsible for what the purchaser does.