

be made clear later on. As there are two sources of profit in sheep-raising—mutton and wool—the reader will have already inferred that the absence of a fair return from one of these sources explains the decadence of the Canadian sheep industry. There is, in fact, no other explanation. Puzzled by the steady decline of sheep-raising in Ontario, the Professor of Agriculture in 1884 sent out a set of questions on this subject, and in his report for 1885 summarized the answers as follows: "Correspondents attribute the decline first of all to the absence of demand for, and low price of, wool, which renders it unprofitable to maintain sheep for that product alone, and, in the absence of that source of revenue, sheep, simply as meat producers, do not pay so well as cattle and hogs." As the result of renewed discussions on this subject at the Guelph Winter Fair in 1905, the Ontario Department of Agriculture made enquiries from its correspondents and published the results in a special bulletin in 1907. This bulletin gives the following as the first and chief out of five causes assigned: "Lack of sufficient profits due to low price of mutton and wool, or to comparatively high prices for other kinds of stock or their products, particularly dairy cattle and their products, together with bacon hogs." Summarizing the replies, the bulletin states: "In spite of the handicap which is thus placed upon the sheep industry the replies of correspondents indicate that instead of 34 per cent. of the farmers keeping an average flock of 13 breeding ewes as at present, there should be flocks of from 10 to 20 ewes on fully 75 per cent. of the farms of Ontario. The contention is that there has been lack of appreciation of the value of sheep on the farm."

The Department of Agriculture of other Provinces have at times enquired into the same phenomenon, but, though the decline in sheep breeding is usually attributed to the average low price of wool, the difficulty has not been associated with the tariff. The relationship of the two questions will be made more clear when we study the history of tariff legislation and wool-growing in the United States.