

owns them, and at little expenditure of labor. In winter sheep need protection only from the rain and from draughts. Their quarters must be kept dry under foot, but otherwise their winter housing and keeping are very simple matters. They will thrive well even on pea-straw and nothing else; through if a few peas be left in the straw they will certainly do all the better.

We Canadians are exceptionally well favored in our sheep-breeding. We have no disease in our flocks, nor is there any danger of disease. Our climate is specially adapted to profitable sheep-raising. We cannot, it is true, keep our sheep out-of-doors all winter; but we are compensated for that deprivation by being able to raise sheep that are hardy, vigorous, and free from disease, and that produce the best of mutton and the most desirable of wools. We are, also, specially favored in our markets. We not only have, as we saw in FARMING two weeks ago, our own market and the British market, but we have also the American market; and this latter market, despite the duty we have to pay to get there, is by no means an unimportant one.

There is one branch of profitable sheep-breeding which our proximity to the American market gives us an especial advantage in; that is, the raising of ram-lamb for use on the western ranges. The western American ranchers frequently have flocks of from 5,000 to 10,000 ewes each. The rams used on these flocks are rarely pure bred; what is used are high bred grades of any good mutton and wool producing breed—the breeds most commonly used being our own standard breeds, the Cotswold, Leicester, Shropshire, Oxford, and Southdown. When a rancher wants to buy rams at all, he will buy from one hundred to three hundred at a time. He will, indeed, rarely buy less than 150. He comes to a district where sheep are bred, and going about, picks up what he wants. Of course he likes to get his lambs (or yearlings as the case may be) as near together as possible, so as to save expense. And he likes to get them of as nearly uniform type as possible.

Now, here is a branch of the business that we in Canada have not got worked up, or taken advantage of. But that the trade is possible and desirable the experience we have already had amply shows. Not long ago to our knowledge, a western rancher came to an Ontario town and picked up 130 ram lambs (all grades), the selection in this case being principally Cotswolds, Leicesters, and Shropshires. We have heard of other similar purchases. Similar supplies, too, are needed for our own Northwest sheep ranches, which in no long time will be both numerous and extensive.

What is wanted are more sheep and better sheep. The ranchman who is picking up rams for his flock of five or ten thousand ewes; the shipper who is picking up car loads for the English market; even the drover who is purchasing lambs for Buffalo; does not want to spend too much time or too much money in going about from place to place to get what he needs. He desires to make up his tale quickly and *is one locality*, so as to be able to ship from one railway point. Again, he wants good stock. If he is buying rams, none but the best grades will answer his purpose. If he is buying sheep or lambs for the English or Buffalo markets he wants to get them of the best mutton producing breeds, and well put up at that. And for the sheep-raiser to get the profit out of the business there should be got, the sheep must be of the sort that will produce both good wool and plenty of it. The time was when any sort of wool would sell, and when all wool would bring a good price. In those days any sheep that had a strip of wool along his back was a profitable one. But to day it is only the sheep that grows wool all over, and that, too, of good quality, that can be reckoned a profitable sheep.

The loss to Canadian farmers from their present indifference to sheep raising cannot be short of many hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. A farm of a hundred acres that sells less than twenty-five lamb a year is doing that much less than it ought to do, and could do. We know personally of one case where a man paid the entire purchase price of his farm, \$7,000, out of the sheep that he kept on his farm, without touching what he made from all his other stock, and from his grain, and roots, etc., and there are a good many similar instances.