

Sheep and Wool.

(From the National Provisioner.)

Facts indicate the relative decline of sheep husbandry in the farm states. The few pastures and ranges of the country handicapped the industry on farm lands, especially the wool growing branch. Just as wheat growing gradually receded westward and cattle raising declined, first east of the Alleghenies and afterwards appreciably in the Ohio valley, wool growing almost disappeared from the farms, while mutton production lingered in the blue grass section and other regions of fat pasturing, and the raising of early lambs retained a footing among farmers skilled in this branch of meat making. A few of the skilled and experienced breeders of Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio continued the development of pure bred Merinos for the improvement of the flocks of the range country and those of South America and Australia. With increasing demand for mutton, the flocks of the range states were gradually modified by a larger infusion of the blood of the English breeds. Thus the balance of distribution was disturbed, notwithstanding some advances in husbandry and nearness to mutton markets.

The central west was long a stronghold of wool growing. It gave way to powerful far western competition slowly, holding its position tenaciously and yielding only as other industries and interests demanded recognition and commanded better profit. The following statement compares the present with the distribution of 1871:

NUMBER AND VALUE OF SHEEP IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN AND IOWA COMPARED.

State—	Number—	Average—
Kentucky	904,500	\$2.33
Ohio	4,441,000	2.23
Michigan	3,072,800	2.23
Indiana	2,439,000	1.92
Illinois	1,424,000	1.98
Wisconsin	1,050,000	2.44
Minnesota	1,000,000	2.22
Iowa	1,822,700	1.71
Missouri	1,578,200	1.61

Total	Number—	Average—	Total—
			value.
		1890.	
\$ 2,287,870	549,832	\$3.01	\$1,617,004
10,488,000	2,839,000	2.71	10,353,250
6,522,344	1,389,073	3.58	4,972,882
3,838,000	677,085	2.73	2,319,000
1,913,520	371,139	3.97	2,352,383
2,576,940	744,450	3.65	2,710,505
3,010,400	410,218	3.18	1,333,113
16,817	410,218	3.65	2,487,510
2,540,902	507,619	3.10	1,854,711
\$21,481,556	8,475,138	\$3.58	\$30,902,747

In 1871 the estimated number of sheep in the country was 11,851,000. In 1900, 41,883,065. The proportions of these states at the two dates are respectively 52.6 and 20.2 per cent. And the numbers in these states were by no means highest in 1871. Ohio had 7,000,000 a few years earlier. Although there are little more than half the number now that was reported in 1871 it is noticeable that the total value is greater now than then. This is due in part because of increase in average value of sheep in the whole country from \$2.32 in 1871 to \$2.93 in 1900. The increased average value of the sheep in the central west is largely due to increase in number of heavy mutton sheep and the value of pure bred heavy Delaine Merinos. The decrease in numbers has only one exception—Minnesota, which in 1871 had very few farm animals of any kind. There is no reason to suppose that this section should not be increased, not for wool alone but for mutton and wool, and the tendency is now strongly in that direction.

There is no doubt of the ability of our wool growers to produce a full supply of clothing and worsted wools. Of this the manufacturers have long been satisfied. Thirty years ago a president of the Wool Manufacturers' Association expressed his opinion that "the consumption of American wool now about 125,000,000 lbs. will in six years aggregate more than 300,000,000 annually." It was not accomplished in six years, but in 1894 the supply reached that figure. This desire for a full domestic supply on the part of the wise and far-seeing manufacturers was founded on the superior qualities of American wool, and also on the necessity of independence of foreign wool markets. For foreign manufacturers were compelled to depend on imported wools mainly, to scramble for supplies in all the wool growing countries of the world. Our manufacturers realize the advantage of non-participation in this competi-

tive quest on antipodal continents and the islands of distant seas for wools, none of which are better than our own, and most of which are weaker in fiber and of less durability. Thirty-four years ago, at the very beginning of the era of improvement by breeding and better care, a committee of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, consisting of the most experienced and successful manufacturers of the United States, said in a report:

"In a class of fabrics entering more largely, perhaps, than any others into general consumption, that of flannels, their superiority, due principally to the adaptation of the common wools of this country, their strength and admirable qualities, is so marked as almost to exclude the foreign fleeces. American fancy carded combs compare favorably in finish, fineness and strength with those imported. Our delaines, owing again in a great measure to the excellence of our Merino wools, surpass the fabrics of Bradford at the same price. The excellence of American shawls was admitted at the great exhibition at London."

It has been the experience of all nations that the domestic supply has been the first and always the chief dependence of its manufacturers, and the peculiar character of the material has impressed itself upon the fabric which this country has produced. Thus, in the fine wools of Saxony and Silesia we have the source of the German broadcloths; in the combing wools of England the worsteds of cotton; and in the long Merino wools of France the origin of the flannels and cassimeres. The peculiar excellence of Merino wools have given origin of our flannels, our cassimeres, our shawls and delaines, and they give which there are about a dozen concerns in these branches of trade doing business in the west. You are well within the mark in this statement. What I would like to call your attention to is the fact that practically all these concerns, with one exception, are eastern factories. There is only one factory in Winnipeg in the biscuit and confectionery line. The others are all eastern factories, who have travelers in the west. Now, I think this is a branch of trade which could be carried on to advantage here, and instead of having all these eastern concerns manufacturing goods for the western trade, we should have our biscuits and confectionery made at home, thus adding largely to the importance of Winnipeg as manufacturing centre. I know of no line of manufacturing business which could be carried on to better advantage here than that of biscuits and confectionery. I think, Mr. Editor, you will be not without your share in neglecting to advocate the establishment of these industries here, as I understand your attention has before this been called to the fine opening for such factories in Winnipeg. I trust you will like The Commercial should make it a point to keep the public posted on such matters and endeavor to secure the advancement of our commercial and manufacturing interests in all legitimate ways. Asking space for this in your interesting journal, and trusting you will keep this matter before the public.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OPENING FOR INVESTMENT.

To the Editor of The Commercial.

I notice in your issue of April 20, an article referring to the organization of a biscuit and confectionery association in Winnipeg. In this article you say that there are about a dozen concerns in these branches of trade doing business in the west. You are well within the mark in this statement. What I would like to call your attention to is the fact that practically all these concerns, with one exception, are eastern factories. There is only one factory in Winnipeg in the biscuit and confectionery line. The others are all eastern factories, who have travelers in the west. Now, I think this is a branch of trade which could be carried on to advantage here, and instead of having all these eastern concerns manufacturing goods for the western trade, we should have our biscuits and confectionery made at home, thus adding largely to the importance of Winnipeg as manufacturing centre. I know of no line of manufacturing business which could be carried on to better advantage here than that of biscuits and confectionery. I think, Mr. Editor, you will be not without your share in neglecting to advocate the establishment of these industries here, as I understand your attention has before this been called to the fine opening for such factories in Winnipeg. I trust you will like The Commercial should make it a point to keep the public posted on such matters and endeavor to secure the advancement of our commercial and manufacturing interests in all legitimate ways. Asking space for this in your interesting journal, and trusting you will keep this matter before the public.

Yours respectfully,
PROGRESS.

It is expected that the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway company will spend some \$300,000 in improving their system this season. A car shed and repair shop, which will cost \$60,000, will be built on the corner of Main street and Assiniboine avenue. Portage avenue will probably be double-tracked between Hargrave and Sherbrooke streets, a new track laid on Notre Dame avenue. The William avenue cars will run down Higgins avenue to Louise bridge, making a through line.

"Those pigs of yours," said the contractor, "are in fine condition. Jarvis."

"Yes," answered Jarvis, "sure they be. Oh, sir, if we was all of us only as fit to die as them, we'd do."—Kansas City Star.

Agricultural Statistics for the Territories.

The department of agriculture at Regina has just completed the compilation of threshers' returns for the year 1900. Below will be found a statement showing the result of last season's crop in the various sections of the Northwest Territories as well as a comparison with the figures for the preceding season:

District.	WHEAT.		Acreage.		Yd. Per Acre.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
East Assinibola	2,090,187	1,239,111	154,349	185,235	10.02	7.47
Central Assinibola	3,329,080	1,780,368	150,000	192,568	21.94	9.21
West Assinibola	1,255	1,548	32	47	39.21	32.03
East Saskatchewan	238,849	400,016	15,052	23,355	15.27	17.92
West Saskatchewan	7,518	24,028	440	1,106	17.08	20.02
North Alberta	721,289	477,575	29,212	25,539	24.09	18.39
Central Alberta	66,257	41,098	2,178	2,115	20.46	21.12
South Alberta	96,267	50,370	3,074	2,070	18.08	22.61
Territories	6,015,623	3,028,204	363,523	412,904	19.02	9.75

District.	OATS.		Acreage.		Yd. Per Acre.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
East Assinibola	1,285,975	600,738	48,120	44,487	29.12	13.64
Central Assinibola	1,086,489	616,394	39,860	41,013	32.05	15.90
West Assinibola	19,785	14,346	378	406	52.84	30.77
East Saskatchewan	104,627	209,344	5,055	9,308	29.10	27.91
West Saskatchewan	12,472	33,063	453	1,071	27.53	34.82
North Alberta	1,670,814	1,901,308	30,438	30,628	24.08	22.14
Central Alberta	333,083	308,083	8,143	13,129	47.97	40.08
South Alberta	255,048	276,276	6,724	7,549	38.01	36.60
Territories	4,686,030	4,226,152	134,938	175,439	34.81	24.08

District.	BARLEY.		Acreage.		Yd. Per Acre.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
East Assinibola	80,080	33,146	4,218	3,299	22.80	10.04
Central Assinibola	35,089	23,322	1,504	1,794	22.59	13.90
West Assinibola	2,104	838	47	30	44.70	23.27
East Saskatchewan	37,639	59,250	1,834	2,907	40.46	22.73
West Saskatchewan	1,193	1,942	53	70	22.50	24.58
North Alberta	144,206	182,811	5,328	7,280	27.07	25.11
Central Alberta	21,087	41,406	841	1,481	25.78	27.35
South Alberta	10,472	451	102	102	22.00	22.14
Territories	337,421	353,216	14,270	17,044	23.62	20.72

The total area under crops of wheat, oats and barley, as reported by threshers was 905,347 acres in the year 1900, and from this was harvested 8,607,062 bushels of grain. This shows 52,810 more acres of land under cultivation than during the preceding year, but the yield falls short by 3,311,418 bushels. This is accounted for by the extremely dry spring and early summer in the eastern portions of the Territories and by bad harvesting weather throughout. Early snow storms in the west caused heavy losses by lodging the grain and thus materially reduced the yield.



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