

of Arragon. It is singular that after a lapse of 450 years another long-wooled breed, with the same date was unknown, should be despatched for the government authorities of the same country.

No information is given as to the object the Spanish government has in view in importing Lincoln sheep, but whatever the object may be it is hoped that for the information of all British breeders of sheep the result of the experiment will be made available, for it cannot fail to be of interest. The sheep breeding industry of this country considered as a whole is a remarkable one. The number of breeds, separate and distinct in character, that one finds all over the country indicates that for generations great care has been exercised in their management. The varieties of the breeds kept in this country are also indicative of the number of varieties and breeds that must be required for the new countries that are just now being developed.

Time after time it is said this demand that demand must stop, but experience shows that no sooner does any breed start going to a particular country than others follow it. The

reason is simple, for it is simply because that, just as at home, there are different localities, soils and conditions. These all necessitate different varieties and we are pleased to know that there is no country from which so many varied types of sheep can be obtained as our own.

#### ITEMS

Parliament meets in less than a month's time and agriculturists are anxiously looking forward to the passage of the Pure Butter Bill.

Another cold snap appears to be upon us and if so it should help the provision trade.

Notwithstanding the outcry of ruined agriculture in this country, a farm in Kent has been let at a rise of 15 per cent, while another alongside of the present rent being 20s. Both of these, it should be remembered, are in a fruit district and have no hops.

Arrangements are being rapidly rushed forward for the International Horse Show, which will be held in Olympia, London, on June 7, and continue during the week. It is expected that a record will be created in this respect. A. W. S.

## Agriculture in Alberta in 1906

### A BROAD POLICY.

The story of agricultural progress in the Province of Alberta in the year 1906 makes good reading. It has two features. One is concerned with the general advance in cultivation as to both methods—area cultivated and the variety of crops grown. The other is concerned with the organization of educational work under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. The Department is fortunate in having at its head a susceptible and businesslike Minister, and as his deputy an intelligent, ambitious and hardworking man. On the side of the administration the work accomplished is, to say the least, phenomenal. The Government has seized upon the vast agricultural resources of the Province as a most important basis upon which to promote development, and the work has already taken on an aggressive character and has extended in diverse ramifications. The staff of the department now numbers twenty-six persons, with Mr. Geo. Harcourt, B.S.A., at the head.

### DAIRYING.

Before the inauguration of the Province enough had been done under the Dominion Dairy Department to demonstrate the large possibilities of the Province in dairy work, but the work has been extended and improved since then. The number of creameries has increased from twelve to nineteen. The aim of the Department is to enlist the largest possible local co-operation and interest by having the creameries pass into the hands of local patrons as soon as possible. The manufacture of the butter is carried on under the direction of Provincial experts which insures the best possible quality in the product, as well as uniformity. The output of the creameries for 1906 will be over a million pounds, and this will sell at about an average of twenty-three cents per pound. The output is under the control of a dairy commissioner. It is shipped to a cold storage centre at Calgary weekly, and it is easy supplying and keeping established markets when the quantity available is known. The chief markets for the butter are

British Columbia, the Yukon and the Orient. In addition to the creameries directly under Government control a large number of private creameries have sprung up whose work has no doubt been stimulated by the success of the others. Their number about twenty-four or twenty-five.

An important feature of educational work undertaken by the Department is the travelling dairy, which, during the past season, made a circuit embracing thirteen points among the Galician settlements. The result has been a request for the establishment of Government creameries at some of these points.

A step in advance has been taken by Mr. C. Marker, the Dairy Commissioner, in the establishment of cow testing associations at different points, and a number of these are already in operation. The purpose of these is to enable the dairyman to know the best producers in his herds and to cut out the poor ones.

### FAT HENS.

The ambition of the Department to concentrate farm products is also shown in the encouragement which has been given to the poultry industry. Mr. A. W. Foley, the poultry expert, has done a good deal in a single season to establish the poultry business on a good basis. A dozen poultry fattening stations have been established in connection with the creameries, where the skim milk is available for a ration along with ground oats. The initial expense of crates and equipment, together with the cost of management and direction, is borne by the Department of Agriculture this year. They prepare the product and dispose of it. It is expected that the plants established will become the property of the creamery patrons in another year, and that the work of the Department will be limited to expert direction and marketing. Though the total poultry products this year only take account of about 3,500 fowl, the demonstration is a great success, and the volume of work will be vastly larger next year by reason of the demonstration. There were imported into Calgary in 1905 over \$250,000 worth of poultry products, which

might as well have been produced at home for the dry, steady climate of Alberta is highly favorable to the growing of poultry. Requests have been made for the establishment of a Provincial poultry breeding station, raising chiefly the utility breeds, in order that the best class of fowl may become easily available to poultry raisers and fanciers. In addition to fattening poultry at the stations crate feeding demonstrations were given at fifteen of the fall fairs. A valuable bulletin on the poultry industry has just been issued by the Department.

### DEMONSTRATIONS AT FAIRS.

The work done at the fall fairs deserves separate mention. In addition to the poultry demonstrations, dairy demonstrations were given at twenty-one of these fairs under the direction of Commissioner Marker, and Miss Edith Charlton gave lectures and demonstrations in household science at eight fairs. At Medicine Hat a domestic science school was conducted for one week, which was a pronounced success. In connection with the fairs also Mr. A. Mitchell, chief weed inspector, gave lectures and practical demonstrations on the identification, habits and extermination of noxious weeds. Expert judges in the live stock department were furnished at all fairs.

### THE LIVE STOCK SCHOOL.

The live stock school interests are being carefully fostered by the Department. Stock judging schools lasting two days were conducted at sixteen points and eighty-three institute meetings were held, at which three of the Departmental staff were generally present. The Provincial spring show and sale at Calgary receives liberal support, and also the midsummer Provincial fair at Edmonton. The licensing of stallions is directed by the Provincial Department.

In fruit growing the Province has not yet attained great prominence. Small fruits are, however, an undoubted success, and at several points throughout the Province apples of hardy varieties have been successfully grown. During 1907 there will be tests made at seven stations throughout the Province in the best method of growing and cultivating suitable varieties of apples, crabapples and plums.

### A NEW STANDARD FOR OATS.

The findings of the grain commission have demonstrated that the Province can grow a variety of oats that cannot be surpassed any place in the world, and a standard of forty-two pounds to the bushel has been set for Alberta oats. Alberta oats have been known to go as high as forty-eight pounds to the bushel. The growing of winter wheat is becoming more extensive and assured year by year. Turkey Red wheat, which has proved a success in Kansas, has improved so steadily on the Alberta soil and under the Alberta skies that it is now far superior to the original grain introduced. It is expected that the Orient will become a large consumer of our wheat products. Mills are springing up in great numbers throughout the Province.

### IRRIGATION.

The progress of irrigation in the Province is very rapid. The practice of artificial watering is not to be underrated as indicated by the excessive dryness, throughout the belt, in which irrigation is employed the greatest success has attended agriculture under a modification of the Campbell dry farming method. It is the case, however, that irrigation re-