

The Advantages of Keeping Sheep.

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We will try and mention a few of the advantages that have come under our notice. Sheep are among the best and cheapest mediums for improving the fertility of the soil, which is a very important matter in many parts of the country at the present time. One of the best ways we know of is feeding on rape, when the manure is so evenly spread, and if they show any partiality, it is in giving the poor high places the most manure. Again, when running on pasture during the summer, there are none of the domestic animals so hard on noxious weeds, which is also a great advantage. The practice of folding sheep at night on meadow lands when feeding on rape, etc., has made a marked improvement in the grass crop. This was managed by making a yard in the meadow field, of hurdles, which may be dog-proof; and if sheep were thus kept and the pen moved daily it would be a great deal more advantageous than bringing into barnyard each evening to be safe from dogs. In both winter and summer they will do well on food that is not relished by or profitable to feed to other stock—weeds, in summer, and pea straw, light oats, etc., in winter.

down the cost of production at every point we can, keep the very best we can, and keep up and raise the good name of Canadian lambs and mutton. We now occasionally hear of Americans raising as good lambs as we do (the benefit of the rams they have bought from Canada is being felt), but the World's Fair proved in a very clear way that we were clear ahead, and also proved that Ontario was a breeding land that is hard to beat in the world.

Let us combine the Canadian energy with the steadfastness of our friends on the British Isles, and depend on it there is success ahead. It takes considerable time to understand thoroughly how to manage any line of business, and if in dull times, such as the present, we throw it up and do not take the notion to start again until sheep are high in price and all those who held on are making money, by the time a good flock is worked up prices will have begun to decline; then it will be said, sure enough, there is no money in sheep, which is correct if one is always ready at the wrong time. Even in these times there are some making money in sheep, because they understand their business and keep up at the head of their class.

The writer has watched the up and down movements, in the price of lambs particularly, for a good



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CANADIAN PACIFIC STOCK YARDS AT WINNIPEG.

In fact, they fill a place that none of the other farm stock can, both in manuring the soil and in turning a kind of feed into money that other stock could not. Besides this, there is no other line of stock which can be so cheaply housed and cared for. (With what class of stock is there so little labor?) Even a single-board shed, battened and free from draughts, does as well as any other, and the daily cleaning of pens and grooming of animals, so important with cattle and horses, has not to be done with sheep. It must, also, not be forgotten that every sheep returns an annual revenue of a fleece of wool; and a crop of lambs reaching 150 per cent. increase of the ewe flock is not uncommon.

They can also be prepared for market with very little expensive feed, such as it takes to feed off cattle or hogs. Even in times like the present, when lambs are low and wool not high, they pay their way, if properly handled, and when prices are good they pay a good profit. In looking back thirty one years, wool was worth, in America, from 80c. to 90c. per lb., and sheep men were expecting then to see it reach \$1. No wonder the old gentlemen wish for the good old times they used to have.

In a United States exchange, H. B. Gurler, who owns a dairy herd that averages 320 lbs. of butter annually, says: "I feel that the work of testing individual cows is one of the most profitable lines a dairy farmer can engage in. We are not exercising good business sense when we do not improve this opportunity to help ourselves. Any manufacturer or business man who allows such opportunities to slip would soon be compelled to quit business, as he could not compete with men in his line who were looking after all the leaks."

number of years, and may say we are of the opinion that within a year or two we will see a marked improvement in the price of that product; and, although things are dull at present, let us keep up our heart and believe — "There's a good time coming, boys; wait a little longer."

Oats for Stock.

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It is the tendency of many stock feeders to undervalue oats for feeding stock other than horses. Now, we have an immense yield this year in many parts of the North American Continent, which will keep the price comparatively low. Oats are richer in protein and fat than many of the other coarse grains; in fact, they combine in themselves just about what is considered a well-balanced ration. Not only do oats supply the needs of animals in well-balanced proportions, but rarely, if ever, do animals become sick by over-feeding on them after they become accustomed to an oat diet.

In view of their abundance and cheapness, feeders would do well to feed oats rather than buy bran or other foods. To growing cattle, sheep, or milch cows, ground oats should be more generally fed than they are.