

good condition, unwashed, put up in attractive shape, and was described by manufacturers as being of high quality. Probably unequalled in Canada, and quite the equal of similar grades of imported wool.

Medium combing realized 30 to 31½ cents per pound; low medium combing realized 30 cents per pound; lustre combing realized 30 cents per pound; black and gray realized 25 to 26 cents per pound; rejections realized 25 cents per pound; all f. o. b. point of shipment.

The prices ranged from 5 to 10 cents above the prevailing local prices, thereby netting the farmer an advance of from 20 to 30 per cent. The fleeces ranged in weight from 7.06 pounds average in one association to 8.3 pounds in another association, and prices per fleece ranged from \$2.13 to \$2.50. In the case of the Pontiac Association the only one of two-years' standing, the increase in wool marketed as compared with the first year's output was over 360 per cent.

#### Selling Wool on Manitoulin Island.

The Manitoulin Wool Growers' Association was organized by the farmers' clubs in order to have their wool graded and sold co-operatively. They sold in the first year \$3,237.23 worth at prices per pound which ranged high above those paid locally to individual growers. In 1915 the Manitoulin Marketing Association was organized and took over the business of the Manitoulin Wool Growers' Association. The wool was graded and sold for an average of 26 cents per pound, which was divided according to the different grades, and each man was paid according to quality. The wool brought \$5,189.57. This Association also markets lambs and sheep as well as other live stock products.

#### What Has Ontario Done?

Ontario, really the home of sheep breeding in Canada, has done practically nothing towards grading and marketing wool co-operatively. The experience on Manitoulin Island is one exception, however, to this statement. We have a live Provincial Sheep Breeders' Association and the Dominion Association holds its annual meetings in Toronto. We are blest with plenty of good influences, but as yet no important step has been taken to infuse some life into the wool business, from the producer's viewpoint. Perhaps the shepherds of Ontario are satisfied with their returns, but we believe if they were shown how they could realize from 20 to 30 per cent. more for their wool they would not have to be pled with to fall into line. A 20-per-cent. increase in the selling price of the clip would be equivalent to approximately one-quarter of a million dollars. The improved methods of handling, which would follow in the wake of a better-wool propaganda would result in more satisfaction to the producers and to the manufacturers as well. The sheep industry would receive an impetus; sheep would increase, the manufacturers would benefit in several ways, and the farmers' revenue would be enhanced. Surely it is worth a trial.

Apparently the initiative efforts relative to the co-operative grading and marketing of wool in Ontario are within the province of the Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association. They are an organization extant for the purpose of fostering the industry in this Province, and we commend this movement to them for their consideration. The Live Stock Branches of the Provincial and Dominion Governments are usually only too willing to assist in any forward step of this kind.

Just what proportions a movement of this kind should at first assume can be decided only after mature considerations. J. D. Brien an ex-president of the Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association, believes that a scheme of this kind should include the whole Province, and the wool should all be gathered at a central point, in case a propaganda were initiated. Col. Robert McEwen, President of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, also speaks favorably of a co-operative grading and marketing system for Ontario. It might be advisable, he said, to have two assembling depots; one at Toronto for Western Ontario, and one at Ottawa for Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec, in case any growers from the last mentioned province found it convenient to ship to that point. Col. McEwen expressed the opinion that a township organization would be too small, and if wool producers were obliged to ship to a central point in the county, they might as well transport their product where more wool could be assembled, and where the marketing of it would be facilitated through there being a large quantity for sale. The cost of transportation, he said, would be insignificant, and the grower would soon learn, from reports sent back to him and the price he received for his wool, how to care for it. He could easily be made acquainted with any neglect or carelessness in handling on his part, and the increased price paid him for wool of good quality would be sufficiently educational. The provincial system just described is similar to that adopted in Manitoba and Alberta. In the Province of Quebec, however, the associations were organized on a county basis, and this system has much to commend it. Regarding the scheme, Prof. H. Barton, of Macdonald College says: "The local grading centre and sale meant really more than an outlet for their wool. We have found that it has afforded through its close contact with the members, not only a tangible channel of interest, but a splendid means of education, thereby enlisting the confidence and support of its members in a way that the larger centre would not likely do. Moreover, through it the Association can control the sale through its own sales committee. The question of economy in marketing is easily taken care of if

graders are furnished, and it is quite an easy matter to utilize the graders' time economically at even a comparatively small centre. The associations in Quebec are organized on a county basis, but under some conditions counties might be grouped to advantage. Wool-grading points may be arranged at various business centres most convenient for the members, and where at least three thousand pounds of wool can be collected. In some cases the wool has been shipped to these points, and, in others, loads were brought in by members or directors of the associations."

The season is now quite well advanced, perhaps too far, for the launching of any provincial-wide movement this year. Nevertheless, there is in Ontario a system of Direct Representatives that could organize the counties, and lend valuable assistance to the shepherds if any such movement were initiated. The Representatives, too, could instruct the shepherds in the care of their wool so it would arrive at the assembling depot in proper form.

#### Care of Wool on the Farm.

Whether the wool is to be marketed individually, or through a co-operative association, it requires the same care and attention. A good, clean, shearing floor should be provided. Sheep should not be shorn on the ground. Needless to say, sheep should also be shorn when they are dry, and the fleeces should be kept dry after shearing. The fleeces should not be broken or torn apart, but should be cleaned of all the dung-lumps and rolled neatly. To roll a fleece properly it should be placed with the clean side next to the floor. The sides should be turned in and it should then be rolled from the tail towards the head end. Pieces of the neck wool can then be formed into a band with which to tie the fleece. When completed the freshly shorn part of the fleece will be outermost. Never use binder twine for tying the fleece. The sisal of the twine becomes intermixed with the wool, and is an impediment to manufacture and proper dyeing. Paper twine is now used extensively for binding the fleece. The proper wool sacks can often be obtained from the dealers to whom the wool is sold. When placing the wool in sacks, keep the grades separate, if there is any difference. Newspapers can be used for this purpose. It is strongly recommended that wool be marketed in the grease. Washing is usually improperly done, and the trade prefers unwashed wool. These remarks do not apply with the same force when the wool is washed while on the sheep, but tub-washing is to be discouraged under any circumstances.

From the middle of April to the middle of May is a suitable time for shearing. After lambing the ewe's



Loading a Co-operative Shipment of Lambs at Manitoulin Island.

fleece loses in strength; it begins to come out, and there are usually more dung-lumps, which result in waste. On the other hand, however, late-shorn fleeces contain more yolk or grease, and will weigh heavier. The health of the animal should be considered, and the sheep should be shorn as soon as warm weather comes and the danger of inclement weather is past.

#### Boarding Cattle for Two Dollars a Month.

No hard and fast rule can be laid down regarding how a farmer should work his farm. Many farmers have many ways of wresting a living—and a little more—from mother earth. The methods of cultivation or crop rotation suited for one farm may not be applicable on the adjoining farm, and so each farmer must study his land and solve for himself many of the problems relating to cultivation, kind of crops to grow, and how to dispose of those crops to the best advantage. Local conditions and the farmer's inclinations will influence the methods followed on his farm. One farmer may have soil suitable for growing crops that give best returns when fed to milk cows. He may have sufficient help for doing the milking, and live close to a good market. Another farmer directs his energies and feed raised on the farm to producing baby

beef. Stable feeding cattle is profitable in some localities, while in others the farm is given over to supplying grass for finishing cattle. What the farmer takes pleasure in doing is likely to be the work he will make the greatest success at, but location of the farm or circumstances may not be such as to permit of doing as one would like; therefore, it sometimes becomes necessary for a farmer to adapt himself to local conditions.

W. Noyes, a successful Middlesex County farmer, is a stockman who does not follow any set custom of the locality, but studies out what he can grow to best advantage on his farm, and how that feed can be disposed of to give the greatest returns without decreasing the fertility of the soil. Grain feeding cattle in the winter was tried for two years, but, owing to stockers being expensive, the high price of feed, the uncertainty of markets for finished cattle, and the large amount of money invested, the profit left at the end of the year was not considered satisfactory. In the County there are a large number of grass farms owned by farmers or dealers who make a business of finishing cattle on grass. These cattle are frequently purchased when yearlings, or two-year-olds, and it is necessary to have them wintered somewhere. Abundance of feed suitable for wintering young cattle can be grown on Mr. Noyes' farm, and for the past few years about seventy-six head of cattle and eight horses have been wintered each year on the roughage grown on a one-hundred-acre farm. Five cows are kept, also a few calves, but the remainder are two-year-old stockers to be finished on the grass and destined for the block in the fall. This spring there are seventy-six head of cattle all told in the stable, which have come through the winter in good condition and should make rapid gains on the grass. Thirty acres of the farm are particularly suited for growing fall wheat, and once alsike is sown it remains in the ground; consequently the custom is to grow twenty acres of wheat one year, take a crop of alsike seed the second year, and break up for wheat again. The year there are twenty acres of wheat there are ten acres of alsike seed, and vice versa. Both crops require harvesting at about the same time, and alsike in particular necessitates considerable work at harvest time. On this part of the farm there is practically a two-year rotation followed. Twenty-four acres are usually sown to oats, ten acres to corn, and the remainder of the farm is in pasture or meadow. Wheat and alsike seed are cash crops, and most of the oats grown are sold for seed. No grain is fed to the cattle except what corn they secure from the silage. Cut straw, alsike chaff and silage compose the ration which keeps the cattle growing throughout winter. Both the wheat and oat straw are cut at threshing usually grown as matured, well-cobbed corn is desired for silage.

One part silage to three parts cut straw by measure is mixed a day ahead and fed to the cattle three times daily. Alsike chaff is fed once a day as long as it lasts. Part of the cattle are tied and part run loose, but no appreciable difference is noticed in the rate of gain made. Water is before the cattle. The stables are cleaned out daily and the manure drawn direct to the field and spread for corn or grain in the spring. This saves extra handling of the manure, and the method is found to give splendid satisfaction. Early in the spring the harrows are run over the manure, which aids in drying the land quickly. The cattle in this stable are boarded and fed on the ration mentioned for \$12 a head for the season, which extends from the time bad weather sets in in the fall to the time grass starts growing in the spring. The system of farming followed on this farm is proving satisfactory, and the cattle must do all right on the ration they receive, as there is no difficulty in securing cattle to fill the stable each fall. The space in the stable is often spoken for in the spring.

On this farm there are four sources of revenue—wheat, alsike, seed oats, and cash for boarding cattle. Although the grain is practically all sold off the place, it is claimed that the fertility of the soil is gradually improving. The farm grows a large amount of straw and the manure from a herd of seventy-six cattle is a factor in keeping the soil built up. The straw and corn grown on the farm is worth about \$850, according to the price received for feeding the cattle.

This method of farming would not suit every farmer; in fact, there are only a limited number who can engage in the work of boarding cattle, as most farmers are in a position to winter their cattle as cheaply as the next man, but it gives an idea of the feed stockers can be wintered on and the cost of the same. Grain and hay are rather expensive feeds; but why feed grain and hay to stockers if they can be kept thrifty on cheaper feed? It is believed that a greater bulk of corn can