

The Market Prospects For Canada's Wool Clip.

Canada should have, this season, in the neighborhood of two million fleeces of wool for market. This figure may be slightly high or low, as it is difficult for statisticians to keep up with the ever fluctuating number of sheep and swine, which increase or decrease very easily in sympathy with feed prices and general conditions. One can never tell what the price will be, but the market should be strong. If the war runs into another winter the demand should be keener than ever before, but if peace should be restored there will yet exist a need for wool that cannot be met with the clip of 1917. Certainly, any sincere and well-intentioned peace negotiations will give strength to a bearish movement on the wool market, but it is not likely that any such influence will be felt until the most of this season's wool crop has left the hands of farmers and producers. Judging by the gradual waning of the sheep industry during the last five years, and taking into consideration the severity of the winter just past, with its shortage of feeding stuffs, there will at least be no more pounds of wool to market in Canada this year than there were in 1916. The Live Stock World of Chicago reports a predicted decrease in the wool-producing territories of the Western States. Wyoming alone, the leading wool State of the Union, estimates a shortage of from two million to four million pounds. Wyoming, Oregon, New Mexico, Nevada, and Arizona comprise the largest wool-producing territories in the country, and a decline in the crop is predicted there. A disquieting situation exists in Montana. This State, two years ago, produced over twenty-eight million pounds. Last season, however, production fell off to about twenty-four and one-half million pounds, and for the coming season the clip is estimated by authorities as likely to be from three million to five million pounds smaller than last season's. On the other hand, increases are reported from Colorado, Texas, Washington, and Idaho. The losses, however, as calculated will far overbalance the increases. Shut off from the Australian source of supply by the embargo of Great Britain, the American woollen and clothing industries anxiously have turned their eyes to the domestic clip, and especially that of the territory wool States which supply almost two-thirds of the entire population of the country. In 1915 the territory wool States produced 173,453,000 pounds, while last year this section produced 171,520,000 pounds.

If the sheepmen of Canada enter wholeheartedly into the co-operative system of grading and marketing this season, they should receive very remunerative prices for their clip. In Western Canada 1,489,500 pounds, sold through the associations, averaged 31.53 cents per pound last year. Eastern Canada also sold 237,305 pounds under the co-operative system, at an average of 41.01 cents per pound. Altogether in Canada during 1916 the different co-operative associations graded and marketed 1,726,805 pounds at an average of 32.83 cents per pound, realizing a total revenue of \$566,946.48. There should be an enormous increase in the amount of graded wool to be sold in Canada this year if the scheme meets with success in Ontario. The manufacturers have expressed a willingness to meet the farmers halfway if they will produce the proper grades. There should be over three million pounds of graded wool in Canada this year. If the manufacturers meet the farmers halfway the price will be satisfactory.

A Radical Live-Stock Policy.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Will you allow me a little space in your columns to state my views upon a subject to which I have lately given considerable thought? I refer to the improvement of our herds of beef cattle. It seems to me that the system or, more correctly speaking, the lack of system, which prevails in most parts, if not all, of Canada leaves very much to be desired, in so far as improvement is concerned.

In the county in which I farm, Dufferin, this is the system followed by most farmers. To start with, our herds consist of fairly good grade Shorthorn cows, cows that if reasonably well fed are satisfactory at the pail and on the block, or at least fairly so, and cows that had they been bred to good sires would have, in a generation or two, produced excellent beef cattle. But instead of our herds being better they are, if anything, worse, owing chiefly to the sires used and to the obnoxious practice of farmers buying the culls from dairy districts.

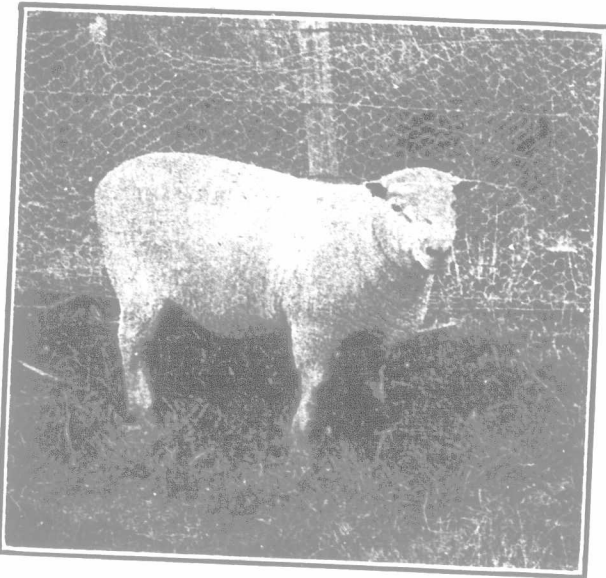
With regard to the sires used, there have been two policies in vogue, one was for the man with the grade Shorthorn cow to pass his neighbor with a real good Shorthorn bull at \$2 per service fee for the man who kept one at \$1.00 or \$1.50, and that was absolutely without quality.

Another bad policy has been crossing the breeds, which means, in this locality, crossing a Shorthorn cow with a Hereford bull. Now, I don't want any one to think that I am trying to "queer" Hereford cattle as they, like everything else, are no doubt all right in their place, but I don't think their place is in a district which consists mainly of grade Shorthorns, because experts are agreed that the breeds of live stock should be kept pure in order to get the best results.

I consider the policy mentioned bad enough, but there is another one many times worse, and that is for farmers to do as they have been doing here for the past few years, namely, buying up cull stuff of the dairy breeds which are being shipped in from time to time from the dairy districts—cows that are considered not much or any good, and are not likely to be any good for milk and not much for beef, or else they are cows

infected with contagious abortion or have been pail fillers but are worn out for milking purposes. The writer remembers a sale of such stuff at the local stock yards last spring, when there was either one or two carloads sold under the hammer. Another man and myself examined them closely before the sale and there were only about three or so that either of us thought much of, and although two of them seemed young and fresh-calved their udders didn't show conspicuous signs of belonging to heavy milkers, and the other one was old but one didn't have to look twice at her udder to see that she had been a milker in earlier days. I thought at the time that she would be about the best buy there.

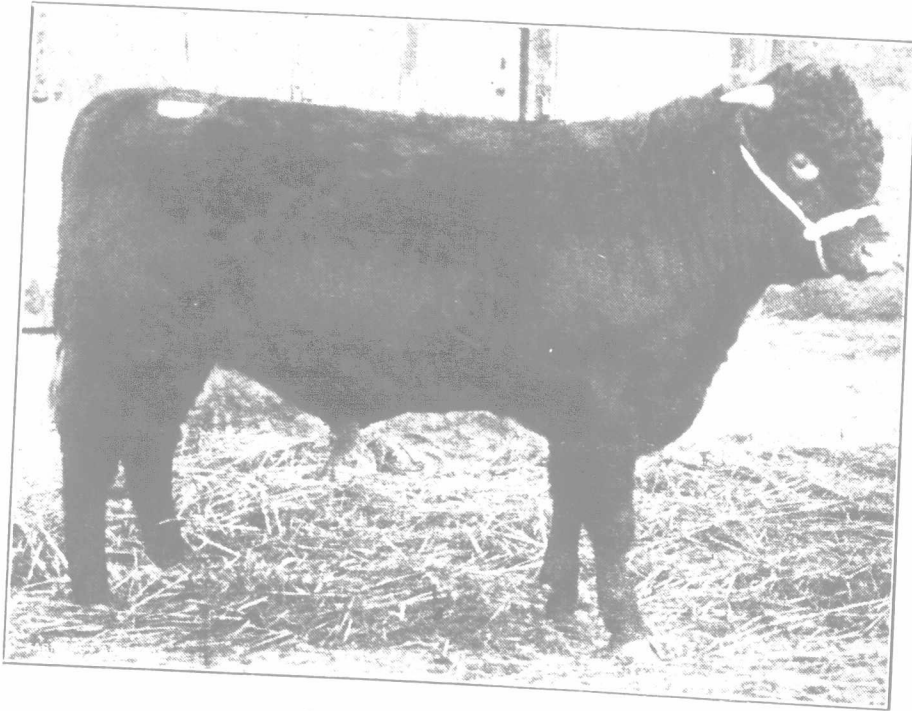
In view of the foregoing facts this is the course that I think ought to be pursued. In times like these and the times that are likely to follow, if the farmers of this country will not voluntarily, for their own material benefit, follow a better system for improving their herds, then I think that the Government should see to it that they are compelled to do so. If the Government



A Champion Southdown.

prohibited the keeping of anything but pure-bred sires it would be a big step forward. If any one thinks such a law would be too radical we have a parallel in the horse industry to show them, and I am convinced that to the average farmer the cattle industry is of very much more importance than the horse. I sometimes think that if each locality were confined to one breed it would be very much better for the community as a whole; and as for the shipping of cull dairy cattle into beef districts, I am convinced that the Government ought to put their foot down on the practice immediately. It might be a little hard on the man who has them for sale, but it would be vastly better for the prospective buyer.

In conclusion, let me say that I am firmly convinced that if something is not done to stop the mixing of breeds there will be such a conglomeration of color caused by mixing Shorthorn, Polled-Angus and Hereford, with



Warspite of Naemoor.

Winner of a second prize at Perth and sold for 1000 guineas.

Jerseys, Holsteins, Ayrshires and the combination of the different breeds that Joseph's coat will not only be equalled but will stand a good chance to be outclassed.

Dufferin Co., Ont.

C. L. F.

[Note.—Considerable more education is necessary before quite so drastic legislation could be enforced. We believe in the use of nothing but pure-bred sires and strongly favor community breeding, but the better way is for the people themselves to buy and use nothing but pure-bred sires and to decide among themselves what breed is best suited to the community. If you do

not want certain classes of stock do not buy them. It would be impossible to legislate a breed into or out of a community.—Editor.]

THE FARM.

Bread and Butter or Just Bread.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Gin ye hae no objection I'd like tae say a wee word on a subject that has caused a guid deal o' argument in this country in the past few months. They say there are two sides to any question, sae I suppose it's up tae us, when we hae heard one side, tae think oot the ither side for ourselves. Or gin we're no' great thinkers we can generally get the information we're after frae some ither party, for I've noticed that naething pleases a mon mair than tae ask him for information. It pits him on a higher level, as ye might say, an' ye may depend on it he'll gie ye the information ye're after, gin it's in his power.

Noo, the question that I hae been tryin' tae think oot an' get information on one side as weel as the ither, is this matter o' what the people o' Canada are gainin' tae eat on their bread. Is it tae be butter, or something else, or just naething at all.

I've had my time o' it in ma day makin' butter, an' naeboddy can tell me onything about the value o' a pound o' it. Gin ye can get feefy cents for it ye can tak' it wi' a clear conscience, for it's a lang pull frae the time ye start feeding the coo until ye get the butter made intae pound prints, a' wrapped up in paper, an' delivered on the market. There's nae graft or easy money o' any kind in the business that I've noticed. What's left o' yer siller after ye've paid for the feed ye've pit intae yer coos will na mair than buy shoes for the bairns an' a few ither things that the wife will be needin' for the hoose.

But as I said, there is the ither side tae this question, an' we may as weel tak' a look at it noo as later, for there may be something tae it that ought tae be straightened oot, wi' maybe satisfaction tae a' concerned. I went intae toon the ither day, an' no' gettin' ma business a' attended tae by twelve o'clock I wis gainin' tae the hotel, when along cam' a chap that had warked for me on the farm some years back, but wha is noo in toon daein' his ten oors a day in a sash an' door factory. "Come along, Mr. Fraser," says he, "It's no' muckle we hae tae eat, but ye're welcome tae what there is. I've got a pretty guid-sized family, as ye ken, an' it tak's aboot a' I can bring hame Saturday nicht tae keep them goin'." It's worse in the winter too, for the cauld weather seems tae improve their appetites, tae say naething o' the extra shoes an' stockins' an' clathes o' a' kinds."

I went along wi' him an' when the bairns were a' hame frae schule we sat in tae the table. He has five children a' thigither, an' they're a likely lookin' bunch that did na' hae tae be coaxed tae eat, I noticed. Aftir a few minutes one o' the wee lassies said, "O, daddy, can we no' hae some butter to-day. I dinna like ma bread this way." "Pit some mollasses on it, Jennie," says her feyther, "O!" says Jennie, "I dinna like blackstrap. I'm juist aboot sick o' it," says she, wi' the tears in her eyes.

"Ye ken, Mr. Fraser," says her fether turnin' tae me, "that butter is a pretty hard thing tae buy these days, an' we've juist had tae dae wi' oot it. While it stays round forty-five tae feefy cents a pound the laborin' mon wi' a family like mine has tae eat his bread dry or dae wi'oot ither things that are juist as necessary as butter."

"Weel," says I, "they hae a substitute for butter in some countries, but I dinna believe the government is gainin' tae let it be brought in tae Canada. They say it will interfere wi' the sale o' the genuine article."

"Maybe it would," says ma friend, "but there's a lot o' people in the country like masel' that dinna' buy it at all, sae the farmers would lose naething on us, gin the government let us buy some substitute." "Does the government get butter on its bread?" says Jennie, lookin' at me. "Aye," says I, "an' the farmers get it, an' gin I had my way ye'd get it."

too, Jennie. It's an unco' selfish lot we are, I'm thinkin', wi' our tryin' tae get government protection against competition, an' the bairns at oor ain doors havin' tae suffer the consequence."

"On the ither hand," says Jennie's feyther, "gin ye were wi'oot protection ye might hae to tak' less for yer butter, an' wi' cattle feeds at their present price that would mean that ye'd be daein' their business at a loss." "Dinna' think it for a minute," says I, "the countries that allow the sale o' butter substitutes have no' gone out o' the dairy business. They aye hae a guid demand for guid butter, for there's a class that will buy naething else. But where there's a cheaper

article or simply ca their fam After I'd nict I g the I says tae yet, I'm death o toons, it se It's na u land," for new coun for some there. It dae, an' I in ma ain able state canno' b tae raise asking the steam tae There's a the ither because h his family as a rule, tae be pa around tw need at o quarter o things in cipate ye The A bread alo to be revu city. It v poor Jenn gainin' bac me it's pos eatin'. Y cauld wat healthy cit gie them o' some ki This is it for what ye think ab

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EDITOR "T

I had t vention a I listened of the Gov I had a li and he ask work on th the girls w membered subject, an the idea n might have of writers h city girl loa situation is to utilize a number of Because a g no reason and do a p All she nee wife were w the girl wa the proces accomplish of a few of

A girl co a roller. S time and in hoeing, also the rake, th the mowing driving a bi A girl can be useful p If a girl mind the ba wife a chan seventy or c he got from years of ag fork, the gi The girl wou with the hay as we are le in productio food product be able to labor profitat Renfrew