

A Budget from Australia.

At the last Sydney Sheep Show there was a fine object lesson in the breeding of mutton crosses. Two ideas are becoming fixed in the breeder's mind in Australia. One is that it is safe to adhere to the cross between the long-wools and the merino, and the other is that the quickest-growing sheep is the progeny of a long-wool and a merino cross-bred ewe from the Downs ram. While every regard must be paid to the importance of a valuable fleece of wool, the difference in the prices realized for the carcasses of various crosses is striking enough to give every farmer whose land is in a district of good rainfall some food for thought. These pens of cross-bred sheep were slaughtered at the show to test market values. The four-tooth Lincoln-merino cross wethers weighed 142 pounds alive, and 82½ pounds dressed. Southdowns and merino cross weighed 115 pounds alive, and 63 pounds dressed. The butchers gave twelve shillings and sixpence for the 81½-pounds sheep, and fourteen shillings and sixpence for the 63-pounds sheep.

The wool industry is making great strides in Queensland. That State has now over 20,000,000 sheep, with room for a similar number directly some railway lines that are commenced are finished. One station in the south-west shore 250,000 sheep this year. There are larger stations than this by a long way, but this is a comparatively new enterprise, and it is quoted to show how the industry is expanding, and what favorable seasons have of late been experienced. The carriers have lately formed a union, and are demanding increased rates of pay. The work of carting the wool to the nearest railway is a considerable item in the cost of the station. This season, the one quoted above paid £1,500 for wool carriage alone. As a result of the militant attitude of the carriers, the breeders are now forming a large motor carrying business, with a capital of £50,000. It is said that, on account of the favorable seasons, very big profits are being made. One owner puts his down at 33 per cent. on the invested capital. What are called grazing farmers are also doing well in those parts. Here is a case. A property bought for £15,000 three years ago, was sold the other day for £45,000. No capital has been expended upon it, any more than the money the first owner made while he held it. But, of course, there are risks of droughts in those parts. There may be five good years in succession, and five bad ones may follow. It is a great gamble.

A New Zealand firm has patented a new dry-air process for the carriage of beef. The first shipment to London brought good prices. No chemicals are used in the drying of the chamber. What makes it interesting is the claim that it can be applied to the storage of mutton. This is not so in the case of the Linley process, which is said to turn the mutton black, though it has not the same effect with beef.

It is estimated that the estate of W. F. Buchanan, who died not long ago, is worth £2,000,000. His interests were entirely in the direction of cattle and sheep. His stations comprised an area of 10,000 square miles, whereon he grazed 100,000 cattle and 50,000 sheep. Next to Cattle King Kidman, he was the biggest stock-owner in Australia. In the Killarney wool shed there were facilities to put through 6,000 sheep in a day. It was one of the most modern in the country. He died at the age of 87.

The wet-wool question has been responsible for no end of trouble between masters and men. Strikes and prosecutions have frequently occurred. Instruments have been designed to test the wool, but so far without much success. A new scheme, however, has been evolved. It consists of a plant for drying the sheep. The sheep are run into a hot-air chamber, where they are kept for 45 to 60 minutes. The plant is simply constructed, and can be made to deal with large numbers of sheep.

It is safe to say that the best grass that has ever been introduced to Australia for the great grazing districts inland is the Rhodes grass, which is also competing on the coast for supremacy with the well-known dairy grass, *paspalum dilatatum*. Rhodes has been tried with and without irrigation, and it succeeds admirably either way. Grown beside 30 other grasses in Central Queensland, it was green when the summer had withered to dust every other grass on the farm. It was raised at Bourke, N. S. W., nearly a thousand miles inland, and it did better than anything else, indigenous or imported. The Weeping Love grass gave it a pretty close run at Bourke, for when all else was dead in the heat of the summer, these

two stood fence-high, green and luxuriant. Rhodes makes splendid hay.

The class of merino sheep that is popular in Australia was fairly demonstrated at the last sales held at Sydney. It was shown more than ever that the wrinkly sheep are doomed. The large-framed, small-bodied animal is the ideal of the day. The Tasmanian breeders, which have played such an important part in stud-breeding in the past, in adding fresh blood to the Australian flocks, have now to a great extent followed the fashion. Fold after fold used to be packed on to the animals which they sent to these sales, when density and frame was a secondary consideration; but the reversion to the other type has compelled them to answer the demand. Yet their sheep are more wrinkly than any other, as they do not seem to be able to breed out these weaknesses quickly enough. There is no doubt that the big-framed, robust sheep stand supreme. The Boonoke and Wanganella types predominated, though there are a few other Australian castes close up in popularity. These made a much better show at the sales this year than they have ever done before. They have been rising in favor for a number of years, and they now seem to be at their zenith. From all appearances, it will be many a day before the craze for them wanes. The great point which appeals to breeders is their hardiness. There is nothing coddled about their appearances as there is in regard to the housed animals from the Island State. They are purposely not altered in appearance from the condition from which they roam in the big ram paddocks of the studs, where there may be flocks of four or five thousand on the larger runs. What attracts the buyers after practical sheep is that they are bale-fillers. One result of their pronounced popularity is that a number of breeders who used to be content in selling on their stations to buyers, now bring a number of rams to this annual fair. The gathering together of the buyers gives breeders an opportunity of securing strong competition for their sheep. The fact that this annual sale is a great institution for all concerned, was never more clearly demonstrated than it was this year. It is ten times more educational than the show.

The biggest land problem that Australia has tackled is the Burrinjuk irrigation works, costing two million pounds sterling; it is being pushed close to completion in the minor form. The other day, Elwood Mead, the ex-American who is doing so much for irrigation in this country, was asked to report upon the colossal project. He said that, where there were now only a few stockmen, and still fewer land-owners, 200,000 people can be supported in comfort. The whole of the area inspected is suited to the easy and economical distribution of valuable crops. Regarding control, an adequate staff of experts and subordinates will be engaged to make the land ready for settlement. About 200 miles of channels and ditches, and an equal mileage of roads, will be constructed, and about 10,000 farm houses erected. The building of these houses by the Trust is strongly recommended. Mr. Mead holds that the attempt to carry out developments by parcelling the work among the different Government departments will mean endless delay and confusion. Skilled irrigationists are needed, he urges, to educate others. The land must be allotted to suit the settler. The slowness of Australian farmers to realize the advantages of the irrigated areas is commented on by the Expert, who, however, points out that there are indications of a change in public opinion. The magnitude of this work in relation to the state may be gauged by the fact that the population of the whole of New South Wales at the present time is under two millions.

That sterilized air is an effective remedy for milk fever, was demonstrated in New Zealand the other day, when a valuable dairy cow, which had been prostrated for twenty hours, was up and about again within an hour, after being operated on by a local chemist with the sterilized air.

A New South Wales farmer made some interesting observations the other day regarding the effect of horehound upon sheep suffering from fluke. He said, many years ago, when the country on the Upper Lachlan was in its primitive state, he put about 40 wethers affected by fluke into a homestead paddock for killing purposes. The grass was very dry in that enclosure, but there was a great deal of horehound in it, which the sheep eat readily, and upon which they soon improved in condition. After a short while the mutton became very bitter, through becoming impregnated with horehound, and was not eatable unless well salted. Eventually, sheep that had not been killed for home consumption were freed from fluke, while those in the outer paddocks were more or less affected. The injurious effects upon the mutton proved to be only temporary, and soon disappeared altogether after the removal of the animals to fresh pastures.

The Election Returns.

The general elections, on Thursday, September 21st, in which reciprocity with the United States was the chief issue, resulted in the overthrow of the Dominion Government, which had held office continuously since 1896, under the premiership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Among the defeated candidates were Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance; Hon. G. P. Graham, Minister of Railways; Hon. Wm. Paterson, Minister of Customs; Hon. Sir Frederick Borden, Minister of Militia; Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. W. L. M. King, Minister of Labor, and Hon. Wm. Templeman, Minister of Inland Revenue. Sir Wilfred was elected in two constituencies, Quebec East (accl.) and Soulanges, for one of which he will sit and act as leader of the Liberal Opposition in the House of Commons. A Conservative paper on Monday last gave the standing of the parties by Provinces as follows:

| | Opposition | Government |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Ontario | 72 | 13 |
| Quebec | 27 | 36 |
| New Brunswick | 5 | 8 |
| Nova Scotia | 2 | 10 |
| Prince Edward Island | 8 | 2 |
| Manitoba | 8 | 2 |
| Saskatchewan | 1 | 9 |
| Alberta | 1 | 6 |
| British Columbia | 7 | 0 |
| | 131 | 86 |
| Majority | 45 | |

A liberal paper puts the majority at 43, with two deferred elections to be held this week, and two next month.

Changes in the Seed Control Act.

During the recent session of Parliament, important changes were made in the Seed Control Act respecting the sale of clover and timothy seed. Under the old Act, the inspector sometimes found it difficult to prove violations, though misrepresentations were being made. A dealer might offer red clover seed, containing as many as 92 noxious weed seeds per ounce, and an unlimited number of other weed seeds, such as fox-tail, represent it as his best grade, and charge nearly as much as his competitor asked for No. 1. He would not mark it No. 1, but he might state verbally that it was No. 1, or just as good. This has often been done, with the result that farmers, as well as retail merchants, who really wanted to buy pure seed have got badly-contaminated seed and paid high prices for it. Under the new Act, such misrepresentations will be impossible, and both farmers and retail merchants will be able to buy their seed more intelligently. Four grades are fixed by the Act for red clover, alsike, alfalfa and timothy seed, and all seed sold for seeding purposes by seedsmen must be plainly labelled with the grade. Any seed not grading No. 3, which is a higher standard than the old prohibitive line of five noxious weed seeds per thousand of good seed, is prohibited from sale. The following are the standards for freedom from weed seeds:

| Red Clover, Alfalfa, Timothy. | Alsike. | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| | Noxious weed seeds per oz. | All weed seeds per oz. |
| Extra No. 1... | 30 | 30 |
| No. 1 | 100 | 100 |
| No. 2 | 200 | 40 |
| No. 3 | 400 | 160 |

In addition to the standards for freedom from weed seeds, standards for purity in other respects and general appearance are fixed for Extra No. 1 and No. 2. Double the number of noxious weed seeds are allowed in alsike on account of the greater difficulty in cleaning this seed. Farmers and seed dealers should have their seed tested and graded before offering it for sale. Samples will be carried free through the mails and tested without charge, if addressed to the Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

She Likes the Englishmen.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":
I am very much interested in the hired-help question. I read the letter of "A Farmeress," and thought it almost an insult to Englishmen in general. I am a Canadian, of English parentage, and it hurts my feelings. What would any decent Englishman think of it? She speaks of them having so much cheek and brass. I have never found many of that kind yet. I do not employ any hired help, but I know of at least eight Englishmen near me that are a credit to any place. Out of that number, three could accompany her on the piano with credit to himself, and probably better than she could; and all sing in our largest church choir; one is an elocutionist. Those young men came from good homes to our shores to learn farming and to acquire trades. I know