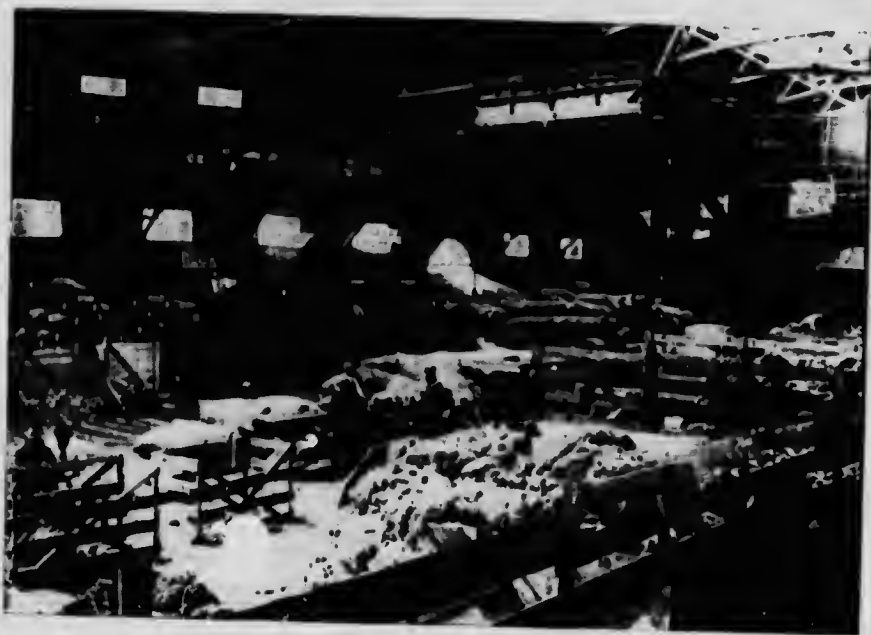


would contain but a small number of fleeces, which would make it an expensive operation not only with respect to labour and cost of sacking but warehousing facilities as well.

Grading can best be accomplished and return the most profitable results with a carload (20,000 pounds) or more. The greater the quantity, the better is the opportunity of disposing of it to advantage. With a hundred thousand pounds, for instance, each grade will be sufficiently large to permit of its sale separately since some manufacturers have not the facilities for using economically all grades and would, consequently, be in a position to pay a higher premium for the grade which they actually need than under conditions which made it necessary for them to purchase all grades in order to obtain the selected one. If a single grade can make up a complete carload, a distinct saving in transportation is gained with a sale presented in this fashion.



Wool grading at a collecting point in Western Canada.

Sheep raisers, when they fully understood the conditions depreciating the price of wool and how these may to a great degree be rectified, were quick to take advantage of the benefits of grading and the disposal of their product on this basis. In 1913, an active educational campaign was inaugurated by the minister to introduce improved methods of preparing and caring for the fleece before offering it to the market. This was attended with such satisfactory results and the interest developed by sheep raisers so great that the next year seven associations were organized to pursue that year co-operative sale of their wool under the direction and grading system developed by the department. This movement was welcomed by the manufacturers and given their hearty support. In 1914, 206,129 pounds of wool were graded for societies organized in four provinces, namely, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta. In 1915 the number of organizations formed for this purpose was increased to nineteen. Approximately 420,000 pounds were classified and offered for co-operative sale. In 1916 this amount had reached the total of 1,721,598 pounds with a value of \$579,678.69, and every province was represented. Reference to the tabulated statement will give a clear idea of the progress of this work.