

Effect of Dipping upon Wool.

In comment upon a letter in *The Field*, an Old Country publication, recommending lime-sulphur as a dip for sheep-scab, S. B. Hollings, the noted English wool expert, has addressed a letter to the British agricultural press, taking exception to this advice, pointing out that the Bradford wool scourers, dyers and manufacturers have many times protested against the use of lime-sulphur, since it increases the expense and difficulty in preparation of wool, and injures the ultimate fabric.

"Further," adds Mr. Hollings, "every one of the inspectors who were engaged in the carrying out of the extermination of scab in Australia, has reported upon this damage to the wool, and P. R. Gordon, the late chief Government inspector of stock for Queensland, put the damage to the wool as 17 per cent. of its value. Perhaps the best proof of this statement, however, is the fact that the lime-and-sulphur mixture has absolutely disappeared as a sheep dip for Australia."

"The extent to which British wools are damaged by the use of crude-carbolic and coal-tar dips, and homemade preparations, is absolutely lamentable. Nobody, outside Bradford, has any conception of the thousands of pounds which sheepmen lose from this cause. If they must dip, let them at any rate use a preparation which does not injure the quality and lower the price of their wool, and not drive another nail into the coffin by adding an injurious dipping preparation to the list."

"The following is a copy of resolution passed by the Wool Trade Section of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, June, 1908:

"That this meeting expresses its strong opinion, for the guidance of wool-growers, that any sheep dip containing lime or caustic soda in any form in its composition is a most undesirable application to the fleece, it being calculated to have an injurious effect upon the wool, which oft-times can only be detected in the processes of scouring, dyeing or manufacturing, and buyers are therefore naturally suspicious of wool from districts where such applications are in use."

"It is therefore in the interests of sheep-owners themselves that we urge them to avoid the use of any dips into the composition of which lime or caustic soda enters in any form."

Upon the subject of dipping, the Dominion Sheep Commission, in its report, issued last year, has this to say about dipping, as practiced in Great Britain:

"Dipping preparations are divided into two classes, poisonous and non-poisonous, the first containing arsenic and sulphur, while the latter are made from a carbolic standard. The poisonous dips destroy the eggs, as well as the vermin, while the non-poisonous are quick in action, but merely destroy the parasite. The arsenical dips have a tendency to open up the fleece and the pores of the skin, while carbolic dips have the opposite effect, which is greater or less, according to the formula used in their manufacture. Thus we find, especially in the hill districts, or where sheep are subject to continued exposure, that the first mentioned is used more largely as a summer dip, and the latter as a winter dip. A good winter dip has a tendency to partially waterproof the fleece, and thus afford much protection during the cold, wet months of the winter season. An addition of a mixture of mineral oil and whale oil is commonly used with these dips for that purpose. It is claimed for this mixture that it serves the double purpose of waterproofing the fleece and stimulating the growth of the wool."

Mr. Ritch, Dominion Wool Commissioner, writing more recently in *"The Farmer's Advocate,"* in reply to a question, advised the use of some of the reliable proprietary dips, rather than those of home manufacture.



Ontario in July.

Prices of Meat in England.

A correspondent recently asked for the prices of choice cuts of meat in England; that is, what the consumer has to pay. Prices vary somewhat, according to the locality; town, supply and demand and season, but on the whole are fairly steady. At the time of writing (June) the following are the prices ruling at a good-class butcher's shop, supplying a middle-class cash trade, and including delivery of the meat in town:—English lamb, 24c. per lb.; mutton, 22c.; choice cuts of beef, 18c. to 22c., with best rump steak at 28c.; pork, 18c. to 20c., and veal, 20c. These prices are all for the choicest cuts, from animals home fed and killed.

Some butchers sell imported colonial and foreign meats as well as home-grown. Choice New Zealand lamb sells for 16c. per lb. for legs, loins and shoulders, and best imported mutton for 10c. and 12c., with chops at 12c. Frozen meat sells at lower prices, and very many shops are devoted entirely to its sale, and do an enormous business. Choice mutton and beef (frozen) sells for from 10c. to 16c. per lb.

The highest grade of imported beef is American, best chilled. Choice cuts retail at from 18c. to 20c. per pound.

At the big West End of London butcher shops, where long credit is often given, prices, of course, are higher, and at the co-operative stores more is charged, but they return a cash dividend of from 10 to 20 per cent. F. DEWHIRST.

Cattle Price Prospects.

Young beef stock looks like uncommonly good property just now. During the half year just closed, fat bullocks in Chicago realized the highest prices of modern times, thousands selling at \$9.25 to \$9.60. Scarcity was acute in June, receipts for that month at the six principal markets in the Western States being 162,000 head behind June, 1911, when, however, they were somewhat abnormal, because of liquidation enforced by drouth. A real shortage exists, nevertheless, and it is said that Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska are the only States likely to furnish a normal supply of finished beef to the end of the year. Taken in conjunction with the known scarcity of cattle in Ontario, this augurs well for cattle values the continent over. Prospects for cheap beefsteak are not in evidence.

Already, buyers have been scouring the countryside in search of next winter's feeders, and high prices have been paid. These, however, may be shaded considerably before November, according to how mows, silos and feed bins look after threshing and silo-filling.

THE FARM.

Keep Fence Corners Tidy.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Haying is the order of the day now in this vicinity.

A great many of our best meadows have been visited by the mower, and so much of the hay is safely stored in barn; but in a great many instances the work in those fields has not been completed, though doubtless the farmer would tell you he had finished.

As I drove a few miles yesterday, I noticed some slipshod work—fields with fence-corners unmown. Why does the haymaker not give thought to the loss he sustains by this practice? Besides, as they are left year after year, they soon grow up to brush and shrubbery, and present a most sorry spectacle. So much land, which cost so much, is entirely wasted; besides, the beauty of the fields is marred.

The most expensive farms will, if treated in this way, soon decrease in value. Then, appearance counts for so much. There is but one way to do our work, and that is the right way. We

should have a perfect system, and never vary from it.

In fact, there are too many fence-corners on most of our farms for profit. If farmers would remove the unnecessary fences and cultivate where they have been, they would soon notice a great difference in their crop yield, and in many other ways there would be a vast improvement.

In fact, a good rule to follow is to have as few fence-corners as possible, and keep the necessary ones tidy, free of all stones, brush, etc.

Leeds Co., Ont.

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Sorghum as Silage.

In view of the fact that a number of farmers have wholly or partially replanted their corn fields with sorghum, the following notes on sorghum for silage, by C. W. Warburton, in U. S. Farmers' Bulletin 288, will be read with practical interest.

We notice that nothing is said about the difficulty some claim to have experienced in elevating the cut sorghum through ensilage blowers. On this particular point we should be pleased to hear from readers who have cut sorghum into silos thirty or forty feet high.

There is still some difference of opinion as to the value of sorghum for silage. The silage ferments more than corn silage, owing to the saccharine juice, and hence does not always keep as well. There is no question as to its value when well preserved. Sorghum is a better yielder than corn on poor soils, and a surer crop in semi-arid regions. In the great corn belt its use is slowly increasing, while along the Gulf coast, where the heavy rainfall makes it difficult to cure fodders, sorghum is a profitable silage crop, and can be most successfully handled in this way.

In feeding value, sorghum silage appears to be slightly inferior to corn silage, the protein content being rather lower and the fibre content rather higher. However, the amount of water to the ton is also lower, so that the total amount of nutrients in each ton is larger than in corn silage.

The feeding value of both corn and sorghum silage can be increased by adding some leguminous crop. The two crops may be sown separately, and mixed while being cut into the silo, or grown and harvested together. The cowpea is probably the best crop for this purpose. Such varieties as the Black, Blackeye, Clay, Red Ripper and Whip-poorwill are commonly used. Soy beans may also be used. Numerous cases have been reported, however, where soy beans alone, or a large proportion of soy beans in corn or sorghum silage have produced a silage which imparted bad odors to milk and other dairy products. Experiments show that no bad effects from using a small proportion of soy beans, one part of soy beans to five or six parts of the other silage crop being regarded as safe.

Sorghum silage has been largely used as a winter ration for dairy herds, with highly satisfactory and profitable results. This is especially true in parts of the South, where from a hundred to over a thousand tons are put up annually at several points. In the North it is growing in favor, even in competition with an abundant and profitable corn crop.

Prizes for Bookkeeping.

The East Prussian Agricultural Chamber is arranging for the distribution of prizes, with the object of encouraging bookkeeping in small farms. For these prizes, only small land-owners or members of their families who personally keep their farm accounts may compete, and their books, regularly kept, must cover at least one whole agricultural year, and consist of the following accounts:

1. Cash account, in which every single item of receipt and expenditure in money must be entered. These items must, where possible, be divided into two classes; that is, one concerning the farm, and the other the farmer's private account.

2. Family account, in which everything in kind taken by the family from the farm, must be duly entered.

3. Inventory book, or account showing the value of the farm buildings, of the live stock, machines and implements, and the remaining dead stock.

4. Profit and loss account.

The total amount available for prizes is \$100. A special commission, composed of members of the financial and accountants' section of the Chamber of Agriculture, will award the prizes. It is understood that the economical data concerning the single competitors, thus laid before the judges, will be considered strictly confidential.