



A Champion American Rambouillet Sheep.

The Rambouillet Sheep

The origin of the French Merino dates back to 1721, when some ewes were imported from Spain into France. This importation was followed by another about 1750, and in 1776 M. Trudaine, the French Minister, imported another flock. In 1785 Louis XVI, King of France, who owned an estate called Rambouillet, established there an experimental farm and obtained permission to purchase and export from Spain a flock of purebred Merinos, which he placed on this estate. This importation was made from the finest flocks of Spain, being selected from the flocks known as the Seales, Paular, Negretti, Escuriar, Nicola, San Juan, Portaga Irlanda and Salezar. Of this importation 366 head, composed of forty-one rams, 318 ewes and seven wethers, arrived safely at Rambouillet, although thirty-five of the ewes and sixty lambs succumbed to foot-rot soon after their arrival.

The Rambouillet flock, after surviving many vicissitudes during the French Revolution and subsequent reconstruction period, was the subject of close attention and care on the part of the French authorities, an exact record being kept and every means taken to insure its well-being. About 1834 several of the English nation breeds were imported into France. The cross of those on Merinos being favorably thought of by the French agriculturists, induced the management of the Rambouillet flock to increase the size of their sheep, the increase being obtained solely by selection and feeding, thus maintaining the purity of the breed. In 1850, confining these methods, the Rambouillet flock had become large in carcass, but less robust in constitution, accompanied also with a diminution of the fleece. To overcome the last two defects a return to original conditions became necessary, the Negretti type becoming the favorite, till in 1867 the flock improved in regard to the production of wool, and became able to support itself exclusively on pasture, and endure the hardships incidental to weather changes and dry seasons, for which the high

feeding and long continued pampering had almost ruined it.

The first importation of Rambouillet to the United States was made by D. C. Collins, of Hartford, Conn., in 1840, who succeeded in obtaining two rams and twenty ewes. Later, in 1846, a Mr. John A. Taintor secured two rams and seven ewes from the Gilbert flock; these were also brought to Connecticut, subsequently being

purchased by A. L. Bingham, of Cornwall, Vt. These first importations did not prove popular, however, and it was not till some years later that this particular class of Merino found favor among the flock owners of this country.

The Rambouillet Association was organized in March, 1890, the list of members and number of animals recorded increasing year by year.—"The Sheep," Rushworth.

Sheep Losing Wool

It is as natural for a sheep to shed its wool when warm weather comes as for a horse to shed its hair, although man has removed that tendency almost entirely. But if sheep are not kept in a condition of continual thrift, the wool not being properly supplied with nourishment stops growing. This break in the wool may be only slight or so pronounced as to almost part the fleece in a part or all over the sheep. When the sheep begins to get better or more nourishment the wool will again start, but the old and the new are so slightly connected that the old is easily rubbed off or even will sometimes drop off.

Overheating in any way will also cause wool to come off. For instance, if sheep get too much corn, especially if they have had none before, it will cause a fever which though it may not kill the sheep will cause them to lose their wool. Sheep will of course pull and rub the wool off in spots if bothered with ticks or lice, but this only affects the bunches pulled or rubbed off and does not loosen the rest of the fleece. Where wool is shed from any other cause but scab it will grow again, but in case of scab it never does.—W. E. Raymond.

Most Profitable Way of Growing Bacon Hogs

From all accounts there is not likely to be any increase in the number of marketable hogs in the province during the coming summer and fall, and in view of the number of old breeding sows disposed of last year it is quite possible that this year's pigs will not be up to the standard, nor be ready for market as early as those of 1905 because many of them will be produced from young sows. On the whole this condition is to be regretted. Canada has not been able to supply the export demand for our bacon this year, which speaks well for its quality and for the condition in which it has been exported. When we fail to supply the market, then the market looks elsewhere, thus we lose our custom, and a trade which has taken years of careful study to build up, should not be allowed to drift away, providing that trade was a profitable one to the producer.

The question naturally arises here, has the decline in the production of bacon hogs been due to their not being profitable to the farmer, or is the cause to be found some place else? On this subject the writer feels that he can speak with some authority, having bred and fed hogs quite extensively for the past twelve years, and during which time he has seen years when it required special care and economy to make a profit. But those conditions have not existed

in the past two years, in my case, although no doubt, for those who hand-feed their hogs with grain, and try to put them to market weight at five or even six months, will have found it difficult to do so at a profit, excepting they were fortunate enough to have them ready just at a time when prices were soaring higher than the average. But I think if we are going to compete with other countries in the British market we must adopt a different system of feeding from that followed by a large proportion of our farmers at the present time.

CHEAP SUCCULENT FOODS

The market is not likely to stay at such a figure as will warrant the farmer to grow pigs entirely on a grain ration. We must allow the pig to grow his frame on cheap succulent foods, and then put the flesh on by grain feeding. This may necessitate one or two months longer keeping of the hog, but it will be found much more profitable than the older system. Not only that, but when this system of growing pigs is followed we find that a better quality of bacon hog is produced, and even the much abused thick fat breeds grow into a very respectable type of bacon hog. Of course, it is much easier to follow this system with pigs farrowed in spring, than with those coming in autumn. I consider that I can make