

The Marketing of Canadian Wool

THE marketing end of the Canadian wool industry has always been the one most neglected by wool growers. The Live Stock Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture has taken the matter in hand and is now offering practical assistance to associations of wool growers in the preparation and display of wool clips for market. Associations, in order to receive this aid must be organized in accordance with the regulations of the Live Stock Branch, and membership is limited to owners of sheep. West of Fort William, an association must contain at least 10 members and 3,000 sheep, or sufficient to clip one carload of wool; east of there, a relative number. Recently Farm and Dairy had a call from Mr. Jas. D. Thompson, one of the expert wool classifiers in the service of the Government, who is assisting in this campaign for better marketing of Canadian wool.

"The objection to Canadian wool in the past," said Mr. Thompson, "has been that it is dirty and generally unsatisfactory. The manufacturer has had to put too much labor on it following purchase. Our own manufacturers soon found that imported wools were cleaner and better graded. Hence there has been the tendency to give the home-grown product the go-by, although Canadian wool is just as good, and in some cases better than, imported wools."

"I expect to grade wool grown by the various associations in four to six different grades, so that the mills demanding a fine grade of wool will get it. Those demanding medium quality will get medium wool, and those who want coarse wool will get it. Previously, fine, coarse, and medium have all been packed together, and if mills would buy Canadian wool they had to buy grades that they did not want, mixed in with grades that they did want."

"How about the marketing of this wool direct?" we asked Mr. Thompson.

"The manufacturer will buy one carload or more, never less," he assured us. This the individual grower, with only few exceptions, cannot provide. Hence the organization of associations. There are now eight of these associations in Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces, and twelve in Western Canada. The department furnishes wool classifiers, such as myself, to grade the clips of the various associations."

Mr. Thompson, we learned, has been a wool-grader in Canada and the Old Land for 30 years. Last year he handled 12,000 pounds of wool from

Feeding Calves to Develop Capacity

A. S. Turner, *Wentworth Co., Ont.*

WE aim to keep our calves growing but never allow them to get sleek and fat. Calves of the latter kind do not develop into roomy, capacious cows. As we are in the city milk trade, there is no skim milk for our calves. For the first month, they receive whole milk, then we



Ayrshire Beauties in Pastures Green.

From a photo on the farm of McMillan & Lowant, *Hastings Co., Que.* This herd has been dispersed since this photo was taken by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

gradually change to oil meal gruel. This is made by pouring hot water on the oil meal. The porridge is then diluted by the addition of cold water or milk and water. Half a cup of oil meal is allowed for each day. In addition to this they are fed oat chop and bran. We find that calves will consume larger quantities of bran than of any other grain. It is an excellent frame builder, with no tendency to fatten. We like them to eat plenty of hay and ensilage, as these bulky foods develop the digestive system of the calf.

Our calves may not look as well as more richly fed youngsters, but they grow into big-bodied cows. The digestive capacity of the cow depends on the manner of feeding the calf.

When Should Heifers Freshen?

LAST winter, when Farm and Dairy's live stock representative was travelling among the Ayrshire and Holstein breeders of the Bellefleur district of Ontario, he discussed with several

of the breeders visited the very old but still very much unsettled question of, How old should a heifer be before freshening for the first time? Following are some of the opinions offered by well-known and experienced fanciers of both breeds:

Wm. Honey: "My heifers generally freshen at two years. One of them had three calves at three years old. The first calf, sold for \$60, came, of course, as the result of accidental service. There is more money, I believe, in having cows

come in early. It may reduce the size some, but not much."

Wm. Stewart: "It does not pay to have heifers freshen before 30 months old."

Alex. Hume: "I have all my heifers freshen when from two and one-half to three years old. My first aim is to retain the size and vigor of my Ayrshires, and earlier breeding is inimical to this object."

J. Eagleson: "I don't like to have a heifer freshen before two and one-half years."

P. W. Nelson: "I have my heifers freshening at two years. I feed liberally, bring the calves on at a good rate, and so far as I can see, the size of the cows is not injured."

H. K. Denyes: "I do not like to have heifers freshen too early. Early breeding saps vigor and constitution."

E. B. Mallory: "I have my Holsteins freshen at two and one-half years. This is quite early enough to breed big, strong cows such as I am at."

A. D. Foster: "There may be more immediate money in early breeding, but I prefer to wait for results, maintain vigor and substance, and have pure-bred heifers freshen at two and one-half years."

Ed. Purteile: "I prefer two years as a freshening age. I do not think that breeding at this age interferes with their growth."

Ben Leavens: "My heifers freshen at two and one-half years."

D. B. Tracy: "I do not allow a heifer to freshen before two and one-half years. I want to grow fine big stock."

Selecting the Dairy Cow

F. R. Mallory, *Hastings Co., Ont.*

IT is Prof. H. H. Dean, I believe, who was responsible for the statement that the only way to select a dairy cow is to sit down and milk her and then test her milk. I have come to the conclusion that Prof. Dean is about right. I have found that I may have two cows in my herd looking as much alike as two peas, but from the one I will get 5,000 pounds of milk in the year and from the other 10,000 pounds. You can poke your fingers over a cow for beef and tell just what she is, but the cow's ability to make milk is inside of her where you can't see it or feel it. We must go back to the records of that cow and her ancestors to tell what that cow is liable to do at the pail.

Suppose we have the option of taking a grade cow at \$100 or another grade cow at \$80. The first cow will produce a profit in a year over and above feed of \$40, the second cow of \$30. Wouldn't it be foolish to take the second cow because we could get her for \$80 when the first cow is available for \$100? And yet farmers in Eastern Ontario are following this form of false economy right along. We don't realize that we are losing unless we are testing our cows regularly.—Extract from an address.

Some Differences

By Chas. F. Whitley

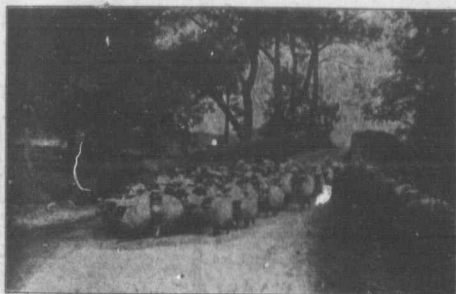
HERE and there amongst our dairymen are such splendid results attained that one can only be astonished at the complacency with which other so-called dairymen continue to be content with the pitifully small average yields of milk per cow. Why do the huge differences exist?

Just a few miles from here is one of those poor herds, six cows with an average of only 3,338 pounds of milk; the highest yield only 4,000 pounds.

In contrast to that, two good herds in western Ontario indicate the possibilities for the man whose eyes are open to what milk records have to teach. One herd of 12 grades averaged 10,657 pounds of milk and 317 pounds of fat; the second herd of 23 grades averaged 10,542 pounds of milk and 350 pounds of fat.

These marvellous differences in herd yields drive home hard facts. Men differ in their methods of feeding and handling cows, feeds differ in value, cows differ considerably in their inherent capacity as milk producers; they are not all cast in the same mould.

In the above two good herds, the constant use of milk records has proved an excellent lever in raising the production. Cow testing pays.



Black Faced Sheep in the Highlands of Scotland.

one association in Quebec, that in Pontiac county, and he estimates that the advantages of proper grading to that association amounted to five cents a pound on the market price. The firm who purchased this wool annually from the Old Country. They are now starting to buy their wool in Canada, and find that it is more suitable for the line of goods that they make.