

DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

LIVE STOCK BRANCH.

SHEEP AND GOAT DIVISION.

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PAMPHLET No. 12.

May, 1915.

THE ANGORA GOAT

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Angora goats are said to have been raised by the Turks, for over 2,000 years, in the Vilayet of Angora in Asia Minor. Turkey, together with South Africa where they have been introduced in large numbers, contributes the greater part of the world's supply of mohair.

The Angora industry in Canada is as yet in its infancy. There seems to be no record of any direct importations from Turkey. This is probably due to the fact that for many years the Turks were guarded against the exportation of animals from the country for breeding. By so doing they attempted to gain a monopoly of the mohair industry. Very severe restrictions have also been placed in America upon the importation of live stock from Asiatic countries, as a safeguard against contagious diseases. A few early importations to the United States furnished the foundation for the Angora industry upon this continent. It is now no longer possible to secure the Angora from its native heath. The American type is different to that of Turkey. Breeders in this country found the original imports small and delicate and, therefore, they resorted to crossing with the common goat for the purpose of obtaining a larger and more hardy animal. Although crossing has sacrificed, to some extent, the length and quality of the mohair, yet it has produced a class of goat better suited to withstand local climatic conditions than the Turkish Angora.

CHARACTERISTICS.

Modern Angoras should be bred for size and strength of constitution, but at the same time a tendency to coarseness must be avoided, since such animals are not productive of the finest fleeces. In size it ranks smaller than the ordinary goat, averaging from 60 pounds to 100 pounds for the buck. The chest should be broad and deep, indicating a strong constitution; the body round; and the legs short and strong. The head should be upright and clean cut, with a bright eye and a broad muzzle. The horns of the male turn upward and outward with a backward twist, and have an average length