

feeding. It was a splendid food for the ewes, as it is conducive to a large crop of lambs in the spring. It makes the sheep vigorous and active. Rye was a good food in the spring, though as the grass came early, it was not as much needed. Green rye was rather too soft for ewes with lambs. He got better results by keeping the ewes from the soft grass in the spring, till it got firm. Feed hay and roots instead. When sheep shrink in their flesh the wool is not so good.

He advised shearing early. To leave off shearing till the water is warm enough to wash them, keeps the sheep uncomfortable and weakens the constitution and also the lambs. Sheep should be clipped about the last of April, and protected from the weather, if necessary. Before lambing, all tags on the ewes should be removed. He preferred having the lambs come before shearing.

For winter feeding there was nothing better than good pea straw. It was better to feed the straw or clover in two small feeds rather than in one large one, as the sheep would relish it better. Mangels were a good food for ewes, especially after feeding rape in the fall. If the pea straw is fed in the yard the sheep will get exercise when feeding. His experience with feeding ensilage to sheep had not been satisfactory. It seemed to have a tendency to loosen the wool, which indicates an unhealthy condition in the sheep. Don't feed sheep timothy hay as it seems to dry up the sheep. Pea straw is better, and if not that, clover is good. Sheep can be fed more profitably when the peas are threshed. If sheep are healthy, there is no need of grain feeding till lambing time. Five pounds of roots per day were enough. He said turnips were better for rams than mangels and better for the ewes after lambing. Mangels, however, give a better lustre to the wool. For grain feeding, oats and bran are good. To fit for the show ring, more concentrated feed should be given. Sheep can be fitted best on peas and oil cake. Over-fitted ewes give weak lambs.

In response to a number of questions by the students, Mr. Smith stated that if sheep are fed other feed before being turned on rape for the first time, they will eat very little and will not bloat. Sheep like a change in feed and should have water every day. The upright sheep rack was better than the sloping one. Head should not be allowed to get in the rack. If fed in small quantities at a time the sheep will not pull much feed out and waste it.

For breeding purposes it was better to have ram lambs come about March 1st, and have them weaned about July 1st, when if they can be turned on rape so much the better. If for mutton, it is as profitable to have lambs come later. A shearing or older ram is more profitable for service than a younger one. The number of lambs de-

pends largely upon the ewe. A ewe should not be bred till she is a year and one-half old. When there is a large flock it is better to keep ewes separate, and let in only a few ewes each morning to the ram.

Thomas A. Browne Dead

Many live stock breeders and farmers all over this Province will regret to learn of the sudden death on Thursday last of Postmaster Thomas A. Browne, of London. For twenty years Mr. Browne managed with skill and ability the Western Fair at London, and it

was largely due to his foresight and energy that the fair has had such a great record of success. For several years Mr. Browne acted as secretary of the Ontario Poultry Association, where his ability as an executive officer was clearly shown. He became postmaster of London three years ago, when he resigned the above offices.

Mr. Browne was one of the most respected citizens of the Forest City, where he was born and spent all the years of his life. His character was of that sterling, robust kind that makes its influence felt in all the walks of life.

Our Western Letter

Activity in Live Stock—Beef Types Popular—Manitoba Live Stock Commissioner.

Winnipeg, Feb. 17, 1902.

With the approach of spring, which indeed seems almost at hand, so mild is the weather at present, with the approach of spring and the impending resumption of farm operations, there is an evident revival of interest in agricultural matters. Stockmen, and especially breeders of pure-bred stock, are at their busiest; auction sales of live stock are of frequent occurrence; large and valuable importations are coming in from Ontario and the States, and preparations are being made for the biggest and best year that the live stock industry in this country has ever experienced. There can be little doubt that the present tendency in breeding in this country is toward the beef types. Dairying, though making wonderful strides, is little more than a side-issue in most cases. There are, it is true, many breeders of dairy animals and many of the Shorthorn herds boast milking animals of no mean quality, but if we are to take the importations as a criterion the "beefers" are in the ascendency in popular favor. Shorthorns lead, Herefords a close second, and the "Doddies" next. These last however, seem to be growing in favor. The exhibits in that section were larger at the fairs of 1901 than ever before. They are coming rapidly to the front in the States, and doubtless this fact will have a certain influence here, combined with the undoubted merit of the breed, in giving them greater prominence in future.

The following motion was offered at a joint meeting of the executive committee of the Stock Breeders' Associations held recently, and will be discussed at the approaching conventions of the various bodies. "That this meeting recommend to the annual meetings of the various associations, the nomination at a joint meeting of a suitable man for the position of Live Stock Commissioner, (provincial), with a view to his engagement as joint secretary if deemed advisable."

On Tuesday the 18th, the sheep and swine breeders will discuss this question, on Wednesday, the pure bred cattle breeders, on Thursday the horse breeders, and perhaps the

dairymen will take a hand on Friday. The matter will certainly be well thrashed out and unless personal ambitions interfere and block the movement, it should result in this very necessary action. It is understood that the government will act on the recommendation of the associations, though no official announcement has been made public.

The Canadian Pacific Railway will endeavor to make arrangements for shipment of some of the wheat now in store along their lines to Duluth where it is understood there is storage for several million bushels. If, as is expected by the U. S. millers the tariff regulations will permit them to grind Manitoba wheat in bond, the over crowded storage of the Northwest and of this province may thus be somewhat relieved.

The retail implement dealers of the West held their annual convention last week and after discussing the business of the past season, they in the words of their secretary "outlined a plan of campaign for the coming year." We suppose the campaign is to be directed against the farmers, as usual.

Hon. Mr. Bulyea, Commissioner of Agriculture for the Territories, is in this city, as it is understood, on a mission to induce the C.P.R. to move the Territorial wheat. He gave most interesting information in an interview on the subject, and among other points made a strong declaration in favor of farmers' elevators, and further in favor of municipal elevators. He states that at least 275 temporary warehouses have been erected for storage of the wheat through the winter, at the towns along the line of railway. In Hon. Mr. Bulyea's opinion there must be at least half the crop still to move.

The Canadian Northern Railway Co., have issued a new tariff giving a further reduction in general freight rates. This is the second announcement of this character since the completion of the line to Port Arthur, and makes beside the 2c reduction on wheat a total reduction of fifteen per cent. since the signing of their contract with the government and the transfer of the Northern Pacific lines to their company.