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"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING."

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The Sheep Raising Industry in Canada

By L. E. O'NEILL, '18

THE greatest needs of the nation at the present time are men, food and clothing. The sheep as a dual purpose animal serves to help supply food and clothing in no uncertain manner.

The sheep raising industry in Canada is at the present time going through a very abnormal stage which will have a great and marked influence upon the



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industry of the future. This has been caused by the importance of wool in the manufacture of clothing for the soldiers of the beligerent nations.

A SHEEP SURVEY OF THE DOMINION

We might first make a brief survey of the industry as it exists in Canada

at the present time. For some time past there has been a gradual decrease in the number of sheep in the Dominion, but it is indeed gratifying to note that this decrease has been partially checked. We find, in taking the provinces from east to west, that Prince Edward Island is practically at a standstill; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario have been gradually decreasing the number of sheep kept until the past year, 1917, when a slight increase over 1916 was reported. The industry is progressing more rapidly in the western provinces. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have reported sheep in increased numbers since 1914, so we see the trend is in the proper direction. At the present time there are slightly over 2,000,000 sheep kept in the whole Dominion. This is almost exactly the same as the number of sheep kept in the Province of Ontario alone in 1895.

No doubt the check in the decrease in the number of sheep in Canada has been caused by the high price of wool which has risen over 100% since the outbreak of war. At the present time the production of wool is the backbone of the sheep industry.

RELATION OF THE WOOL GROWER TO THE MANUFACTURER

We, in Canada, have a rather unique relation existing between the wool grower and the manufacturer. In that period of Canadian woollen manufacturing when the custom woollen mill