

did not suffer the least inconvenience whatever. We have a complete arrangement for dipping, consisting of yards, a vat, and draining pens, and it was this we used to dip the sheep I refer to. There were one hundred of them, and they were badly infested with ticks, but it did not take us long to run them through, and it soon resulted in the complete destruction of the ticks. The dip was kept warm, but that did not seem to help the sheep much. We kept them out of the wind and in the shed until they were dry. There were only two out of the hundred that seemed to show the least inconvenience from the operation. We used Cooper's dip. From our experience in this direction, I would advise our correspondent to dip his sheep just as thoroughly as he would do in the summer time, and if they are kept from the wind, and in a sheltered place, I know that the sheep will not suffer in the least from it.

Profit in Feeding Sheep.

H.M., The Ridge : Last fall men were round here buying fat sheep and lambs for $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound, live weight, to be delivered by the farmer six miles away, at the railway station. Now, there must be a profit somewhere for this low-priced mutton, but it comes not to my neighbors. They seem to be getting poorer. It struck me that if some one hereabouts bought up a number of lambs at the price named, gave them suitable food and shelter, and towards the end of January sold them in Toronto market, a good profit could be made. I figure as follows per sheep :

Bought at live weight, 80 lbs. at $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents. \$2 00
 Hay, grain, roots, oil cake, etc., say..... 1 00
 Freight, packing, cloth, etc., say..... 50

\$3 50

Could the dressed weight be brought up to the live weight by good feeding? If so, the account might stand like this :

80 lbs. at 7 cents.....\$5 60
 Skin..... 60
 Tallow..... 30
 Head and pluck boiled for hen feed 20 \$6 70

Then, too, could not the seller be brought into direct communication with the purchaser in the city, and so save the middleman's commission? How would it do to sell the saddles, legs, and shoulders, and consume the other parts at home? People must be fed, and if one could guarantee good meat and careful handling, I think that a profitable market could be found.

ANS.—While it may not be possible for me to answer all the questions which our correspondent asks, there are some of them of a practical nature upon which I can give him some definite information.

In his estimate, he buys lambs at $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents. If good lambs can be bought for that price and sold for the prices which are said to have been current in Toronto market at the end of January, four to

five cents, I am sure that there is a satisfactory profit in feeding lambs for that market during the winter months. Without going into details so much as to be wearisome, I shall give some figures which have resulted from our trials in feeding lambs during winter. We will suppose that the lambs may be bought at three cents per pound, and we will further infer that four cents could be obtained for them in the spring. We will also suppose that we feed them a ration consisting of such food as hay and corn fodder, and such grains as corn, oats, peas, wheat, and oil meal. We will charge the hay at eight dollars per ton, the oats at thirty cents per bushel, the wheat at fifty-three cents per bushel, the peas at sixty cents per bushel, and the oil meal at twenty-five dollars per ton. In our trials in feeding corn and hay, and also those in feeding the same rations at the Michigan Experiment Station on the basis submitted, the lambs after about three months' feeding have returned profits from fifty-nine to eighty-seven cents per head, in various trials. In those trials which I have relating to oats, I find that the oats only returned a little over their actual price! In such trials as I know of that have been made with wheat, the profit has varied from forty-five to fifty-three cents per head. In a trial at our station with peas and corn fed in an equal mixture together with hay, the wethers, after two months' feeding, returned a profit to us of from fifty-four to sixty-seven cents per head on the same basis. Peas, oats, and corn fed in a mixture together with hay have yielded a profit of sixty-seven cents per head after two months' feeding. The mixture of corn, peas, and oil meal, fed with hay and corn fodder, has returned profits varying from twenty-five to ninety-three cents per head. In accepting these prices, it is to be remembered that the foods that were fed were charged at a much higher market price than is usual at this time, and the difference in the actual market price and the supposed market price which we have used would, of itself, furnish a good profit. I have not the least doubt but that good lambs, bought for two and a half cents per pound, as our correspondent writes, and sold for four or five cents per pound, the price current on Toronto market, would return a liberal profit after being fed for two or three months.

In reference to the dressed weight, it is not possible under any circumstances to make the dressed weight equal the live weight by good feeding. The best fitted lambs will lose nearly fifty per cent. in dressing. I should think there would be some possibility of the producer placing himself in direct communication with the consumer; and it would certainly be to his advantage to do so. Mutton, however, is an article of such slow consumption, that unless the producer had communication with a large number of consumers it would take him some time to dispose of his product. At the prices that are quoted for good lambs in Toronto market, there is little need of the producer seeking the consumer to make a profit, for he has in that market a very profitable outlet for his product.