

Plenty of fresh air is indispensable, and also access to a yard in weather not severe, but so much liberty is not necessary as in the case of breeding ewes.

A lamb that is properly cared for should weigh, say 130 to 150 lbs. at one year, from which the selling price may be easily estimated, as lambs about one year old bring readily from 5 to 5½ cents per pound live weight. The price for older sheep is at least one cent per pound less. In this way a quick return is secured for the outlay. In the case of cattle the return does not come in for at least two years, and oftentimes not so soon. There is a wide opening here for the farmers if they choose to fill it. There can be no doubt but that the home markets for this kind of produce will continually increase with the growth of our towns and cities.

The Live Stock Industry

The condition of the live stock industry must always be of paramount importance to Ontario—she is so favorably situated for its growth. While Ontario cannot any more compete with the great North-West in raising wheat cheaply, she can hold her own in raising the superior grades of meat. It is well then to have Ontario stocked to her full capacity with beasts of the right stamp. Yes, that is it; beasts of the right stamp, if her farmers would only all realize its importance.

If the lands of Ontario were only stimulated to their utmost capacity by the aid of the soiling system and artificial manures of the right kind, there is no question but that the numbers of live stock kept would be more than doubled.

But numbers alone is not the great consideration. It is never so important as *quality*. A large number of animals may be kept on a farm at a loss, while a small number on the same farm might fetch a profit.

We do not then take it as a bad omen when we find in the 1888 report of the Bureau of Industries, that, while there has been an increase during recent years in the growth of almost every kind of food for keeping stock, there is a decrease in the numbers in every branch of the live stock industry as compared with 1887 except that of horses.

It is hopeful to note an increase in the number of horses at the present time, for two reasons. First, they have been bringing good prices in the market for some time past, at least relatively, and second, the staff of working horses on Ontario farms has been too few in number, and too light in body up to the present. Because of this the ground is not sufficiently tilled, hence the superabundance of weed life on every hand. Horse power is always the cheapest power that can be employed in driving weeds away to their own place.

There were 20,857 more horses in Ontario in 1888, than in the previous year, and of these 4,303 were working animals. We talk about liberating agencies of plant food, but, if we would only see it, there is indirectly no liberating agency under the sun that will compare with working horses when turning the land over and over, and through and through, thus preparing it for that comminution of weathered particles so favorable to the support of plant life.

During the same period the number of cattle decreased by 19,626 head. This decrease was chiefly in working oxen, store cattle and young animals. It is not necessarily a sign of retrogression. We have never lacked so much for numbers as in quality. A little improvement in quality would soon more than counterbalance any loss from so small a decrease in

numbers, and we have good reasons for believing that there is an increase in quality, owing to the increasing number of the good sires that are being used.

It is also encouraging to notice that while the whole number of the live stock in the country has decreased as mentioned above, there has been an increase of 33,238 head in the number of cows kept. From this it is apparent that dairying is on the increase, which is as it should be.

But while there is an increase in the number of cows kept the average milk yield per cow during the cheese factory season is less than in 1887, and even less than the average for the past six years. It amounted to 2,673 pounds for each cow against 2,740 pounds, as the average during previous years. Now, it would be clearly better every way to try just to increase the average milk yield than the number of cows. There can be no doubt but that 400,000 cows would do the work of the 781,559 cows now in the Province. If managed and fed according to the most approved rules. At dairy association meetings, line upon line and precept upon precept have been given to the people, urging upon them the wisdom of increasing the average yield per season per cow, and yet there has been no increase in this direction since 1882.

The falling off in the numbers of sheep kept in the Province is to be regretted, for we are now clearly under rather than overstocked in the line of sheep. The whole number of sheep in the Province is 1,349,044, as compared with 1,850,733 head in 1884, a falling off during that period of 441,689 head in five years, or nearly 90,000 head each year. This decrease has been constant, as well as large, and mostly in the coarse wool classes.

The number of sheep on every one hundred acre farm in Ontario on an average is clearly less than seven head, which is too small a number to perform well the office of scavengers. The odds and ends of pasture on every one hundred acre farm will keep more than seven head of sheep in prime condition. They will at the same time render good service in biting off many forms of useless and noxious weed life which are so fond of growing in fence corners and bye places. The sheep industry would in no way be overstocked, if the farmer kept as many for public disposal as at present, and raised half a dozen each year in addition for home use.

While there is room for a large extension of the sheep industry, there is also room for their improvement. Large numbers of highway sheep are still in the land. And wherever this state of things exist there is a class of sheep far below the average.

On the whole, however, the indications are hopeful. The growth of good food for stock is on the increase, while the numbers of the live stock is on the decrease. The export of coarse grains is also decreasing. The conclusion then is irresistible, that more is being fed to the stock, and therefore there must be an improvement in their quality. If the numbers of live stock were decreasing and there were also a decrease in the amount of food grown, there would then be just cause for alarm.

The Signs of the Times.

Sometimes it is well to take stock. It is a practice that will not harm any business, and to most pursuits it is very helpful. National stock-taking is quite as helpful to the nation as private stock-taking is to the individual. This, however, can never be done in any country where there is not a bureau of statistics.

Happily we in Ontario are thus supplied, and through the painstaking of the indefatigable secretary, Mr. Blue, we are enabled every year to lay the finger on the pulse of the prosperity of this Province, and hence discern pretty clearly the signs of the times.

Since the commencement of the existence of THE LIVE STOCK JOURNAL, which, by the way, was almost contemporaneous with the establishment of the Bureau of Industries, we have been advocating growing a less acreage of wheat, and a larger acreage of food adapted to the support of live stock. That the current has set in this direction is very apparent on reference to the tables of the Bureau.

Below we give the comparative acreage in the various farm crops for the years 1882 and 1888 respectively. It will be remembered that the report of the Bureau only goes back to the former year.

	1882.	1888.
Fall wheat.....	1,188,520 acres.	826,537 acres.
Spring wheat.....	386,817 "	167,850 "
Barley.....	848,617 "	855,432 "
Oats.....	1,387,487 "	1,849,868 "
Rye.....	185,276 "	84,087 "
Pease.....	560,770 "	696,653 "
Corn.....	206,755 "	222,971 "
Buckwheat.....	50,035 "	57,528 "
Beans.....	19,787 "	22,700 "
Potatoes.....	160,700 "	153,915 "
Mangolds.....	15,791 "	21,459 "
Carrots.....	9,955 "	11,524 "
Turnips.....	78,823 "	113,183 "
Hay and Clover.....	1,825,890 "	2,292,638 "
	7,381,566	7,616,350

From this table it is apparent that in every kind of food suitable for stock keeping the whole acreage devoted to its growth has increased very considerably. The largest increase has been in the acreage devoted to the growth of oats, where the increase of 1886 over 1882 is no less than 462,381 acres.

This is as it should be, for no kind of grain grown is devoted to so many uses as the oat. It is excellent for feeding horses either crushed or uncrushed, alone or in conjunction with cut feed. It forms one of the important factors in the diet of a calf, whether fed whole or ground as a part of a mixture, and is equally useful in the development of young cattle as in pushing on the growth of colts. It forms usually a part of the ration of the milch cow and the shipping steer. It is extensively used when ground to feed young pigs in conjunction with ground corn or pease, and is particularly helpful in producing that kind of pork having fat and lean, which has been advocated by Mr. Davies for some time past in our columns, with a judgment that is well timed. It is encouraging therefore, to note that in 1888 the yield of this crop was 65,466,911 bushels, or 9,469,486 bushels more than the average for the seven years for which we have returns. The future for the oat, at one time a crop that was pushed into the poorest fields and sown last, is widening, and it should widen in all stock-keeping countries. The oat is an important factor in the growth of green fodders, the area of which is extending every year.

The custom, too, is growing of cutting oats a little green, and feeding them to dairy cows unthreshed, and of cutting oats and peas when grown together at the same stage, and feeding thus to different kinds of stock, thus obviating the labor of threshing and grinding, for when thus fed, the cattle and sheep at least grind them most thoroughly for themselves.

It is a good indication to note the increase in the acreage of field roots which always will form an important factor in stock-keeping in countries which can grow them, and more especially where meat is an important object. The only serious objection that can be urged against their increasing growth is that