

the rate of 2 lb. per acre. A good stand of rape will carry twenty lambs an acre for two months, and will put a fine finish on them, with a little grain to help. For ewes with lambs on rape an acre a month for twenty-five head combined may be reckoned sufficient. Sheep must not be turned on rape with stomachs empty. Rape and kale are sometimes sown with small grains, such as wheat and oats, or in the cornfield after the last cultivation, to be used as pasture in the fall. Alfalfa, like pure clover, is liable to cause bloat if pastured. It is best to cut it and feed it. Cabbage is also a good crop for sheep.

Weaning.—Four months of age is the usual time to wean lambs. Before weaning they should be eating grain well, so that there will be no set-back. At weaning-time the ewes should be put on short pasture to become dry. They can be put to glean the stubble-fields, etc. Hand-milking of some ewes is sometimes necessary to prevent spoiled udders, but usually the milk is reabsorbed without trouble.

FEEDING THIN SHEEP FOR MARKET.

For several years farmers in the Ladner District have made a practice of importing thin American sheep to run on the aftermath of the meadows. These sheep are marketed in fairly good condition from Christmas-time on. Little or no grain is fed, but good hay is provided if necessary. In the United States alfalfa-hay is much used for fattening thin range lambs.



Sheep badly infested with ticks.

SHEARING.

The proper time to shear must be left to the discretion of the owner. If the weather conditions are good it is best to shear when the wool begins to loosen up or "rise"; probably in April on the farm and later on the range. Shearing should be over by the time the hot weather commences. Shearing seems to act as a stimulus to the sheep, and they will immediately start to gain if well cared for.

Washing.—Sheep should not be washed before shearing unless they are very dirty and the wool chaffy. It is impossible for the farmer to do the job thoroughly, and there is danger of the animal catching cold. If shearing is done soon after washing, the weight of the wool shorn is much less, due to the washing-out of the oil in the wool.

Removal of the Fleece.—A good job can be done with the hand-shears, but a novice is sure to cut a lot of wool twice, and is also liable to injure the sheep. The