

herds of registered cattle where this system is carried out with success, and if it can be done in a high class herd it can be done with a herd used to produce market milk. Our dairymen will not stand for a tuberculin test of their herds today, but we believe the day is not far distant when it will be to the advantage of the dairymen, for their own interests alone, to sink their prejudice against this test, give new consideration to it and, if possible, adopt the yearly test, so as to keep their cows clear of this dreaded disease. Then, if engaged in the production of market milk, a clean bill of health and a certificate to that effect will net them a price for their product that will be worth all the extra labor and cost of production. Then those dairymen that conform to the conditions called for by our city authorities will demand their price for pure, clean milk from healthy cows confined in sanitary stables, and they will get it. This is the position taken by those dairymen that produce certified milk, who sell their product at from 30 to 35 per cent. more than that received by the ordinary dairymen. The day must come, and that ere long, when quality in milk will count for something and the dairyman who puts up a high-class article from healthy cows will receive a livable profit.

Producing the Bacon Hog in Winter

N. C. Campbell, Brant Co., Ont.

There is more money in producing hogs during the summer months than in winter most of us are agreed, still there is a living profit and frequently a large profit in producing bacon in winter when properly managed. At one time, we thought to produce hogs with a profit it was necessary to place them on the market weighing at least 175 lbs. when they were six months old. To do this was a comparatively easy matter when everything was right. Sometimes, however, when the feeder became a little too enthusiastic, the young pigs were fed too heavily with the result that they went off their feed and off their feet; and profits vanished. It was a common occurrence for us to have several "Crips," as we call them, on hand during the coldest months of winter. These pigs were a direct source of loss, and in some instances, they never recovered, and had to be buried.

Since those days, we have learned from hard experience that there is a more profitable way to produce bacon than by forcing it on to the market ere it is six months old. Now, we aim to grow our hogs, rather than to fatten them. By making use of pastures when they are available, and in winter, availing ourselves of sugar beets and mangels, and skim milk from the dairy, we are able to keep the pigs growing nicely at comparatively small expense. We aim to make this part of the ration the "filler" and we feed enough of a grain ration composed of mixed grains (oats, barley, corn, peas and bran) in varying proportions as is convenient at the time, to keep the hogs thriving nicely.

When the pigs have reached a size when they will weigh about 140 lbs., they are "put up" to fatten. The former practice of feeding roots or some green substitute along with the milk is kept up, but the grain ration is largely increased and it is composed more largely of the more solid grains, with the bran and oats left out. After this stage has been reached, but a comparatively short space of time is required to finish the hogs. Since following out this practice of feeding hogs we put them on the market at an age varying from seven to nine months. The resulting product is more desirable from the packer's standpoint, and is much more profitably produced.

Photographs and articles are always welcomed for publication in these columns.

Sheep in Alberta

The sheep industry of the Province of Alberta has not developed as one would have naturally expected. There is no argument necessary to prove that the raising of sheep is a profitable business since the price of both meat and wool have been so high. For several years the price has been such as to warrant producers in Prince Edward Island and Australia shipping their surplus product to Alberta markets. There are, however, several well authenticated reasons why sheep raising has not met with success in Alberta. Several years ago a controversy arose between the cattle men and sheep men of the Northwest Territories. Cattle producers maintained that their stock would not range on ground previously cov-



Hon. James S. Duff.

Ontario's new Minister of Agriculture, who was sworn in and began his duties as Minister last week. See article on page 2.

ered by sheep, and many cases are on record which go to show that a great struggle took place between the two classes of men, the cattle men endeavoring to gain supremacy and the sheep men to maintain their rights. The matter was brought to the attention of the Dominion Government and a commission was appointed to investigate the trouble. The commission reported and in its recommendations advised that the sheep limits be moved eastward from what is now Southern Alberta into Southern Saskatchewan. The recommendations were acted upon, the result at the present time being that there are very few sheep limits in the Province of Alberta.

THE ENEMIES OF SHEEP

Until recent years very few sheep have been raised on the smaller farms of the province. Most of the small farms are located in the northern part. This district is more or less covered with brush and forms an excellent hiding place for wild animals. Wolves and coyotes have made great ravages amongst sheep, making it practically impossible to allow them to run at large. Those who are in the business extensively enough to have a shepherd experience little or no loss, and again, those who take the trouble to fence a pasture with a woven wire fence have little trouble provided the mesh of the fence is close enough. There are a few men in the province who use bells on every animal.

If the coyotes are not too hungry it is possible that this method will prove effective, although reports on the matter are very conflicting. The Provincial Government has been paying a bounty on wolves and coyotes for the past year and as a consequence the numbers of these troublesome pests have been very greatly reduced.

In many parts of the province spear grass has given a great deal of trouble to sheep raisers. This grass grows native on the prairie maturing early in the season. The head of the plant is supplied with spears or awns which are jagged on the edge and so constituted that when they become attached to the wool of a sheep, they gradually work through the skin into the flesh, causing the animal great torture. In districts where this grass is at all plentiful it is useless to endeavor to raise sheep.

While there are some serious difficulties to be experienced in the production of sheep there are largely counteracted by other things which make the province attractive to the sheep raiser. In the ordinary winter it is quite possible for stock to range out with very little feed and no shelter. Then, again, the grass of the country seems to contain certain flesh producing qualities not to be found elsewhere. Furthermore, the home demand is such that a good price may be depended upon at all times of the year.

THE MERINO PREDOMINATES

The greater portion of the sheep in Alberta have a mixture of merino blood. While this breed proved very satisfactory under ranching conditions it is not the most profitable breed for the farmer to raise. The average animal is small, matures late and has a very meagre supply of wool. A serious objection to the long woolled breeds is that the fleece separates on the back, and while it was stated before that the majority of winters in Alberta are mild there are times when a cold snap comes and then we must have sheep that will weather the gale. It has been noted that in cases of heavy loss from exposure the majority of the dead sheep will be those with the wool parted on the back. This is not characteristic of the finer woolled breeds, consequently they are more popular. Up to the present very few pure-bred flocks are to be found. During the past few years, however, a few flocks of pure-bred Oxford, Shropshire and Suffolks have been introduced, all of which have given good satisfaction and a ready sale is being found for the breeding stock. As settlement advances the pests above mentioned will gradually disappear and there is every reason to believe that there are bright prospects for the sheep industry in the Province of Alberta.—C. H. H.

Fall Management of Potatoes

S. A. Northcott, Ontario Co., Ont.

If possible, dig the potatoes when they will come up clean. If the ground is wet, let the tubers lie for a while before picking up so that the dirt may be rubbed off before storing. Be careful not to pick up any diseased potatoes or those that have been frosted, in case an early frost has nipped a potato which was above ground and not harvested as soon as it should have been. Frosted or diseased potatoes will soon play havoc with the others, but if they are left in the field, there will be little trouble in keeping the good potatoes.

Store in bins in the house cellar or in the basement of the barn, where there is no danger of frost. One bite of frost will spoil every one touched. If the bins and the potatoes are dry, they will keep without any trouble till spring.

If a market can be found and good prices can be realized, it is generally better to sell a quantity of potatoes direct from the field. It saves a lot of extra work required to store them, besides the shrinkage.

The largest and smoothest tubers should be picked out and put in a bin by themselves to be used for seed. Under no consideration should small potatoes be used for this purpose. Keep planting big ones, and a large crop, of which too per cent. will be saleable, has been my experience. It costs more to plant large ones but it pays ten times over.