

# Live Stock

## THE SHEEP INDUSTRY

The Central Ottawa Citizen, in dealing with the sheep industry of Canada, has the following to say:

"The impression is evidently gaining ground amongst the breeders of pure bred sheep in Canada that the only prospect of securing for themselves a steady annual market for their surplus stock lies in the direction of the encouragement and development of sheep raising, as a business, in our own country. A year ago they were confronted with quarantine restrictions imposed by the United States, which created conditions for which they were not prepared and which, in the end, depressed sales in a marked degree. During the greater part of the past season the market has no doubt been a buoyant one, but latterly the feeling of confidence in a continuous demand for Canadian sheep in the United States has steadily declined. The recent sheep sales at the International were some too satisfactory for Canadian breeders, and it was evident that the outlook for a steady or increased trade was not particularly encouraging.

It may seem most natural that Canada should be able to obtain a firm and advantageous foothold in the markets of the United States for her sheep and wool, but it is now quite clear that, until the trade policies of the two countries become more firmly established, the Canadian sheep industry, when depending so largely on the United States for its export market, rests upon a very unstable foundation. Fortunately, however, other and very encouraging outlets are available. It may be noted at this point that the home market is not unworthy of consideration. This year not more than five carloads of lambs were shipped to East Buffalo from Ontario, while in 1907 almost 1,000 carloads went to that city. The Toronto and Montreal markets have absorbed practically the whole output during the past season and at prices equivalent to that paid for similar grades in Chicago and Buffalo, a fact in itself indicating the strong and growing demand for mutton on the Canadian market.

Notwithstanding the proximity of the United States, the safest outlet for the Canadian product is still to be found in the British and, possibly at an early date, in the European markets. The English wool market is the centre of distribution for the product of the great wool producing countries of the world, including Australia, New Zealand and the Argentine. If the sheep industry in this country can ever be developed to reasonable proportions, it is not to be expected that any more natural or reliable market can be found for surplus Canadian wools. In addition to this, when the extent of the industry may make possible the necessary grading and sorting of the product, such that it may be placed upon the British market in attractive condition, the prices realized may be found much more remunerative than those at present obtained.

It is clear also that the great and natural outlet for our surplus meat products, including those of mutton and lamb, is to be found across the sea, where the producing power of the land is unable to yield sufficient for the necessities of the crowded populations of long inhabited countries. Great Britain has hitherto absorbed all the surplus of the world's meat supply, but it seems probable that she is shortly to have competitors in the market for foreign meats. There is a movement in Austria and Germany which will eventually result in the opening up of these countries to a chilled and frozen meat trade. A steady market is without doubt thus assured for all the mutton that Canada can produce.

The breeders of pure bred sheep, therefore, if our argument holds, would do well to direct their best energies to the development of the sheep industry in our own country. As a matter of fact, a strong local demand is the safest market in the long run. A material increase in the sheep population

of the country would create a thoroughly healthy home market for breeding sheep, and one much to be desired. The opportunities in this direction may well be worthy of somewhat careful consideration.

It is fortunate that, at this time, the federal government is interesting itself in the sheep industry of the Dominion and is making a thorough investigation, with a view to the adoption later of a policy which may lead to its general encouragement and development. There is reason to believe that sheep raising in Canada may become at no distant date a decidedly profitable industry, and the minister of agriculture has undertaken a measure which we may expect to be productive of much good result. We learn that the members of the investigating commission, having completed their researches in the United Kingdom, are to spend the next few months in studying conditions in the Dominion and are now engaged in interviewing a number of the prominent



The "Prince," Best Hereford Steer at Birmingham Fat Stock Show. Owned and Exhibited by His Majesty King George V.

sheep breeders of Ontario. We are hopeful that they may meet with the full co-operation of sheep raisers and farmers generally in the prosecution of their work."

Note.—We think there is a great deal of truth contained in this article. That there is a growing demand for mutton in Canada is evident. With the rapidly growing population there is a demand for more mutton which the stagnant state of the sheep industry of recent years has failed to supply. Toronto and Montreal markets have absorbed practically the entire output, while in the West the mutton consumption has been sustained principally by the East. The possibilities in the sheep industry in the West are great, and breeders can be confident that the home market will be strong for years to come.

## CARE OF BREEDING PIGS

Assuming that the pig has been purchased shortly after weaning he should be placed in a dry, roomy, clean pen with access at will to the paddock. It is well to give him a barrow of about his own age for company; feed liberally of food calculated to form bone and muscle but do not force him too rapidly; care must be taken to avoid getting him too fat. No better food can be given than the by-products of the dairy with ground oats, supplemented with plenty of succulent foods in the form of grass or roots. Let him root in the paddock; it is the best exercise he can take, calling into active play every muscle in the body, and, besides, it furnishes him with amusement and occupation. Curry and brush him frequently; it not only keeps the skin and hair healthy and active, but tends to make him quiet and gentle. The tusks should be removed as soon as well formed.

### The Sow

Breeding sows should not be closely confined summer or winter, but should be given the run of a pasture in summer and of a large yard in winter. If there is one mistake more common than another

in the management of the breeding herd, it is the failing to provide for and compel the hog to take sufficient exercise. The hog is by nature a grazing animal and exercise is essential to his welfare. If the sows can be given the run of a pasture during the summer and of the stubble in autumn they will require little else to keep them in excellent breeding condition. They must, of course, have water and shelter; if they have access to a running stream in which they may wallow so much the better. A mud bath is nature's method of keeping a hog's skin healthy and free from vermin. Shelter is best provided by the use of a portable pen.

In winter they should have the run of the barnyard, a dry sheltered spot being provided for them to sleep in. A portable pen serves the purpose admirably. This is better not to be too warm so long as it is dry, free from drafts, and well supplied with straw in which they may huddle. If their sleeping quarters are made too warm they chill too quickly in going out into the yard and they will not voluntarily take enough exercise.

### The Feed

They should be fed on nutritious but not concentrated food. Mature, thrifty sows can be maintained in excellent breeding condition on a ration consisting largely of roots, preferably mangles or sugar beets. During a very cold snap

every day with a stiff brush will be a good investment of time. This "currying favor" with the sow should not, of course, be a mere spasmodic effort at each farrowing period, it is the habitual practice of the thorough-going and successful stockman.

The breeding pen should not be too large; about eight feet square. If the pen is too large there is danger in cold weather for the newly farrowed pigs wandering away from the dam, getting lost and perishing from the cold. The pen should be warm and dry, and furnished with a fender to prevent the dam overlying her young. This consists of a plank or pole placed all around the sides of the pen about ten inches from the wall and eight inches from the floor. Very little bedding should be used, and this should be chaff or cut straw. If a large quantity of straw is used the youngsters are apt to get tangled up in it and overlaid by the sow.

An hour or so after farrowing the sow should be given a drink of warm water into which not more than a handful or two of shorts or meal has been stirred. Very little grain should be given the first day; overfeeding with grain during the first few days immediately before and after farrowing is apt to derange the digestive system and cause trouble with the udder. The feed should be gradually increased until at the end of the first week she is getting all she will clean up. Nursing sows should be fed on a ration well adapted to milk production. A sow nursing a large litter is subjected to a severe strain, and if she be a good milker will fall rapidly away in flesh in spite of the most skillful feeding. This, however, is no reflection on the sow; for at no other period in the life of the pig is gain more economically obtained than while sucking its dam. Dairy by-products are especially valuable at this time, and of the grains, shorts or chopped oats are among the best. Barley is too heating and tends to dry the sow off.

The sow and her litter should be fed in a wide, flat-bottomed trough so large that when the food is put in it will cover the bottom not more than one inch deep. The young of most animals learn best by imitation, especially of the dam, and if a trough of this kind is used into which the pigs can climb they will quickly learn to eat, much more so than by the plan so popular with some of arranging a separate trough for them from which the sow is excluded. After the young pigs have learned to eat well they may be given access to separate feeding pens.

In cold weather the food for the nursing sow should be given warm and not too sloppy, water being supplied separately. It is also important that both sow and litter have frequent access to earth; it is easily possible to ruin the digestive system of a pig even before it is removed from the dam, and there is perhaps no better corrective for hogs than soil. In cold weather it must be furnished by artificial means. It is an excellent plan to lay by a supply in the fall for the winter use by piling up a few sods in some place where they will not freeze and can be readily obtained when wanted. These are better if taken from the woods, or some other location where the soil contains a large percentage of humus or decayed vegetable matter. Filling this a paul of earth from the root cellar twice a week will serve the purpose very well.

The litter should be weaned when eight or ten weeks old; by that time they should be eating so well at the trough that they will scarcely miss their dam when she is removed. The whole litter should be removed at once, letting them back to the sow once or twice if necessary, of intervals of not more than ten hours, to relieve her udder. It is quite a common practice to leave one or two pigs with the dam for a few days for this purpose. This is a mistake, because each pig will suck only the teat to which he has been accustomed and will not touch the others, in this way defeating the object for which he was left with the dam.

Sometimes the milk teeth are abnormally long and sharp, causing them to irritate the sow's udder and lacerate the gums and tongue of the pig. They frequently become discolored from digestive troubles, and are then known as "black teeth". They should be removed with a pair of pincers as soon as noticed. Many breeders make it a practice to remove them from the whole litter when two or three days old; and, although not always necessary this is the better plan.

A fire and resulting stampede in a Mexico City church resulted in the death of seventeen worshippers.

### Object of Care

The objective point to be aimed at in the wintering of brood sows is to nourish and care for them in such a way that the spring litters will consist of good size, well nourished, healthy, vigorous pigs, and that the sows themselves will be in such a condition of flesh as will carry them well over the trying period of nursing. To do this the sow must have plenty of exercise, and must be fleshy but not fat. Sows carrying a load of soft, flabby fat put on in close pens will drop undersized and delicate pigs, and they themselves will fall rapidly during the milking period. In addition to this sows kept closely confined and fed largely on grain are apt to have their digestive systems so deranged as to develop abnormal appetites at farrowing time.

A week or ten days before farrowing time the sow should be placed in the breeding pen in order that she may become reconciled to her surroundings before the critical time arrives. It is most important that the attendant get on good terms with the sow; a few minutes spent on her