

hence in many places such land is plentiful. And with the settling of the land other enemies of the wolf have probably become less active. It may be that they are less hunted now than when the red man dwelt in the regions referred to.

The corral in the picture also shows a shed to provide summer shade. It will be noticed that there are openings in the sides of the shed, that is to say, there are cracks in the boards, and through these the wind circulates. The ends of the shed are also open. Such a shed with the apertures closed is also used for winter feeding.

The sheep have to be driven to these corrals at the first, but after a time they will come to them at nightfall with unfailing regularity when the shades are gathering in the west. When the flock is large and is feeding out on the open prairie it is usually attended by a herder, and some of these herders are very young inmates of the home. They ride on a pony and spend nearly all the day in the saddle. But when the flocks are not large, and fencing is used, of course herders are not a necessity.

### Sheep Husbandry in the North Western States.

This great industry is yet in its infancy, but it is developing with no little rapidity. The major portion of the sheep reared are grown upon the ranges. And many of those not so grown are reared upon the range plan, that is to say, they are reared upon unoccupied lands. The majority of those grown are sent directly to the market from their pastures, and, in consequence, they, as a rule, reach the markets in the autumn, when sheep sell cheaply. But a good many are nevertheless winter-fed on the way eastward. And yet the proportion of those thus fed to the whole number of animals reared is not very large.

When they are so fed it is usually on screenings and hay. The screenings are a very variable commodity. Sometimes they consist largely of small wheat, but more frequently screenings are composed of some small wheat, the balance being made up almost entirely of the seeds of such weeds as summer grass, that is to say, foxtail and other varieties that grow luxuriantly on those western plains. It is no uncommon sight to see 7,000 sheep in one flock being thus finished in the winter. Shed-room enough is provided to protect them from falling storms, which are not frequent, and they are given yard room in addition. The food, that is the screenings, is put into self-feeding boxes, and the sheep help themselves at will. They are given hay, usually in cheaply

made racks, and have also access to water. Sometimes corn is added to the mixture of grain, and usually the sheep are not fed for more than three to four months and sometimes for a shorter period.

More commonly full-grown wethers are bought for feeding, and when finished they nearly all find their way to Chicago, but a goodly number during recent years have been sold in Britain. The feeding of good grade lambs is only in its infancy, for the reason, first, that these are not very plentiful as yet of the mutton breeds; and, second, that they are oftentimes not pushed on with sufficient quickness to attain the requisite weights at the proper age for selling. But their day is coming, and as soon as it does come these lambs will be shipped in large numbers directly to Great Britain, and in the living form. The sheep sent over now from the west are largely of the Merino types.

The Merino is not a bad foundation on which to build up good grade flocks of the mutton types. To be sure the Merino form is not the typical mutton form, but Merino grades and even pure-bred Merinos are hardy. They are a rugged race, which put up with plain fare, and where rams of the mutton breeds are crossed upon them the progeny do wonderfully well, that is to say, they answer well not only for feeding, but they meet the demands of the market.

The chief obstacle in the way of rearing sheep in the Northwest on arable farms is the lack of fences and of fencing material. Because of this, farm after farm may be found without any sheep. But, fortunately, with the aid of woven wire, fences may be built without great cost. The posts may be bought or grown; of course, the latter process would be a slow one. But the day is coming when fences will be common on those prairie farms, and when sheep will be kept upon them in large numbers.

As the weather is dry in autumn, the pastures in all the Northwest are oftentimes burned and dead. But we must not judge of the value of prairie pastures when dead by the value of grasses in Ontario when in the same condition. In some parts of South Dakota the sheep live on such pastures practically all the winter, and they come through the winter wonderfully well, all things considered; of course, they are not in such good shape as ewes well fed on foods fed out by the hand of man, but the fact that they live on such grasses, which cure, as it were, where they grew, is one of much significance.

But the day is at hand when sheep-owners in all this western country, except on the ranges, will grow food for their sheep to be feed off during the