

with British long-wooled sheep, such as the Lincoln, Cotswold, Leicester, and Highland Black Faced. Up to the present the work has been largely the nature of an experiment, in an endeavour to determine those breeds of sheep that will give best results when crossed with Karakules, to breed up standard flocks, running true to type, with the inherent character of producing fairly uniform Persian lamb.

Production and Value of Skins.

The first aim of the breeders of Karakule sheep in Canada is the successful production of first quality Persian lambskins, working towards this end by crossing Karakule rams with such breeds as the Lincoln, Cotswold and Leicester. It was at first thought that such crosses would produce some of the best lambskins, but it has since been proven that the more Karakule blood there is in the ram, the more value there is to the skin from a fur standpoint. However, by crossing the Karakule with our long-wool white sheep it may be possible in a few years to breed up ewes that will, when bred with Karakule rams, give birth to lambs, the skins of which are very satisfactory when placed on the market.



Persian Lamb produced from Karakule-Lincoln crosses.

In work carried on with Karakule sheep in Nova Scotia, Karakule rams were crossed with Lincoln, Cotswold and Leicester ewes, with the result that all the lambs were black and had, to a greater or less extent, the desired curl. The skins of the spring lambs that died at birth or a few days after, were removed and sent to a prominent Canadian fur-house for dyeing, and to have values affixed. These skins, according to the values placed upon them, ranged in price from 70 cents to \$4.50. The following year twenty-six skins were sent to the same firm and values of these ranged from 75 cents to \$6, or an average of about \$4 each, wholesale. A valuable asset to the Karakule industry is that of being able to realize fair monetary returns from lambs lost at birth, since the skins can be removed and sold.

Skins produced by crossing with the three breeds Lincoln, Cotswold and Leicester, seemed to have little difference in the average qualities, which would go to show that any one of these breeds is as suitable as the other for crossing with the Karakule.