

Feeding Screenings.

From "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," Winnipeg.

During the last year the interest in the destination of the screenings from cars of wheat shipped by the farmers of the West has become much keener, owing to the increase of such hitherto wasted material, and the interpretation of clauses of the Noxious Weeds Act, by which it was made to appear that the farmer unfortunate enough to grow weed seeds was also to be mulcted of those seeds when grown. From time to time advice has been tendered as to how the weeds are to be eradicated, but until recently few attempts were made in Canada to utilize either the weed seeds

fall, to the extent of some thousands, and the project, from all appearances, promises to be successful, the only fly in the ointment being the question of a market for the finished product.

Considerable care has to be observed in the feeding of sheep on screenings, especially at the start, overfeeding, and the subsequent loss from indigestion, being sufficient to render the venture an unprofitable one; in fact, to use a technical phrase, "care has to be exercised in getting the sheep onto feed," a week or more being allowed to elapse before the sheep are allowed to take their fill at the self-feeders, and even then the screenings are selected, and, as seen by us, would not contain more than a dozen grains of wheat of any kind in a handful of the screenings, which were made up of weed seeds and short straws a

In one yard was noticed a bunch of 2,000 lambs, range-bred, carrying considerable Merino blood, but with a dash of some of the blood of the British mutton breeds, the Shropshire being shown markedly. Ninety to one hundred days are calculated as the feeding period, the lambs being put in about the end of November, put onto feed a week later, which is gradually increased. During February shearing is done, after which the lambs just jump ahead in the matter of gains, being relieved of the fleece and the ticks. The shearing machine is used, as with such large numbers, hand work with the shears would be out of the question.

Sheep and lambs were being fed in open sheds at the time of our visit—beginning of February—and, as may be judged, the temperature at that



In the Feeding Yards of the North-American Live-stock Co., Port Arthur.

The open sheds are the only shelter.



Desirable Types of Lambs for Feeding.

Note also the self-feeders (large) and the hay racks (small).

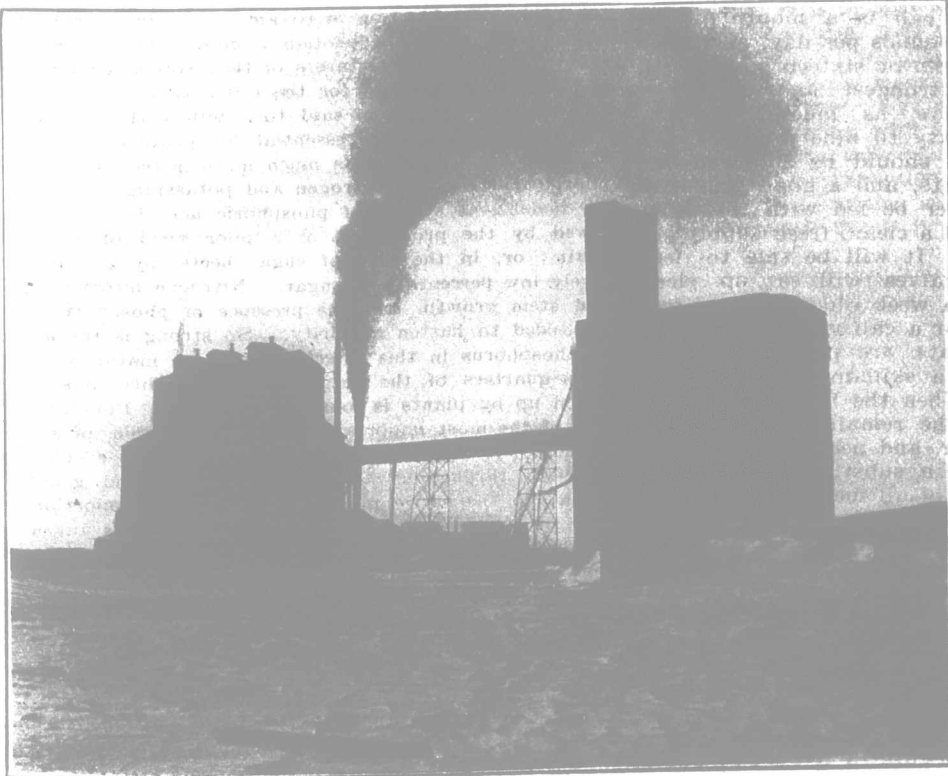
or the screenings to advantage, what quantities there were available at the big elevators at the head of the Great Lakes being shipped across the line to Minneapolis and St. Paul, where such were purchased by the feeders, after paying freight and duty, bringing the screenings up to a cost of \$11 to \$12 a ton—duty \$1.50, freight \$3.50, the net price at Port Arthur being \$6.00.

The North American Live-stock Company was organized at Port Arthur, to turn the screenings into mutton on the spot, the head of the Company believing in the maxim, "take stock to the feed, not feed to the stock," and, with the annually increasing quantity of screenings, it requires no extra quality or prescience to imagine that Port Arthur will yet be a great, possibly the greatest, feeding and finishing point for Western Canada. Sheep were first stocked up with last

couple of inches long. From the appearance of these screenings, we assume that the dockage from the farmer's wheat is subjected to a grading process, the screenings, as fed to the sheep, being the low-grade stuff, and a pertinent query is, "what becomes of the high-grade stuff made up of small wheat?" As \$6.00 a ton is obtained for the low-grade screenings, considerably more, it is fair to assume, will be obtained for the higher-grade stuff, and the only conclusion any fair-minded person can come to is that, so long as the farmer shipper has to pay freight to the lakes on the dockage, for which he receives nothing, great injustice is done him—in plain English, he is being robbed! The dictionary does not contain a word descriptive enough of the toll usually taken by the local elevator or millmen from the farmer who markets by the load on the street.

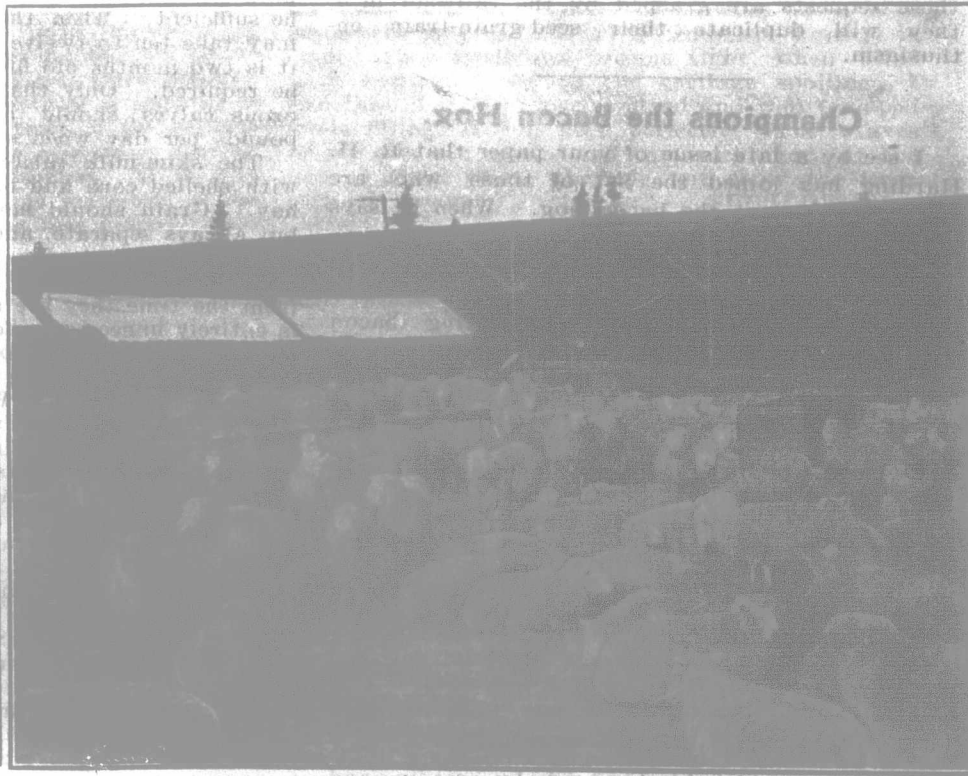
time was the reverse of sultry, but the weather was ideal, being dry and sunny.

The desirable type of sheep for the open feeding yards are the close-woolled, compact grades, the result of crossing some of the Down breeds on the Merino grade foundation. The more open-fleeced sheep do for feeding in closed sheds, but they are not suited to cold and snow. The compact-woolled sheep also yield a heavier fleece than do the others, the difference being sometimes as much as ten to three. Objection has been made to the shearing machine by some sheepmen, on the ground of "sunburn" on the sheep, but the experience of the Oregon men is distinctly in favor of machine clipping, as many as 125,000 being shorn by one firm at a cost of 8 cents a head. The opinion of men competent to pronounce is that the clip the second year after the machine



Where Some Screenings are Cleaned Out.

King's Elevator, Port Arthur.



Some Range-bred Ewes Being Fed Screenings.

Merino blood predominates.