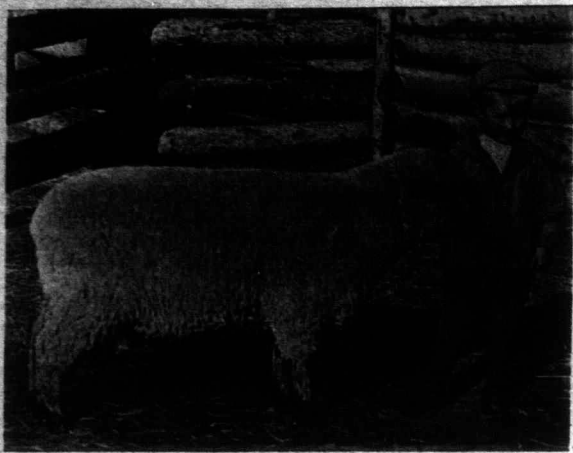


THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

The crops in Eastern Assiniboia are also very good, and will probably give an average quite as heavy as that obtained in Manitoba. There has been very little injury from frosts. In the Indian Head district there is an unusually large acreage under wheat, and it is believed the crop in that section will average fully 25 bushels per acre. In the Prince Albert and Edmonton districts the rainfall during the latter part of the summer was exceptionally great, and the excessive moisture produced a rank growth of straw; hence the grain was late in ripening, and in some localities frosts occurred before it was fully matured. Many of these green crops have been cut for fodder, and will furnish a large supply of nutritious food for stock. The feeding of beef cattle and the manufacture of dairy products have for some years past been important branches of farm industry throughout this part of the Northwest country.



SHROPSHIRE RAM LAMB.

First prize and sweepstakes winner at Calgary Exhibition, 1899.
BRED AND OWNED BY J. A. TURNER, BAIGREGGAN RANCHE,
MILLARVILLE, ALTA.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM, INDIAN HEAD, N.-W. T.

At the Indian Head Experimental Farm all cereals have yielded bountifully. Most of the best-yielding varieties of wheat have given from 30 to 38 bushels per acre; oats, from 80 to 97 bushels; barley, from 55 to 69 bushels per acre. Peas have not yielded so well, the crop ranging from 22 to 33 bushels per acre.

CROW'S NEST PASS AND MINING DISTRICTS.

A trip was made through the Crow's Nest Pass, where the scenery, although not nearly so grand as on the main line of the C. P. R., is very varied and interesting. Wonderful development is going on in that portion of the Dominion. The output of coal is enormous, and the growth of some of the towns phenomenal. At Fernie, a town but little more than a year old, there is a population of nearly a thousand people. The coal there is specially adapted for the manufacture of coke of excellent quality for smelting, and 150 coke ovens were constantly running, turning out 1,200 tons of coke per week, while 50 additional ovens were in course of construction. The advent of the railway, by which large and valuable coal deposits have been reached, has been an important factor in the progress of the mining industry in that region, which is advancing by leaps and bounds. Cranbrook is an older and larger town, in which a large business is done. A day was spent at Nelson, and another at Rossland, both of which are now important and interesting places. In Rossland, especially, mining is being actively pushed and the daily output of ore is very large, the greater part coming from the War Eagle and Le Roi mines. At Rossland the formation of the mountains is such as to resemble a large basin, and partly up the steep sides of this basin, at an elevation of about 3,000 feet, the town is built. The railway climbs to this height by a succession of steep grades. Although only four years old, the town has a population of several thousand, and business of all sorts seemed to be very brisk. On the way to Rossland, Trail is passed, where there is a very large smelter, which is now being worked to its fullest capacity and the valuable metals extracted from an enormous quantity of ore every week. On the way up the Arrow Lakes from Robson, the new railway recently built by the C. P. R. has been opened to the valley of Kettle Creek and the eastern part of the boundary country. Starting at Robson, the line runs along the valley of the mountains which skirt the margin of the Arrow Lakes, for about thirty miles; then, turning south-westerly up the Kettle Creek Valley, it is soon lost to view. The traveller by this route can now take a sleeper at the head of the lakes, which, connecting with the express on the main line at Revelstoke, runs through to Vancouver.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM, AGASSIZ, B. C.

Work on the Experimental Farm at Agassiz is making good progress, a further area of land has been cleared, and the portions devoted to field crops and orchards enlarged. About 140 acres are under cultivation, about half of which has been planted with fruit. A very large number of varieties is being tested, and much useful information is gained from year to year as to the sorts

best suited to the climate and most profitable to the grower. The spring of 1899 was very wet, and the rain was almost constant throughout the blossoming period, which prevented the fruit from setting, and hence the fruit crop is small. There was, however, a considerable number of varieties of apples and plums, as well as some pears, at Agassiz which were bearing well. The crops of hay and oats, which are among the most important in this Province, were good, and barley also has given a fair yield. The quantity of wheat grown here is small, and the crop about an average one. The season has been cool as well as wet, which has been unfavorable for Indian corn, but the field roots promise well.

THE DOUKHOBOURS.

On the return journey, a trip was taken up the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway from Portage la Prairie to Yorkton, and thence north by vehicle nearly one hundred miles to the north trail of the Swan River. Journeying then from Thunder Hill eastward for many miles, the Swan was again forded and travel continued on the south trail until the Dauphin Railway was reached. During this drive, of about 150 miles, many villages of the Doukhobours were passed, and some time spent in inquiring into the progress they are making in their new settlements, in preparing for crop next season, and in providing shelter and food for the winter. Nearly all the able-bodied men were away from the village, working on the railways and assisting the settlers in their harvesting and threshing operations, thus earning money to buy supplies for winter; while some of the older men and the boys, with the help of the strong and active women, were building houses and assisting in getting the land in order for crop next year. They are a very industrious people and are well satisfied with the country. Most of their land is of good quality, and the locations they have chosen are partly wooded, affording abundant material for building operations and firewood. They are all vegetarians and will not eat animal food, as they consider it a sin to kill. Most of them, however, will eat fish, and some of their villages are well located for food of this sort. They like butter, cheese, and eggs, but, as yet, can get very little of these useful and concentrated foods, as their stock of cows is very small, giving them but a meager supply of milk, and they have very few fowls. At present they are subsisting mainly on bread from a low grade of flour, with soup made of a mixture of flour and water, with the addition of vegetables, such as cabbage, onions, and beets, and, in some instances, potatoes, of which they are very fond. In most of the villages they have grown a considerable quantity of vegetables, but not nearly enough for their requirements during the winter. Their houses are substantially built of logs, and roofed with poles, on which prairie sod about four inches thick is laid, and the interstices filled with fine earth. The sides of the houses are well-plastered on the exterior with clay mixed with cut hay, and, sometimes, on the inside with the same material. The furniture in the houses is all of their own make, and consists of a few rough stools to sit on, and higher benches which serve as tables. The beds are made of a series of poplar poles about six feet long and three or four inches in diameter, placed close together along one or both sides of the house, with the ends to the wall. On these some hay is placed and over this a piece of thick felt. Most of the people recline on this structure with their heads to the wall, feet outwards, using such bedclothes as they can command. A few have feather beds, and curtains to divide the sleeping places into compartments. Most of the houses consist of one large room for living, cooking, eating, and sleeping. The aim is to have in all their villages a house for each family, and these houses are being erected at varying distances, in two rows, with a wide street between them. Although new homes are going up rapidly in every village, the absence of the men necessarily interferes with the progress of the work, and in many of the villages each house is at present occupied by from ten to twenty people, and, in some instances, in the larger dwellings the inmates number from twenty-five to forty. In these densely-populated buildings the beds are arranged along each side of the houses, in a double tier, the upper ones being reached by a ladder. In each house there is a Russian oven, similar to those used by the Mennonites in Manitoba, which serves for the warming of the building and cooking the food. Each village is provided with a steam bath-house, in which steam is generated by pouring water on heated stones. In this way profuse perspiration is brought about, and, in the absence of towels, the body is whisked briskly with a bunch of small branches of the mossy cup oak, the large leaves of which still hold tightly to the branches. These people seem very contented, and although in many instances conditions were met with which would with us be regarded as cases of hardship, not a word of complaint was heard from any of them. The Doukhobours are honest, truthful, and hard-working people, of cleanly habits, who use neither liquor nor tobacco. Being vegetarians, they are at present at a disadvantage as compared with other settlers, with which they could easily supplement their vegetable diet with great advantage. They appear, however, to be very strong and hardy, and will no doubt prove a very useful class of people in the districts in which they are settled. They will

soon form prosperous communities and assist much in the development of the country. They may, however, need some assistance for a time, until they can produce enough from their land to sustain them. Many families of Galicians were seen at different points. They are a hard-working and industrious people, who are improving their conditions very rapidly.

The return was made by the Canadian Northern Railway, which runs through the Dauphin country, and is now completed from Gladstone to Swan River. The Manitoba and Northwestern and the Canadian Northern are both substantially built roads and connect with the main line of the C. P. R. at Portage la Prairie. Each line runs through portions of the country where much of the land is of excellent quality and the conditions favorable for mixed farming. The traffic is rapidly developing and the prospects of good returns improving from year to year.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

During the journey, interviews were held with members and officers of the Provincial Governments in Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and British Columbia, in reference to the Paris Exhibition, and arrangements were made for a very complete display of the agricultural and horticultural products of the Great West. A magnificent display of grain grown in Manitoba and the Territories has been secured, and a fine lot of fruits and cereal products from British Columbia.

Ottawa, October 12th, 1899.

Why There are No South American Cattle.

A special correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Buenos Ayres on 20th August, says that recent statistics show, under existing circumstances, no less than 25 per cent. of the value of the cereal crops is absorbed by taxation imposed in one form or another by the national, provincial and municipal authorities. In the matter of cattle brought into Buenos Ayres for shipment abroad or sale for consumption from districts at no great distance from the city, the various taxes to be paid before an animal is sold sum up to \$10 per head. This condition of affairs cuts all profits for the farmer. The effect of high protective duties on one hand and excessive taxation on the other restrains the natural tendency to expansion and restricts in all directions the prosperity that should ensue from the wealth of a fertile soil and beneficent climatic surroundings.

FARM.

Green Manure for Summer-fallow.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Referring to inquiry of A. A. D., Haldimand County, Ont., in October 16th issue, about green manure for summer-fallow, I have had good



DORSET HORN SHEARLING RAM.

First prize at Toronto Exhibition, 1899.

OWNED BY R. H. HARDING, THORNDAL, ONT.

results on poor, light soil from the following method:—Seed in the fall with rye, 1½ bush. per acre, and when it is in head, but not ripe, say about 1st of June, plough under, taking care to cover well by dragging a chain from doubletree to plow beam. Then sow buckwheat, about ½ bush. to an acre, which will be ready to plough under in time for fall wheat if desired. Whilst clover is probably the best green manure, it is often hard to get a good "catch" on the soil that most needs it, but rye and buckwheat both grow readily, even on poor soil.

J. A. M. VAN NOSTRAND.

York Co., Ont.

Best Farm Journal.

H. N. BINGHAM, Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"Yours is the best farm paper I know of, and I have had the opportunity of reading the leading American and Canadian journals."