

duces a sheep, hardy of constitution and peculiarly free from disease, and a dead sheep is a rare sight. This is a sheep country with an excellent lamb and mutton market. In fact, sheep, fruit and poultry readily constitute a system of mixed farming in Metchosin with every assurance of success, as I can vouch from fourteen years' experience. Among the many advantages of Metchosin are its climate, scenery, suitable sheep country, it being within easy reach of Victoria and in a country rich in fish and game; its having a good bi-weekly stage service which passes my door, takes my farm produce and brings back the cash.

"Also within a short time a good railway service may be depended on for transporting produce to Victoria, where the best prices can be secured of any city on the coast.

"To the visitor who scans the rock-ribbed coast of the South end of Vancouver Island sheep farming might not appeal as an important branch of agriculture. Yet our rugged hills and timbered valleys contain the potentialities of a pleasant and profitable industry, still in its incipency.



"Sheep Add Beauty to the Farm"

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

"The finest mutton—that of the black-face sheep of Scotland—is not the product of luscious pastures, but is raised on wild and storm-swept hills, where mouthfuls of grass among the heather are few and far between. Less severe conditions, but in some respects parallel, are perhaps responsible for the excellent quality of lamb and mutton which our sea-girt farms produce. Our native pastures are greatly diversified and the breeds of sheep hardy and prolific, and the roast lamb, which graces our tables at Easter, will satisfy the epicurean palate of the most fastidious.

"A great variety of food abounds on the ranges, from the short brittle grasses of the Uplands to the wild pea vine of the valleys, with moss and lichen impregnated with the flavor of saline breezes, and browse and shrubs, almost tropical in the luxuriance. Streams, clear as crystal and lakes dark as Highland tarns, afford a plentiful supply of water. Sheep constitute an important branch of agriculture. The hoofs of the 'woolly idiots' are proverbially golden, and our land is enriched and our farms kept clean by their pasturage. Confined in fields they are more thrifty than when run on open range. A rolling sheep, like a rolling stone, gathers no moss (fat).