

or sheep trade. Export cattle often sell at from 50c to \$1.00 per cwt. more than butchers' cattle. In our Toronto market report last issue grain-fed yearling lambs were quoted at \$6 to \$6.50, and barnyards at \$3 to \$4 per cwt. Because some attention has been paid to their feeding and fitting for market grain-fed lambs bring from \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt. more than unfed ones. On the other hand, the select bacon hog fed and fitted to the packers' taste does not bring the farmer any more money than the hog upon which no care whatever has been expended in feeding and fitting. True, the packer makes a difference of 25c per cwt. at the packing house. But this is a mere bagatelle to the drover, who buys at the same figure for good and bad, and takes his chances of getting them through at a profit. We question if there is any other article the farmer has to sell in which quality counts for less than in hogs. The difference in quality that exists between select bacon hogs and lights and fats if found in any other farm product would mean a difference of from 15 to 20 per cent. in the price.

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#### The Grading of Butter and Cheese

The classification decided upon for the guidance of the official referee in examining cheese and butter at Montreal, and published on another page this issue, is worthy of the careful attention of all dairymen. The Government has no power to apply this classification excepting in so far as it applies to the work of the referee at Montreal. Elsewhere its use is optional.

A lot of time and thought has been given to the preparation of this classification by experts, and it might be worth while considering whether it should not be adopted by dairymen in all parts of Canada. Its adoption in all cases of grading cheese and butter would tend to uniformity in quality and help to educate dairymen as to the good and bad points of cheese and butter. The dairy boards of trade throughout the country should take the matter up and consider whether it would not be advisable to adopt this classification in the examination of cheese or butter, when there is a dispute between buyer and seller as to the quality. If this were done, we believe the interests of the producer would be better served than they are at the present time.

New Zealand has made a special feature of the grading of butter and cheese, and especially the former, and no country exporting butter to Great Britain is making more rapid progress. Not only is all butter properly graded before being exported, but every box of butter sent out of the country contains the exact net weight of 56 lbs., no more, no less. Exactness and carefulness in these little things is doing much to increase the demand for New Zealand

butter in the old land. Similar methods of exactness must be followed by Canadians if they wish to enlarge the market for their butter abroad.

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#### Sheep or Dogs, Which?

In the crop report for Ontario published last issue appears the following statement:

"Ewes have been prolific this spring, and lambs are said to be remarkably strong and active. Several correspondents, however, state that sheep cannot be kept in large numbers in Ontario on account of dogs."

It is very gratifying to know that shepherds have had such a good season, and that the lamb crop is so strong and active. But there is a fly in the ointment, and it has been there for several years. Will the time ever come when the sheep industry of this country will be freed from the dog nuisance? Year after year the same story is heard: "We do not keep sheep because of the risk of having them worried by dogs." A great industry is thus hampered because some people in the locality will persist in keeping useless "curs," and in allowing them to roam about at will. Surely this condition of affairs is not beyond remedying.

But dog nuisance or not, we would advise farmers to keep more sheep, and also to keep a good gun near by for the prowling "cur." At present prices for wool and mutton one can afford to take a little risk. On Toronto market washed wool is quoted at 25c, and unwashed at 14c. per lb., or about double the prices of two years ago. The other day we were told by a visitor from that state that unwashed wool, corresponding in quality to the average Ontario product, was selling at 28c. per lb. in Virginia, or twice what unwashed is selling for here. Quite recently 100,000 lbs. Montana clip, unwashed, sold at 26c. per lb. At Chicago medium fleece, washed, sells at from 35c. to 40c., and unwashed at 30c. to 33c. per lb. These are only stray quotations, but they indicate how the market is going. Reports from the London wool sales are equally hopeful, and good prices seem likely to continue for some time to come.

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#### Spurious Live Stock Records

Commenting upon the action of Canadian breeders in nationalizing their records, Wallace's Farmer, one of the most representative and best edited agricultural journals in the United States, says:

"It would have been worth an immense sum to the breeders and farmers of the United States if the matter of recording pedigreed stock had been placed in the hands of the government twenty-five years ago. We do not know of anything that would do more to benefit the pure bred stock breeders at the present time than for the United States to enact just such a law as is proposed by Canada."

"Under present conditions anyone

can start a registry association for the purpose of recording live stock. He can make rules to suit himself. He can restrict to animals of one breed or he can record animals of all breeds. He can require that the pedigree show straight and pure descent from improved ancestry, or he can make his rules wide open and record anything from a jack rabbit to a mule. We have one so-called horse registry association which undertakes to record horses of all breeds according to individual merit and without regard to breeding in any way, shape, or form. A certificate from an association of this kind is absolutely worthless. Worse than that, it enables the unscrupulous horse dealer to palm off a nondescript horse under the guise of a pedigreed and registered pure bred.

"Under present conditions we have with some breeds several different registries maintained at large expense doing the work which one could do not only cheaper but better. If the whole matter could be turned over to the department of agriculture and placed in the hands of a thoroughly competent specialist it would be of immense value to not only the pure bred stock interests of the country but to the farmers as well."

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#### EDITORIAL NOTES

The country is getting a sufficiency of rain these days. While it may be good for pasture a grain crop does better on the average land without too much soaking. This cold wet weather is anything but favorable to the corn crop.

Dr. C. A. Hodgetts, secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, advises the appointment of a Minister of Health for Ontario. While such an official would find plenty to expend his time and energy upon, it is a question whether a multiplicity of portfolios would be in the best interests of the province.

The Senate of Toronto University has authorized the cap, gown and hood for the agricultural faculty. The B. S. A. graduates will wear a cap and gown with a hood made of cardinal silk, trimmed with white fur and white braid. How picturesque they will look when milking cows, feeding pigs and hoeing corn. The crows will keep at a distance.

A live stock judging arena came up for discussion at a recent meeting of the Toronto Exhibition Board. The feeling was that no time should be lost in erecting such an arena. It is time that something was done in this direction. Proper facilities for judging live stock cannot come too soon.

Reports from Great Britain state that a serious frost there on May 23rd is likely to have a marked effect upon the fruit crop of the old land. The thermometer ranging from two to ten degrees below freezing points and was followed by a hot sunny day. Fruit growers can realize what effect such conditions would have on the crop.