

example of systematic development of sheep culture. Canadians not infrequently stand aghast at the prices Argentine sheepbreeders have paid for flock-headers in Great Britain. Over seven thousand dollars was the cost of one ram imported into that country. However, the greatness and quality of the exports of its wool and mutton shows patently today that there was "method in their madness." Land, similar to what lies barren here, I believe, is profitably utilized there for sheep production. Again, Scotland, on the roughest of mountainous land, raises seven million sheep. This area can well be described as infinitesimal compared with the

Still worse than the fact that sheep have never been raised in plentiful numbers in Canada is the knowledge that in recent years there has been an actual decline. This evokes especial wonder since the farming population by immigration has increased in the same period most rapidly. In 1881 the sheep census showed approximately three million head, in 1901 two and a half million and in 1911 only two million one hundred and six thousand. In only two provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, has the industry made progress. The loss of a million sheep in twenty years, while Canada was having her virgin lands exploited in a fashion more extensively than has occurred



An Ontario Drove

huge acreage of like land that lies in many parts of the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, North-Western Ontario and British Columbia. Yet the latter stripped extensively of its lumber, lies idle, serving no good purpose in the uplift of industrial life in Canada. Besides, in European countries sheep and mixed farming are inseparable. Travel in the East, even through the best agricultural districts, and you will be struck with the deplorable dearth of sheep on the farms. In the West you will seldom, if ever, see them except in the ranching sections of Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan.

in most new countries, is tremendous and scarcely believable. It has resulted now in placing production of both mutton and wool considerably below the needs of domestic consumption; and Canada was once an exporting country of these products. The following data show clearly this feature, but require some explanation. It may seem, perhaps, rather paradoxical that, in 1912, when the imports of sheep and mutton were so heavy, exportation at all should occur. The latter trade was with the United States and originated in border districts, for more or less of a reciprocity in this regard has always existed,