

The Australian Tick Plague.

The tick appears to multiply in enormous numbers in some portions of the infested country of Northern Queensland. Mr. S. G. Maunsell has given an interesting account in the Port Denison Times of the trouble he had with ticks, which he seems to have encountered first when he crossed the Burdekin with a drove of bulls he was driving northward. He says: "Seeing a nice green patch of couch grass in the river bed, I decided to camp there. Both horses and bulls seemed to enjoy the green feed. We had not been there very long when we found ourselves crawling with small red ticks, so we got ready to clear out. One of my pack horses is a large white animal; he looked as if he had been rolling in red sand. These were ticks. We brushed all we could off him, but neglected to do likewise with our saddle horses. We had some delay in the river when crossing the bulls, and when we reached the other side we were literally covered with ticks. They were in our beards, hair, and trying to crawl into our ears. The ticks nearly drove the horses frantic, but we dressed them with grease, which soon got rid of the vermin. The bulls soon showed signs of sickness, and 51 died in two days. They had been carefully oiled, but though it kills the ticks then on them a fresh supply is soon picked up."

Regulations Respecting the Importation and Exportation of Horses.

Some six months ago an Order-in-Council was passed at Ottawa regarding inspection of horses imported into Canada, the provisions of which militated somewhat against the importation of Clydesdales and other classes of horses needed for breeding. Three veterinary certificates were required—one certifying the health of the horse, another the public health of the district out of which he came, and the third, the public health of the port of embarkation. It was easy to put the first and second right, but when absolute freedom from disease in a city like Liverpool or Glasgow was demanded, difficulty arose, and complaint was made that the reviving Clydesdale export trade to Canada would be checked. There was, however (on Sept. 14), a set of new regulations authorized by the Governor-General-in-Council, less stringent than the former and probably just as effective in the prevention of the introduction of disease as the former.

The new regulations stand summarized as follows: Horses from Europe can enter Canada only by the ports of Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Halifax, N. S.; St. John's, N. B.; Quebec and Montreal, P. Q.; and such other ports as may hereafter be indicated by the Minister of Agriculture. Such horses must be accompanied by the certificate of a qualified veterinarian and the local authority at the time of their embarkation that they have not been brought from a place or locality where glanders, "maladie du coit" or other infectious or contagious disease was at said time in existence. All importers must certify under oath that the certificate produced applies to the horse and place in question. Any attempt at misrepresentation will render the horse liable to seizure and detention. All horses entering Canada shall be subject to inspection at the ports of landing. Diseased animals, along with all fodder, litter, troughs, buckets, blankets, etc., shall be disembarked and conveyed to quarantine, under the superintendence of the Minister of Agriculture or his representative. When no such disease is discovered, the horses and other articles named may proceed to their destination.

Horses from the United States may enter Canada in bond at the ports of Sarnia, Windsor, Amherstburg, Sault Ste. Marie, Rouse's Point, St. Armand's Station, Island Pond, the Suspension Bridge (Niagara Falls), the International Bridge (Fort Erie), Prescott, Lacolle, Pottton, Abercorn, Newport, Beacher's Falls, Agnes, and Magentic, for transit through Canada to Montreal, Three Rivers, Quebec, St. John's (N. B.), Halifax, and such other ports as the Minister of Agriculture may hereafter indicate, for exportation to Great Britain, Europe or elsewhere.

Horses may enter Canada in bond at any customs port for temporary stay for exhibition, racing, breeding purposes, etc., subject to such inspection and fees as the Minister of Agriculture may direct.

Horses from the United States entering Canada in transit for another part of the United States or for exportation, must be accompanied by a certificate, signed by a qualified veterinarian, that the locality from which the horses have come is free from glanders, "maladie du coit" or other contagious diseases of horses. A certificate signed by a qualified veterinarian must also accompany each consignment from the place of shipment in bond (giving the name of the owner, the sex, class, and number of horses), declaring that the said horses have been inspected by him and are free from contagious diseases.

All horses for exportation by sea must reach the port of exportation 24 hours before shipment, for rest and inspection. Inspectors shall mark each horse inspected by them "V. R." Horses will not be allowed to embark without such mark and a certificate of inspection stating the name of the owner, number, sex and class of horses, and freedom from contagious disease.

Horses entering Canada from the United States, not in transit and not for temporary stay, must be inspected by duly authorized veterinary inspector at the port of entry, and if found free from contagious disease will be allowed to enter. If contagious disease is discovered, entry shall be prohibited. The expenses in these cases shall be borne by owner or importer, unless he is a bona fide settler, at the following scale: For 1 horse, \$1; for 5 up to 10, \$7.50; over 10 to 20, \$12.50; over 20 to 30, \$15; over 30 to 50 horses, \$20. For any number over 50, 25 cents each, but the fee must not be less than \$20.

Upon the discovery of glanders or other con-

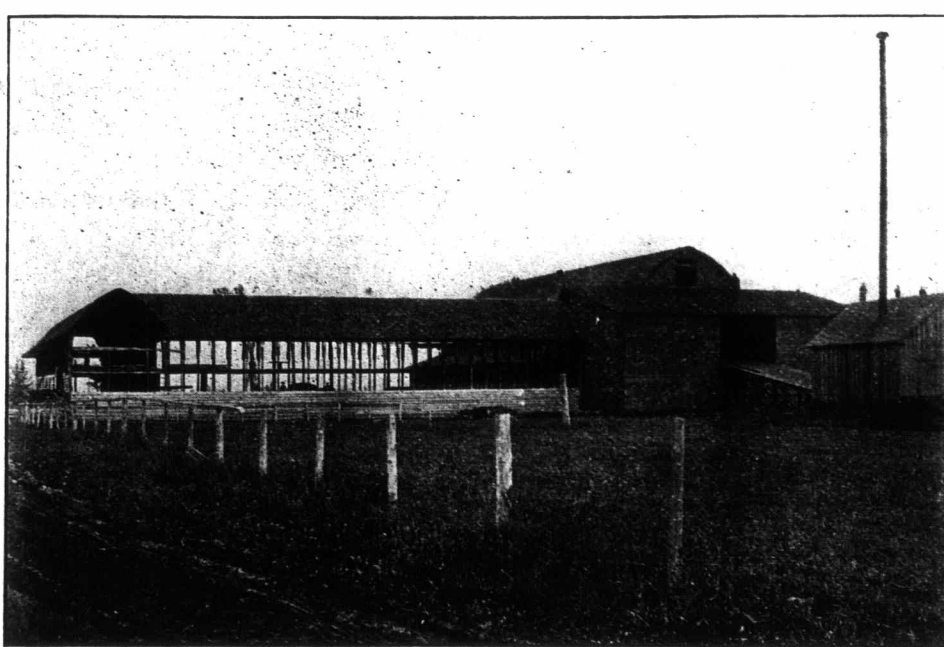


FIG. I.—THE MAIN BARN AND EAST WING, IN COURSE OF ERECTION, FROM NORTH-EASTERN VIEW. OWNED BY W. C. EDWARDS, M. P., NORTH NATION MILLS.

tagious disease on steamboat, cars, in stable or shed, the inspector shall cause the removal of the animals, etc., and superintend the thorough disinfection of premises.

Inspectors must make monthly returns to the Minister of Agriculture of every inspection made by them, including a statement of fees paid.

Our Scottish Letter.

A Point in Sheep Breeding.—Much has happened in the agricultural world during the past three weeks, but we have forborne writing until a certain cycle of events had been completed. These were the ram sales to a few of the salient features of which attention was directed in our last letter. The breed which occupies by far the largest extent of land in Scotland is the Blackfaced. It is widely

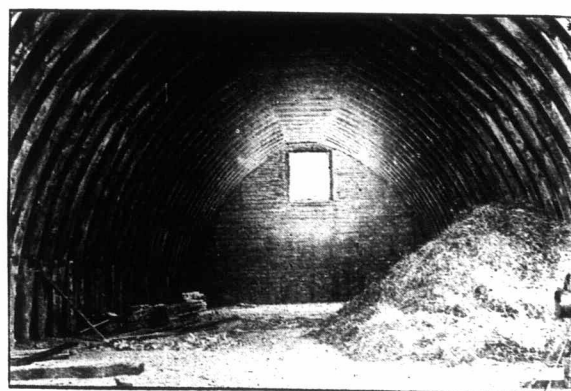


FIG. III.—INSIDE OF BARN, SHOWING ARRANGEMENT OF ROOF.

diffused, and has been vastly improved within recent years. The leading breeders vie with each other in producing rams with skins adapted to withstand the rigours of our Northern climate, but a sharp division exists among them as to the best kind of skin for this purpose. On the one hand, many advocate wool of a strong staple and thickly planted, while others favor a finer wool, and in this have the support of the merchants and staplers. No doubt a better price per pound is obtained for this softer kind, but the patrons of the other sort are perfectly clear that the stronger skin gives a greater number of pounds, and consequently one has from this a greater return per sheep. The subject is one of perennial debate, but at present the strong skins are decidedly the more popular, and while wool remains at its present price this is likely to continue.

Great Prices for Blackfaced.—At Lanark, a shearing ram from the Glenbuck flock of Mr.

Charles Howatson was sold for £120, and another from the flock of Messrs. Cadzow, Borland & Weston, Biggar, was sold for £105. At Edinburgh, on the following day, a two-shear ram, Laban, the champion of the H. & A. S. show at Perth, was sold by public auction for £150, and this remains the record price for the breed. He was bred by the Messrs. Archibald, Overshiels, Stow, Midlothian, celebrated breeders, and his buyer the well-known breeder of Clydesdales, Mr. R. Sinclair Scott, Flatt Farm, Largs. These outstanding figures are perhaps a little misleading, and a few of the averages made for numbers of rams give a better idea of the present prices of the Blackface champions. As a rule, they are sold as shearlings, although an occasional two-year-old ram is disposed of, as, for example, was the case with Laban. At Lanark, Mr. Howatson sold 20 at an average price of £31 16s. each; at Ayr he sold 12 at £9 16s. 8d.; and at Perth he sold 25 at £25 6s. One of the Perth rams made £135, an unprecedented price for a shearling of this breed. At Lanark the Messrs.

Archibald sold 17 at an average price of £8 10s.; at Edinburgh they sold 60 at £18 12s. 10d.; and at Perth they sold 60 at £8 4s. 1d. They are by far the most extensive breeders of rams in Scotland, and of course, selling so many, it is impossible for them to have so high an average as those who sell one-half their number or less. The Messrs. Cadzow are much younger to the trade than either of the two breeders already named, but in some respects their rams are fully as popular as any. At Lanark they sold 20 at an average of £20 4s. 3d.; at Edinburgh they sold 25 at £14 3s. 2d.; at Ayr they sold 19 at £11 2s. 10d.; and at Perth they sold 23 at £14 14s. 9d. Other quotations might be given, but these sufficiently indicate the value put upon well-bred rams of the mountain breed at the present time.

The Border Leicesters.—The great crossing breed—the Shorthorn, so to speak—amongst sheep is the Border Leicester. This renowned breed is now widely diffused over Scotland, and notable flocks are to be found as far north as Ross-shire, as far west as Ayrshire, and of course in all the Lothians and the Border Counties on either side of the Tweed. The great ram sales of this breed are held at Kelso, and many rams change hands there at great prices. The most celebrated flock is that of Lord Polwarth, at Mertoun, and this year a record has been established, one of his shearlings making £210, to Mr. Ridley, Peelwell, a Northumberland breeder. The 30 shearlings sold by Lord Polwarth this year made an average of £35 4s.; last year the same number made £49 13s. 4d. This is a feature common to all the "crack" lots this year. There have been unprecedented prices for a few animals, but taking the sales overhead, prices are down. An Ayrshire breeder, Mr. Wallace, Auchinbrain, who is well-known in the Ayrshire cattle world, sold 8 shearlings at £35 12s. 6d.; one of them, which won first prize at Perth, making £95. Mr. Andrew Smith, Langniddry, an East Lothian breeder of long-standing reputation, sold 23 at £16 7s. 9d., one making £75. Mr. Alexander Cross, of Knockdon, an Ayrshire breeder, sold 8 at £19 1s. 3d.; and Mr. John Twentyman, Hawkrigg, a Cumberland breeder, sold 30 at £14 2s. Mr. Ridley, Peelwell, who bought the dearest ram, sold 25 at £15 5s. 7d. Important sales of Border Leicesters have also been held at Perth, Inverness, and Edinburgh, and in every case the breed maintains its supremacy as the most valuable of those peculiar to this country.

Cheviot Sales.—The center of the Cheviot or whitefaced Mountain breed trade is Hawick, a noted manufacturing town on Tweed. The great ram sale of the breed was held there on Tuesday, when buyers were forward from Inverness and Sutherland in the North, and all the South and South-west Counties of Scotland. Fancy prices do not rule in the Cheviot world, and it is a curious fact that it does not enjoy the patronage of any wealthy men, as is the case with the other two great breeds. The tup breeding business is restricted to tenant farmers, and we do not know a single nobleman who is identified with the Cheviot trade. In spite of this, the breed flourishes and is in request for foreign countries. It is the only breed of sheep in Scotland having a flock book, and pedigrees of rams are recorded with great care. The principal flocks are those on Hindhope, and Upper Hindhope on the Cheviot slopes, Archbank in Dumfriesshire, Newton in Northumberland, and a few others in the Border Counties. There are few Cheviot ram breeders in the North of Scotland, although numerically the breed is more strongly represented in Sutherland, Inverness, and Ross than in the Border Counties. Generally the difference between the Blackface and the Cheviot is: the former is adapted to the higher ranges and black—that is, heather-covered—hills, the latter to the lower ranges and the green hills. The Cheviot ewe is scarcely as good a "rustler" as the Blackface ewe, whose tenacity of life is proverbial. Crossed with the Border Leicester ram, a magnificent sheep is produced by