

# Conservation

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## Sheep Raising is Profitable

Canada should be a Good Sheep  
Country—Farmers can make  
Small Flocks Pay

Conditions in Canada are as favourable for raising sheep as for cattle, horses or swine. Yet we find these latter have rapidly increased during the past thirty-five years, while there has been a considerable decline in the number of sheep raised during the same period. Various reasons are given for this falling off. Mutton and wool prices fell, and sheep-keeping, conducted carelessly, brought little profit. The thorough-going sheepman, however, did not find it necessary to abandon the business, and he has consequently reaped the reward of good prices and cleaner and richer land.

Much effort has been put forth to further the swine and cattle industries, but sheep culture has been allowed to drift along with the current of indifference. In 1911, however, work was undertaken by the Ontario Department of Agriculture having as its object to stimulate this neglected industry and to demonstrate that sheep-raising pays. Nine flocks, of from ten to twelve grade ewes per flock, in various parts of Ontario, were used in the demonstration. These were owned by the farmer in each case and the work was conducted in a manner quite within the reach of all other farmers who own, or could own, sheep. Interest on the capital invested in the flock and the cost of feed were in each case deducted from the receipts. In every instance substantial net profits were made, the average being within a few cents of \$39.00 per flock per year, or \$3.50 per head. Leading sheep papers of the United States are forecasting good times for sheepmen, and they do not seem far wrong; when it is considered that during the war there will doubtless be thousands of sheep destroyed in Europe, it would seem to be an opportune time for those contemplating entering upon the breeding of sheep to get a few breeding ewes and start a flock.

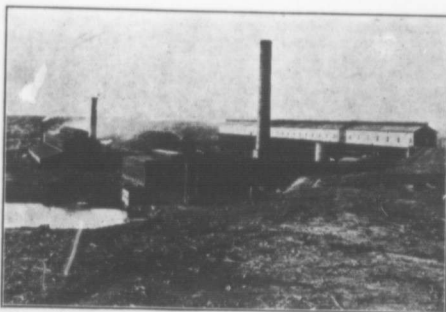
It does not cost much to start in the business, and the monetary returns are rapid; the wool and the lamb crop are saleable annually. Sheep eat almost all classes of weeds and, as their manure is rich and evenly distributed, they are great soil improvers. Expensive

## Canada's Nickel Mining Industry Weeds on Ontario Farms

The importance of Canada's nickel mining industry may be more fully realized when it is considered that Canada produces over 80 per cent of the world's output of nickel.

In 1913 The Canadian Copper Co.'s smelter at Copper Cliff, in the Sudbury district, treated 665,000 tons of ore, containing over 44,000,000 pounds of nickel, or about 90 per cent of the total output of Canada. The nickel was recovered as matte and shipped to the United States for refining.

Pure nickel is employed in small amounts for a number of purposes because of its strength and durability and its white colour, which resists tarnishing.



Cut No. 76

Canadian Copper Co.'s Smelter at Copper Cliff, Ont.

Though the importance of pure nickel is likely to grow, the chief use of the metal is in the production of alloys, particularly nickel steel, in which the greater part of the nickel now refined is employed.

Steel containing 2½ to 3½ per cent of nickel has certain of its properties greatly improved, so that for many purposes it is replacing ordinary structural steel. Its value for armour plate has long been known, and the rivalry of the great maritime nations in the building of dreadnoughts is one of the causes for the recent increased demand for nickel.

In 1913, Canada exported 43,341,307 pounds of nickel, contained in ore or matte, to the United States and 4,826,783 pounds to the United Kingdom.—W. J. D.

buildings and constant care are unnecessary.

"Sheep-Raising Pays." Try it with a flock of ten or twelve grade ewes, and a pure bred ram, and increase the profits from your farm, and at the same time, you will be cleaning and enriching your land.—F. C. N.

## ADVANCED FORESTRY METHODS

The Laurentide Company, Limited, is enlarging its forest nurseries in order to provide for the systematic replanting, on an increased scale, of considerable areas of non-agricultural, cut-over lands in the watershed of the St. Maurice river,

Que. This work is being handled by the company's forestry division, which has recently finished a survey and map of the company's limits, comprising 2,350 square miles of land, mostly timbered. The map shows all drainage, roads, portages and trails, lookout station, telephone lines and timber conditions. This company is also importing reindeer from Dr. Grenfell's herd in Newfoundland to take the place of sled dogs, which are very troublesome to keep in summer and not very efficient in winter. This experiment is being watched with much interest. If it is successful, some of the deer will be supplied to the Indians, to supplement their present inadequate food supply.

## Agricultural Survey Shows Weeds are Increasing on Majority of Farms Visited

During recent years the Commission of Conservation has been directing agricultural survey work in various sections of the Dominion. The object has been to secure accurate information respecting the methods of the Canadian farmer, with a view to promoting scientific agriculture. No stronger proof of the need and value of such investigations could be found than the following report, respecting weed conditions in Ontario, commonly regarded as the banner farming province of Canada.

"The farms in nearly every district visited are reported as being badly infested with weeds; sow thistle, wild oats, wild flax, wild buckwheat, rib grass, Canada thistle and couch grass are very common. The weed problem is getting to be a serious one with many farmers, and one that interferes largely with the crops grown and the present methods of farming being practised. Those farmers who follow a systematic short rotation of crops have been able to keep the weeds fairly well in check. On the majority of the farms visited, however, weeds are increasing. The farmers are unable to tell definitely where the weeds come from. In many instances no attention is paid to exterminating new weeds when they first appear on the farm, consequently, by the time a farmer does make an effort to get rid of them they have become so numerous that the process is a difficult and expensive one. The old adage, 'a stitch in time saves nine,' would be one well worth heeding in connection with the weed problem."

The Dominion Government has established forest reserves in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the railway belt of British Columbia, totalling 28,027,424 acres, including the Dominion parks, which have the status of forest reserves.—C.L.

On the Deerledge national forest in Montana, one lookout station has the record of reporting accurately, by distance and direction, a fire that was sixty miles away.