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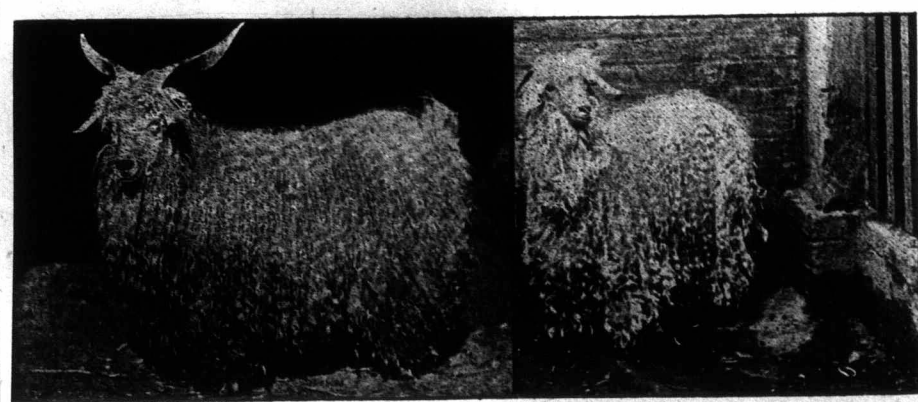
An Opportunity.

The Canadian exhibition season opens in Toronto this week, and will continue for the next six weeks in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. We invite the co-operation of our readers, young and old, in all these Provinces, as well as those in adjoining States, to extend the circulation of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. Thousands of new names can thus be added to our lists. Read the PREMIUM announcement on page 361. Write at once for free sample copies, particulars as to CASH commissions, and agent's outfit. It will pay you and enable us to make the ADVOCATE still more valuable.

Farming Industries of Cape Colony.

Within the past ten years the nations of Europe, seeking new outlets for their commerce and possible homes for their surplus population, have taken possession of the larger part of Southern Africa. This procedure has resulted in a competition in which England has not been lax in her attention to the most important portion, especially for agricultural purposes—that of Cape Colony. Diamond and gold fields and the Transvaal troubles are usually associated in the mind with South Africa, but Prof. Robt. Wallace, of Edinburgh University, well-known as the author of "Farm Live Stock of Great Britain," has made a critical tour of the land to describe its agricultural resources and conditions, which he has done in a splendid volume of over 500 pages, profusely illustrated, and containing numer-

ous maps, plans, etc. It is published by P. S. King & Son, 12 and 14 King street, Westminster, S. W., South Africa.



AN OLD ANGORA GOAT AND A YOUNG EWEL.

To attempt to describe the farming industry of Cape Colony in anything but the merest outline would more than exhaust the space which can be given to such a purpose in the pages of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

The capital, Cape Town, with its population of 50,000, provides a market center for the sale of farm produce; but the export trade is being developed, but to what extent South Africa will become a competitor in supplying the great food-consuming centers, it is not easy to forecast. The great majority of the farming population of the country are English of a progressive type, although some of the districts contain many industrious Germans. Farm laborers' wages range from 10 to 25 shilling per month and food. Attempts at thorough cultivation on the English plan have not always proved successful. The usual rotation adopted by the settlers is (1) mealies (corn), (2) wheat, (3) potatoes (manured), (4) barley (seeded). New varieties of seed of all kinds are wanted badly just now if good crops are to continue to be grown.

The general floral features are full of interest, as well as the geological and mineral treasures. It is believed that Cape Colony has fallen heir to representatives of the floras of two, or possibly three, great epochs in the world's botanical history. Among others, the Arum or Calla lilies grow in great profusion. A peculiarity of the South African flora is the large number of slow-growing trees and bushes, which are protected by sharp, hard thorns. Both bitter and tasteless water-melons grow luxuriantly, the latter of which provide drink for the traveling oxen through waterless tracts during a portion of the year. The prickly pear or cactus grows in abundance and has become the great curse of large areas of grazing land. The fruit is covered with minute sharp



FAT-TAILED HAIRY AFRIKANER SHEEP (RAMS).

prickles, which produce violent inflammation and swelling of the tongue, throat, and whole intestinal tract of animals consuming it in the natural state. Cattle like it and often continue to eat it until they actually die of the effects.

Forage.—There are several varieties of native grasses, but none are as valuable for forage purposes as British grasses and clovers, such as the rye grasses, timothy, red and lucern clovers. Green barley and rye are extensively grown in the Colony for winter forage. Lucern is without exception the most valuable of all green forage plants in dry and sunny climates liable to suffer from drought.

Forestry.—The system of forestry adopted is fashioned after the most scientific Indian and Continental methods, which involve protection against fire and other sources of preventable injury. The felling of trees is not now as wasteful, indiscriminate, and general as it used to be, but is

confined to certain areas, which in turn are reconstituted by resowing or replanting. The forestry department is only in its infancy, and is expected to give a great return for the money now being expended upon it.

Fruit.—All the fruits of the warmer temperate zone grow to perfection. Viticulture and wine-making are carried on quite extensively. The vines are not without insect and fungoid enemies, which are combated by governmental aid. The phylloxera is the worst enemy, and this is provided against by the Government establishing nurseries for the rearing of American phylloxera-proof vines for distribution. Sweet wines, dry wines, and brandies are the principal makes. The fruit industry has recently attracted a considerable amount of interest. The chief kinds grown are the grape, apple, pear, peach, apricot, quince, pomegranate, fig, orange, pineapple, banana, loquat, gooseberry, plum, and the raisin. Much of what is exported is shipped to London and other European markets. The interests of the fruit business are looked after by different fruit growers' associations and unions. Spraying machines have been perfected and are doing much to aid the industry.

Ostrich farming is a large and important industry in Cape Colony, although its introduction is of comparatively recent date. The ostrich has become fairly domesticated, and artificial incubation has done much to facilitate and extend the business. The adult birds do fairly well upon growing lucern. Upon a rich 200-acre farm, growing lucern under irrigation, the stock has been known to reach 550 birds, besides a number of cattle, horses, and sheep. The profits from ostrich farming are more remunerative than sheep farming. Three crops of feathers in two years are secured. Three pounds (2) each plucking is a good average return from a flock. As high as £17 each is sometimes obtained for fancy birds. The eggs also sell for high prices.

Cattle.—Large numbers of cattle were found in the possession of the Hottentots when the first European discoverers landed at the Cape, towards the end of the fifteenth century. They possessed, in addition, goats, sheep, dogs, and poultry. The Hottentot ox has been described as a gaunt, bony creature, with immense horns and long legs. They are used for riding, pack-carrying, and racing. The Afrikaner breed is regarded as the most direct descendant of the native cattle. Crossed with the Friesland or Shorthorn, it produces great size and aptitude to fatten, but while gaining in this direction, loses in constitutional vigor. While the cross-bred bullock rising four years old will yield 850 pounds of dressed beef, the Afrikaner bullock will yield 600 to 700 pounds. The milking qualities are also much improved by the Friesland and Shorthorn cross. The Cape cow, bred in the Cape Peninsula, belongs to a mixed breed famous for milking qualities, and though smaller in size, resembles the Dutch breed, which contributed largely to its foundation. Damaraland cattle are the best of animals for light bullock traffic. They are light and active, and are black and tan in color. The Pondo breed is hornless. Zulu cattle are diminutive, but hardy, active, and useful animals.

The two most popular European breeds are the Holstein-Friesland and the Shorthorn. The black and whites were first introduced and are still largely imported and highly prized. The Shorthorn is of much more recent introduction, and takes the lead as a general purpose farmers' animal in the production of meat and milk, but where dairying is the chief object the Dutch cow gives a better account of herself. The Ayrshire breed is present, but not largely represented. The Devon is in evidence, and crosses remarkably well with the Afrikaner stock. Hereford bulls cross well with the native stock. The Dexter-Kerry is to be seen in considerable numbers, not in herds, but as milk cows where only one or a limited number are kept. The Dexter-Shorthorn is a recently-formed, hardy breed, much thought of for general purposes. The Jersey and Guernsey breeds hold a sort of aristocratic position among the others.

The management of the cattle is by no means of the most modern. When cows are milked, while pasturing they sometimes travel as much as seven miles daily to feed and back again to water. They are brought up by boys in small clumps to the kraal, and milked once a day, the calves getting their only suck at the same time. The calves are kept apart from their mothers, and as each cow is tied up to a post, in turn her name is called out, and a Kaffir boy knowing each cow's calf at sight cuts out the calf wanted from the mob of calves, freely using a long whip to facilitate matters. The calf is permitted to take the first milk, and when the cow has settled down to parting freely with it the calf is driven back, and the milker takes the middle portion of the milk, leaving the last for the calf to finish.

In the more advanced districts dairying has