

WHY KEEP SHEEP?



PART OF OUR 1911 LAMB CROP, M.A.C.

Sheep lovers emphasize three points in support of this class of stock. First: Their value as weed destroyers and consumers of otherwise waste food. They are successful in this because they eat most of the common weeds and they grind everything thoroughly. Once weed seeds have been masticated by sheep they will not grow. The fact that sheep can graze so closely is sure death to weeds.

Second: Economy of housing and management. Cheap buildings are satisfactory as shelter for sheep. Their warm covering of wool protects them from the cold, and all they require is protection from the snow, the rain and the winds. Therefore, when keeping this class of stock, the farmer finds the building problem easy to solve. In this country sheep are subject to few diseases, and they require very little attention, except at lambing time. Thus we see that cheap buildings and little labor—two important considerations to the farmer—suffice with sheep.

Third: Only a small investment is necessary to get a start in the sheep business. From \$150.00 to \$200.00 is sufficient to start any farmer with a fairly good foundation flock. Good young rams may be purchased for from \$20.00 to \$35.00 each. Grade ewes are, of course, much cheaper and can be obtained for from \$10.00 to \$15.00 and lower. If the flock is well cared for and accidents do not occur, 150% increase may be expected from the lamb crop. Where ewes with good fleeces have been selected, the wool will always pay for the keep of the ewes, and thus leave the lambs a clear profit. The initial outlay is therefore small and the returns rapid.

BUYING.

There are two main sources from which one may obtain sheep for the farm, the stock yards and the flock of the breeder. When feeders are desired they may be obtained most satisfactorily from the