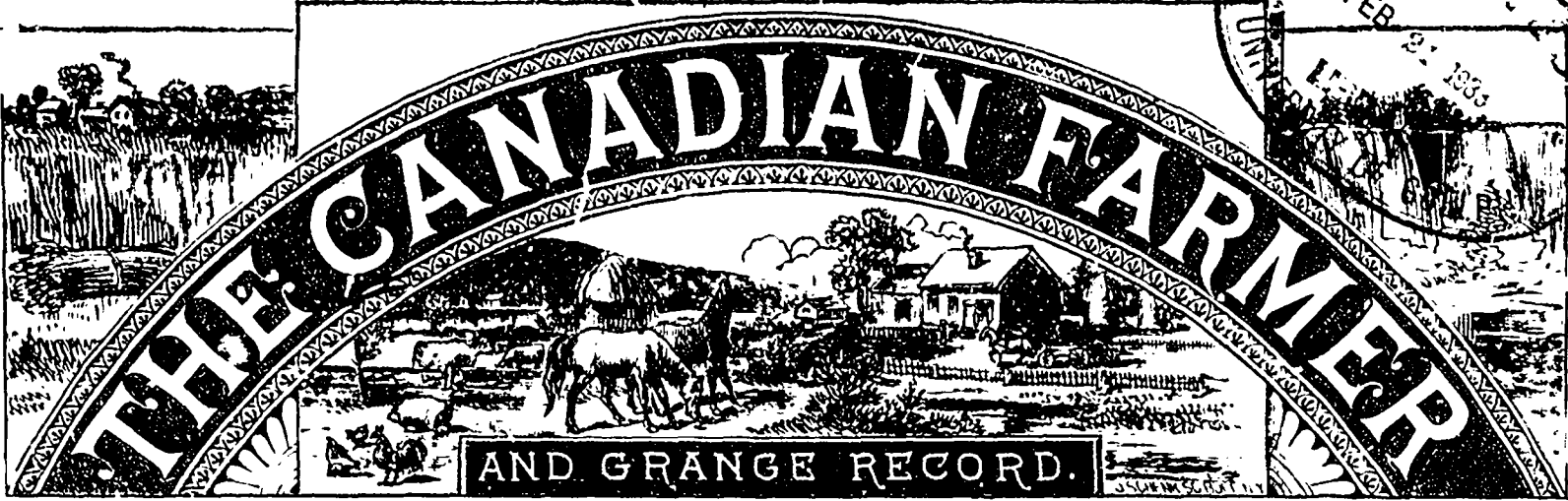
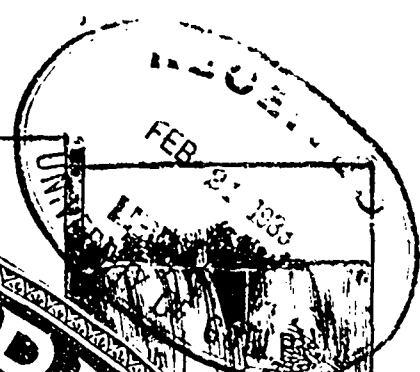


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WELLAND, ONT., WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1882.

TERMS: } ONE DOLLAR
For Annum.
IN ADVANCE

STOCK.

"PARASITES INFESTING SHEEP AND LAMBS."

Under the above heading the *Farmers' Review*, of Chicago, has an article of considerable interest, and although there has been no trouble from such parasites in this country, still information of such a character will be always useful:

"We have received several letters, notably from Kansas, asking information of a means of protection against the unusual mortality among the sheep and lambs (especially the latter). Various post mortem examinations have revealed the true cause of death to be of parasitic origin, some of which have been found in the bronchial tubes and lungs, some in the stomach and bowels, and some in the frontal sinuses and nasal cavities. The long thread worms (*strongylus filaria*), found in the bronchial tubes and lungs of sheep, specimens of which have been received from W. D. T., of Ottawa, Kansas, are propagated and developed in the following manner: The young are produced in two modes. 1. The eggs are hatched out in the oviduct of the mother, and the young worm, one-fourth to one-half line in length, is brought fourth alive. 2. The mature female worm forms a little sac for herself in the lung substance like a pin's head, or is expelled by coughing, and in either case dies, decomposes, and the oviduct continues to hatch out the contained eggs by slow degrees, much slower than if the parent worm had lived. The young worms produced within the lungs gradually escape into the air tubes, and if not expelled in coughing become mature, and reproduce their kind as before. When the maternal worm has been expelled from the body the eggs may lie inactive for an indefinite period, without losing their vitality. In water, the ovidents escaping from the debris of the mother, break up in pieces and float about, allowing the escape of myriads of young worms which congregate in the bottom of the pool or stream. No impurity of the water seems to arrest the progress of hatching, though it goes on most actively in the purest, and in that of rivers. The minute worms will live in water on food or litter, or in the soil, for an entire year without further development, but when taken into the system with drink or ailment, they speedily make their way to the air passages of their victim, invading the smaller tubes first, and developing in the course of a month to a length of two

or even four lines. Soon after they become mature and reproduce their kind. The most important points are that not only do these worms live in their embryo condition in water, soil, vegetation and fodder out of the body, but when once introduced into the system they will reproduce themselves without limit throughout the whole life time of the sheep without any new ingestion of worms or eggs, and as they rarely prove fatal to old sheep, one infested animal will stock any number of fields with these destructive creatures. The conditions favoring the propagation of worms are: First, wet seasons and localities which favor the life of the embryo out of the body. Second, mingling of diseased with healthy animals, the expectorated eggs and worms being taken up with the food and water. Third, overstocking land which, if the disease is once introduced, favors an almost endless increase of the parasites. Fourth, grazing infested pastures at night and early morning while the dew is on the grass and the worms active. Fifth, clover pastures which protect the worms better than other grasses. In regard to treatment, the fumes of burning sulphur is the best treatment we know of. The affected sheep should be put in a close building and a pinch or two of flowers of sulphur burned on a piece of paper laid on an iron shovel, the sulphur being added pinch by pinch, until the air is saturated as far as can be breathed without causing violent irritation and coughing. Some person should remain in the building with the sheep, and thereby avoid the risk of an overdose. This should be kept up for one hour, and repeated once a week. In regard to prevention, it is a well-known fact that the parasite is not necessarily fatal to old sheep—they may live for years with these parasites in their system, occasionally expectorating the worms and eggs on the grasses and in the water, which the young sheep and lambs are liable to eat and drink; therefore, as a rule, it is the best policy to fatten and slaughter off the old ones. The propriety of this will be seen when we consider that the killing out of the lung parasites in a single animal is a long and uncertain process. That if the sheep are kept on the old pastures the worms are perpetually finding their way into the system from without, while if turned on new land they are liable to stock that with parasites from their own lungs. The carcasses of those dying should be burned or buried deep in the ground. Hay, roots, or other ali-

ment grown on the infested pastures should on no account be fed. Such are the main elements in the prevention or stamping out process of this destructive disease among sheep. Common salt should be left on different parts of the pastures where the sheep can have free access to it; this destroys the young worms if brought in contact with them. Avoid turning lambs on pastures occupied or vacated by old sheep. Don't sow clover for sheer pastures. Keep lambs off pasture when covered with dew. Fumigate frequently with the fumes of burning sulphur, as already directed.

MUTTON AND WOOL.

The demand for more and better mutton is steadily on the increase. Randall, in his "Practical Shepherd," written nineteen years ago, said: "I doubt if the enormous amount which will annually be grown and consumed in this country within fifty years has yet occurred to our most sanguine advocates of mutton sheep." Forty years ago, the tables upon which mutton was served were few indeed; twenty years ago I well remember hearing buyers say they could not give the relative value for good mutton as compared to beef, because people in the cities did not know its value and did not buy it. How is it now? Is there anything that we farmers can turn off from our farms between February and April more readily or more satisfactorily as to price than a flock of well-fatted sheep or lambs? No branch of farming has paid so well the past eight or ten years as the buying in and fattening of flocks of sheep, and sending them to eastern markets. Buyers from New York are in our state every season directly after shearing to buy at the time when they can buy the cheapest flocks of wethers and ewes for feeding in that State during the following winter. The ewes in most cases are bred to a mutton producing ram, their lambs fattened so as to be ready for the market in about sixty days from dropping at about ten cents per pound, and the ewes fed high enough during the time they rear the lambs so they go at the same time for fat sheep. Nearly all the nurserymen there have taken to this plan as the best means by which to obtain the necessary amount of manure with which to maintain the fertility of their soils, a hint to us of the great value to be placed on the manure of the sheep, especially when fed on grain to produce fattening. Shippers of live stock stand ready to take all the sheep they can get of

proper weight and properly fed and fattened for the English market. But not all fat sheep are wanted for that market. Englishmen, if we are correctly informed, do not now, as was said of them a few years ago—dine off a cake of tallow. If they are slow to change their tastes of diet, still they do change, and we may as well carry our coals to Newcastle as to carry the mutton they do not want. In cattle, they send us word they must have animals two or three years old, weighing from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds, well fattened; our hogs, Chester Whites and Poland Chinas, the two American breeds, they tell us are nearer the class of meat they want than their own Suffolks, Essex and Berkshires, as producing the greatest proportion of lean meat to fat when perfectly fattened. So our sheep should not be older than four, at most, and better two or three years, and weigh as near as may be 150 lbs. live weight, as stock at that age and weight contain the greatest amount of lean meat finely mixed with fat.—*Western Homestead.*

SALT FOR STOCK.—This is absolutely necessary for the health and thrift of all domestic animals, and it should be so placed that they can get it to lick at pleasure, and then they never take an excess. The best method for giving this is in the form of Liverpool rock salt, in lumps of a large size which may be placed in the manger of each animal, or in a open box, from which water will leak freely, in a yard or pasture, as rain does not then dissolve or waste it. If this salt is not to be obtained at a moderate price, then take a wooden trough of requisite length, smear the bottom a half inch or so thick with tar, and sprinkle fine cheap salt on this, no thicker than to make it adhere close to the tar. Thus with this, as well as with the rock salt, no animal can take an excess; and the tar licked in with salt is also healthy. This box should have a cover over it in yard or field to keep out the rain, and so high that the animals can get their heads under it and lick the salt at pleasure.

Mr. THOMAS McCLELLAN sold a fine pair of steers to Mr. P. McDONALD, of St. John, at about \$500. They were at the Halifax exhibition last year and were spoken of in the hand book as the finest pair that have yet been exhibited. They girth about eight and a half feet, are four years old this spring and weigh 2400 pounds each, live weight. Some fine cattle have been sent to market from this county during the spring.—*Sackville Transcript.*