

COMMERCIAL VALUE OF SHEEP ON THE FARM.

In connection with the use of sheep as weed destroyers the mind naturally turns to the value of sheep as savers of waste material on the farm. "Keep a flock of sheep on the farm" has become a hackneyed phrase, but it is none the less true.

The sheep industry has undergone a radical change in this country in the last few years. Many years ago prices were subject to violent fluctuations and sheep were high or low in sympathy with the price of wool. In the early days carloads of sheep carcasses sold for 25 cents each on South Water street, Chicago. Two years from that time they were worth \$4 a head for stock sheep. At that time very little mutton was used by the American people and as has been shown the chief value of a sheep was in its fleece. Thousands were slaughtered for their wool and tallow, while the carcasses were left to rot on the plains.

This condition of affairs was after the civil war, when people had money and were accustomed to buying high-priced meats such as beef and pork. In a few years a reaction occurred—wages went down, many were out of work and had to buy cheaper meat or go without. Mutton answered the purpose and as the lower classes began to eat it the practice gradually spread until its use became universal among all classes, and mutton now forms a large percentage of the meat consumed in the country. There is now a permanent market for all the mutton produced at paying prices, nor is the supply likely to overtake the demand.

The principal reason for this is the increased demand from packers for lambs up to 1 year old at high prices, and there is more money in selling lambs than in holding them until they are 2 or 3 years old. Under these circumstances it is slow work to increase the flocks.

Conditions on the ranges at the present time are such that it will be increasingly more profitable to run small flocks on farms where they will be every day under the eye of the owner than to keep up the large flocks on the range. If the supply of mutton is to be kept up the farmers must take hold of the sheep business. Where there is a demand for an article there will be a supply and there is no doubt but what farmers will take hold of the sheep business because it will be for their interest to do so.

Sheep on a farm will come nearer being clear profit than other stock. They will eat what other animals reject and will clean out all the fence corners and waste places on the farm.

Beginning in the spring, they will live for two months on the fall rye sown where corn is to be planted. This is an excellent fertilizer, as the manure will insure a quick growth and the rye roots will leave the soil mellow after the rye is off. For a time the sheep must be kept in the pasture, but soon they can run on the wheat and oats stubbles, picking up the scattered grain and any weeds that may start.

If rape is sown with the oats it will give them feed until the ground freezes. A crop of rape has been known to bring larger returns when fed to lambs than was realized out of the main crop.

The large straw stacks that were either burned or left to rot down, taking years to accomplish, can be utilized by feeding them to sheep with a small grain ration. Stubbles can be

plowed and sown to turnips. The sheep will do the harvesting, eating them from the ground.

Every 100 acres of land will support a sheep to the acre without interfering with the main crops on the farm. It would be a moderate estimate to say that the wool and increase of such a flock would be \$500 a year.

Handling sheep in this manner will necessitate some conveniences like fences and sheds and a closer supervision than for other stock. Dogs, unless useful like the collie, must be banished. The breed of sheep must be improved, large weight and early maturity being sought, and the weight of the fleece should be on the rising scale. In view of the great demand for early lambs the breed of sheep that will yield twins in large numbers is preferred.—*Twentieth Century Farmer.*

WARM SPRING NOTES.

Mrs. Amanda L. Friend, seamstress, has been transferred to the Nevada school, leaving last week for her new work. Mrs. Friend has been at this school a number of years, doing excellent work in her department. Her niece, Miss Anderson, left at the same time for her home at Carson, Wash.

Our jolly bachelor physician, Dr. Tate, is in the market for a cook. Any eligible young ladies, desiring such a place, should apply, either in person or by letter. It may be well to add that the cook is for the Employees' club, of which the doctor is manager.

Mrs. W. H. Bishop has received the appointment to the position of seamstress, made vacant by the transfer of Mrs. Friend.

Samuel W. Glasgow, Agency farmer, who has been sick since September 1st with asthma, was finally obliged to give up, and left Tuesday for Ontario, hoping that the change in climate may benefit him. Dr. Tate accompanied him as far as Kingsley, and reports that he stood the trip out nicely.

Mr. Glasgow's resignation leaves a good position open for someone. This is not under the civil service rules, but Superintendent Kirk may appoint anyone whom he deems qualified. The salary is \$60 per month and house rent.

A Reading Circle has been organized to meet on Friday evenings in the Employees' parlor. The first work taken up is the study of "Hamlet," under the direction of Rev. W. W. Gordon. Ego.

METHODIST HILL JOTTINGS.

The Revs. E. J. Traglio and G. A. Waasa went to Shaniko Monday.

B. Dombrows, who threshed 1500 bushels of grain this year, is still hauling wheat to Prineville.

Joseph Marbach is sowing 55 acres in wheat this fall.

Theodore Rieger, recently of Chicago, has decided to remain in Methodist Hill vicinity.

Mr. Rieger and wife are temporarily living in J. A. Hoffnag's residence, three and one-half miles southwest of Madras.

The Rev. Mr. Traglio is to be congratulated for having secured the services of the Rev. G. A. Waasa, of Ridgefield, Wash., to assist in a series of revival meetings last week. It was a time of spiritual uplift to the members themselves and added to the church membership six new converts. Five joined the church by letter.

Sunday was the crowning feature of the meetings. Mr. Waasa preached a learned and forceful sermon in the morning upon, "Abraham and Isaac." In the evening the members joined in a real Methodist love-feast.

Mr. Waasa is a graduate of the famous University at Basel and one of the ablest young preachers of his church. He seems specially gifted as an evangelist, having met with unusual success wherever he has conducted revivals.

Sunday School News.

Rev. Andrews and brother attended Sunday school at Agency Plain and gave us an interesting talk after Sunday school.

Mr. Carnice, of Walla Walla, Wash., attended Sunday school at Agency Plains Sunday.

All the young men on the Plain would do well to follow the example Mr. Feltie has set for them in attending Sunday school and bringing some one with him. Go and do likewise, young men.

Mr. and Mrs. Heath know a good thing in a community and show their appreciation of the same by sending their children regularly to Sunday school. W. J. Braustetter.

WIDOW OF BALZAC.

The Author Left Her a Great Name and a Legacy of Debt.

When Mme. Hanska's husband died it was supposed that her union with Balzac would occur at once, but obstacles were interposed by others. Her own family looked down upon the great French author as a mere story teller, and by her late husband's people sordid motives were imputed to him to account for his devotion to the heiress. The latter objection was removed a few years later by the widow's giving up to her daughter the fortune left to her by M. Hanska. This was followed by her remarriage after a "beautiful heart drama," as her husband calls it, "which had lasted seventeen years."

Six months later Balzac died, and my aunt found herself for the second time a widow, with the burden of her husband's large debts and that of his great name, which she bore with such dignity for thirty years longer. She never spoke of the blow his death had been to her. She must have felt it deeply, and she would not have been human if she had not cherished resentment against those whose opposition to her wishes had robbed her of some years of happiness, but if it was the case she never let any one guess it. Once only I heard her make a remark which gave me a strange insight into her inner life. We were talking about happiness in general, and I observed how very eager people were to interfere with that of their neighbors. My aunt looked at me for some time, then slowly said: "I think that this comes from the fact that so very few people understand what real happiness it. They mostly look upon it as a superficial thing and treat it with the light heartedness they apply to all other enjoyments of existence. If they understood and realized what it really means for those who consider life in its true and serious light they would respect it more."—*Critic.*

OLD FASHIONED.

An old fashioned woman feels mighty extravagant when she eats a meal at a restaurant.

What has become of the old fashioned bride who expected, of course, to do her own washing?

What has become of the old fashioned woman who pierced the children's ears to strengthen their eyes?

What has become of the old fashioned woman who made soup so thick that she referred to it as meat, drink and lodging?

What has become of the old fashioned apple pie that contained bits of raw apple inside and was as mountainous as the Himalayas?

When an old fashioned woman goes away on a trip her last words are, "I just know something terrible will happen here at home when I am gone."—*Atchison Globe.*

Barge Day in Newcastle.

In Newcastle, England, the mayor enjoys the privilege of once a year being allowed to select and kiss any young woman who takes his fancy among the coal city's inhabitants. The kiss is rather costly, however, for it is the custom to present the young person kissed with a sovereign (\$5), while a further gift is made her by the lady mayoress, no doubt to disprove jealousy. The sheriff, not to be outdone, also bestows a kiss upon a fair bystander, at the same rate of expenditure. The occasion is known as Barge day, when the mayor and corporation proceed in a procession of four gaily decorated steamers and two old state barges to claim the soil of the river Tyne. Their journey over, the mayor stands upon the boundary stone, and it is here that the kissing is indulged in.

A Famous Fair.

The annual fair at Stourbridge, near Cambridge, England, was, it is claimed, instituted by Carausius, the rebel Roman emperor of Britain, on Sept. 19, A. D. 207. It certainly flourished as early as this, and British commerce is believed to have had its first real boom in consequence of the reports carried to the continent by foreign traders who flocked to this world's fair. About a thousand years later Stourbridge fair got a new lease of life from King John for the benefit of a leper hospital, and for eight centuries or more it was the greatest fair in England.

Things Looking Up.

"If you are not careful," said the man with the take care young man habit, "you'll have a breach of promise case on your hands."

"Well, if that comes true," replied the young fellow, "it will be the first case to come my way since I graduated from the law school."—*Cleveland Leader.*

A Hard Task.

"Don't you think you could learn to love me?" he said, looking at her wistfully.

"I'm sure I couldn't," she answered decidedly. "I'm a perfect dunce. When I was at school I never could learn anything."—*London Punch.*

The Dry Part.

Mr. Pepper—I don't believe there was a dry eye in the house when the curtain went down on the third act. Mrs. Pepper—No, but there seemed to be the usual number of dry throats.

Beyond His Means.

Lady (getting on Thirty-fourth street car)—Conductor, do you stop at the Waldorf-Astoria? Conductor—No, madam. How can you expect me to do so at \$12 a week?—*New York Times.*

Starting the Row.

Nell—Oh, my! I don't like the shape of my new gown at all. I wish I knew how to improve it. Belle—Why not let some other girl wear it, dear?—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

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Notice to Creditors.

Notice is hereby given that the under signed has been, by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Crook county, duly appointed administrator of the estate of John Hastings, deceased, and all persons having claims against said estate are hereby requested to present the same, duly verified, to said Administrator at the office of M. E. Brink, in Prineville, Ore., within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice.

Date of first publication of this notice Nov. 17, 1904. ED KUTCHER, Administrator of the Estate of John Hastings, deceased.

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