

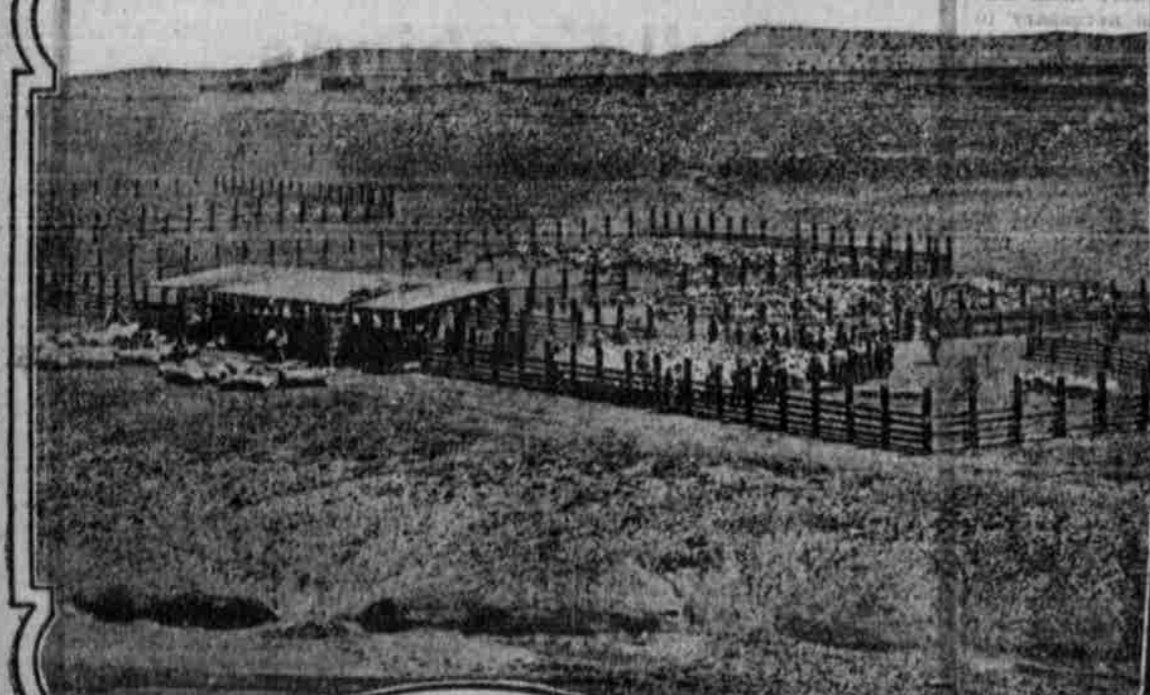
SHEEP RAISING IN AMERICA

SHEEP raising is one of the chief activities of the American rural domain, and it is one that has shown a constantly expanding scope year after year, seemingly without much regard to the good years and bad which are so visibly reflected in many of the other occupations of the farming community. It is interesting to note that sheep are associated with man in the earliest records of the human race. They were first used only for milk, and later the skins were used for clothing. Up to about a century and a half ago wool was the primary consideration in sheep raising, but about the time mentioned an Englishman began the first systematic and intelligent improvement of mutton sheep and it is a question whether this is not now the most important branch of the industry both at home and abroad.

The mutton sheep was rather slow in invading America. The wool-producing Merino (which came originally from Spain) was monarch of all he sur-



A YOUNG SHEEP RAISER



SHEEP RANCH IN NEW MEXICO

SCENE OF TYPICAL NEW MEXICO SHEEP RANCH



A SHEEP HERDER RIDING THE RANGE



A WESTERN SHEEP RANCH

veyed on this side of the Atlantic for many years and many a farmer paid almost fabulous prices for sheep having no adaptation to anything except wool production. Perhaps this state of affairs was due to the impression that so long held sway that the American people were pre-eminently a nation of pork eaters and had little appreciation for good mutton. Whatever justification there may have been for this in the past it certainly ceased years ago. A depression in the price of wool some score of years ago was very influential in bringing about a change of conditions, and once started the new movement in behalf of mutton sheep swept all before it. Indeed, in some years a single market, such as Chicago, has shown a gain of fully a million sheep over the twelve months preceding. Canada sends great numbers of mutton sheep to this country as well as considerable quantities of wool.

The experience of later years has proven that the rich lands and abundant feeds of the United States are well suited to the economical production of superior mutton and the furthermore mutton sheep if properly selected can grow a large part if not all of the wool demanded for American manufacturing. Experts declare that there is no greater error than the impression on the part of many people that sheep are suited only to inferior land. To be sure, sheep, unlike some other animals, can get along on scanty vegetation, and consequently will graze profitably on semi-arid land, but on the other hand they render an especially large return for a liberal ration of good foods. As showing how much more appreciation of this fact there is in other countries than in the United States it may be cited that recent statistics showed that there were not to exceed 25 sheep per thousand acres of land in our leading agricultural states, whereas in England the high-priced agricultural lands sustain an average of 630 sheep per thousand acres, and in Scotland there may be found as high as 1,350 sheep per thousand acres.

The champions of scientific agriculture in the United States are just now striving earnestly to impress our farmers with the fact that it would be better to convert their surplus grain products into meats, such as mutton (at least to the extent of supplying home demands) than to export the corn and other grains as such. For example, it is claimed that to raise \$1,000 worth of corn takes from the soil producing the crop about \$300 worth

of fertility, but the same amount of corn converted into mutton is claimed not to take from the land more than \$2 or \$3 worth of fertility, whereas if sold in the form of wool it will not take from the land more than \$2 or \$3 worth of fertility. With mutton as the primary consideration, however, sheep raising will return a satisfactory profit year after year without very much regard to the price of wool.

In later years the western territory known as the range became the great breeding ground for sheep, and as far back as a dozen years ago this locality produced about one-half of the total number of sheep in the United States. As our readers know the crowding of the cattle out of many sections of the range by the sheep has been attended by much bitterness and controversy. There are three principal species of range sheep. The old Mexico sheep are the direct descendants of the original Spanish Merinos, brought over two hundred years ago by the Spaniards in Old Mexico. They have long legs; a long, thin body, and the wool is fine and thin. They are hardy, excellent travelers and will keep in good condition on the poorest and driest of ranges. Often they outsell all other sheep for the meat has an excellent flavor and the hide is thin, firm and soft. These original Mexican sheep have been largely graded with Merino rams in New Mexico and southern Colorado. The New Mexico sheep, as they are denominated, are small-bodied sheep, and although they never grow very large they get very fat. They bring good prices, for the same reasons that obtain in the case of the Mexican sheep above mentioned. Merinos are also to be found on the range in great numbers, many of them having been bred from Merinos brought from the east. The lambs are short-legged and not as good travelers as the southern sheep, but they need not be, for Wyoming, Idaho, etc., have, on the average, better ranges than are to be found in New Mexico, and it is in these northern states that the Merinos hold sway.

Almost all range sheep are affected with scab, though it is frequently so held in check as to be scarcely noticeable. As a remedy it is the general practice to "dip" all range sheep, and this operation, as carried on extensively on a large sheep ranch is decidedly picturesque. Oftentimes it is deemed necessary to give the same sheep several dippings at intervals of ten days, and occasionally this dipping is done in zero weather. On the large ranches there are specially constructed dipping vats with runways for the sheep as they approach and leave the vats, etc. Various ingredients are used in the preparation of the dips, among the most popular being lime, sulphur and tobacco.

As is well known, the American market has become the most discriminating in the world on beef products and is rapidly coming to demand a corresponding superiority in mutton. Consequently farmers and ranchers realize the necessity of selecting the best sheep. The value of improved blood in sheep has come to be realized.

A difficulty in mutton production has always been the scarcity of stock sheep, particularly stags, having sufficient merit to fill the standard of excellence. The ideal sire, it may be added, should be impressive, resolute and of noble bearing—distinctly the head of the flock in every sense of the word. This requires, of course, good constitutional and vital powers.

It has likewise come to be regarded as essential, as above pointed out, that a mutton sheep should have a good fleece as well as a good carcass. This combination has been proven both practical and profitable, and it is no longer regarded necessary to grow one sheep for a fleece, another for a carcass and another for a lamb. An intelligent, up-to-date flockmaster combines them all in one class. Some of the best mutton sheep are producing as profitable fleeces as those kept exclusively for wool and their lambs are decidedly superior. As is well known, one of the first essentials in a good fleece is compactness or density, this quality not only insuring a better yield of wool, but also affording better protection against storm. This indicates a hardier animal and one better able to withstand exposure. It is desirable to have a close, even, dense fleece, with no breaks, cover all parts of the body, including the head, limbs and under parts, and the tendency in latter day breeding is toward carrying the fleece more completely over the head, face, limbs and under parts.

The far-sighted sheep raiser is also coming to guard against neglect or undue exposure of his flock, periods of sickness, or indeed anything that will impair the vitality of the animals, for it has come to be pretty well understood that such influences diminish both the length and strength of fiber and fineness, whereas, length and strength of fiber are essential qualities in a good fleece. Well-fed sheep always produce the best wool and the greatest quantity of it, and expert opinion is to the effect that a fleece almost invariably begins to decline in value after a sheep has passed the age of four years. The best grade of wool is invariably found on the rear part of the shoulder, and wrinkles or folds of the skin about the neck or other parts of the body are detrimental, inasmuch as the wool that grows within these folds is unlike other parts of the fleece and there is a consequent lack of uniformity.

The proper feeding of sheep is one of the chief responsibilities connected with the industry. In some localities the "self-feeder" is extensively employed, but in other localities it is not in much favor. Properly cured alfalfa has come up wonderfully in popularity as a food for sheep and many sheep feeders have purchased extensive areas of alfalfa for use in this connection. Many of the large feeders in such states as Nebraska, Colorado and Minnesota have no shelter for their flocks, but it is generally conceded now that properly constructed sheds are an advantage, although, of course, involving considerable outlay in the case of large feeding yards. Some of the most progressive sheep men now recommend feeding three times a day, although others still cling to the old idea that it is not necessary to feed more than twice a day. Along with all these other requisites for success in sheep raising there is the necessity for the good shepherd of judgment and experience. Even on the range where sheep are supposed to be able to shift for themselves there is a tendency to employ a better class of men as sheep herders.

The Genuine Article.
"I don't know about this picture, Bobby," said the visitor, as he ran over specimens of the youngster's camera work. "I am afraid a dog with a propeller instead of a tail is something of a fake."
"That ain't a propeller," said Bobby. "That's his tail. He kept waggin' it while his picture was being taken."—Harper's Weekly.

ANTHONY MELIGHT

PROPOSES A TRUST REMEDY



Uniform state laws governing corporations rather than federal corporation control, is the remedy proposed for trusts by Edgar H. Farrar, president of the American Bar association. "The great American national disgrace," said Mr. Farrar at the recent convention of the bar association at Boston, "is found in the issuance of fictitious or watered stock. This is made possible by those corporation laws which provide no governmental supervision over the organization of corporations which require no part of the capital stock to be paid in money and which permit the issuance of stock at the pleasure of the organizers and directors at such valuations as they may choose to place on them. To my mind, the most vicious of all the provisions in the statutes above enumerated is that authorizing one corporation to own and vote stock in another. This provision is the mother of the holding company and the trust.

It provides a method for combining under one management and control corporations from one end of the nation to the other. "Concerted action among the states will end all the trouble. If every state in the Union will purge its corporation laws of all objectionable features, then the breeding places of industrial monstrosities are destroyed. It appears to me that it would require but a small amount of constructive statesmanship to bring about a state conference and united action on this grave subject."

Mr. Farrar ridicules the proposed scheme of E. H. Gary, president of the Steel Trust, for government regulation of prices. He says: "For government to fix the prices of merchandise bought and sold in commerce is utterly beyond the power of any legislative body in America."

CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING

Nathan Allen, the indicted leather trust magnate of Kenosha, Wis., accused of smuggling at New York, with it is stated, made a spirited defense. It is said the Allen side of the Jenkins imbroglio will specify an attempt to carry out a blackmail scheme. That his wife believes absolutely in Allen's innocence is shown by the fact that they spent the entire summer together on a Montana ranch.

Indictments charging Nathan Allen of Kenosha, Wis., and John R. Collins of Memphis, Tenn., with the smuggling of jewels valued at more than \$100,000 were brought to light in the office of United States District Attorney Wise in New York. The gems are alleged to have been smuggled into that port from the steamship Lusitania on June 25, 1909.

The indictments were the outcome of the testimony before the federal grand jury of Mrs. Helen Dwell Jenkins, to whom the jewelry alleged to have been smuggled was presented, and from whom it was later stolen while she was living at a New York hotel. Following the theft of the gems there was a great deal of publicity given to Mrs. Jenkins and Mr. Allen, and the matter was finally settled by a consideration of \$72,000, of which Mrs. Jenkins says she received \$31,000.

Collins, a coal operator of Tennessee, was a fellow passenger of Allen, the indictment in the Tennessee case recites, and it charges him with having smuggled a necklace consisting of five strands of pearls with a diamond and ruby clasp, a pearl and diamond bracelet and other articles of jewelry and wearing apparel. The charge of conspiracy is also laid at his door.



GETS FORTUNE FROM GATES



Henry Rockwell Baker, a twenty-year-old youth of St. Charles, Ill., will get \$250,000 when he is graduated from college. Baker is the late John W. Gates's only nephew. Mr. Gates was very fond of him; the millionaire bequeathed \$10,000 to be given to him at once for his expenses at college and \$250,000 when he gets his degree. But he will not play football. Although his uncle placed no restrictions upon him, the lad remembers that Gates was opposed to football, and, for that reason, will not attempt to make a team.

He has promised when he leaves college and comes into his \$250,000, that he will stay away from Wall street. This is also out of deference to his late uncle's wishes. John W. Gates once advised him, if he ever got hold of any money, to keep away from that mart of speculation and the boy regards this advice as a request. Baker was greatly surprised by the munificent bequest, but started in studying to earn it at once.

Baker was a student in the St. Charles high school until he finished his studies there last fall; he was half-back on the school eleven and is an all-around athlete. "Henry is a bright boy," Mr. Gates once said. "He is a lad who studies and plays football too and that is the right kind. I want him to get an education. He will find an education means more to him than all the money in the world."

WOULD TAX THE HEIRESSSES

Some time ago Representative Sabbath of Illinois introduced a resolution in congress levying a tariff of 25 per cent upon all marriage dowries, settlements between Americans and foreigners. Sentiment in favor of such a tax has been growing since and if there is any way of passing a law which will be constitutional and effective at the same time, to regulate this marriage barter, steps to do so will probably be taken in the next session of congress.

There is an economic side to the marriage of our rich American girls to titled Europeans. It is estimated that the purchase of these titles costs the enormous sum of \$1,000,000,000 every ten years—a drain that few countries in the world, perhaps no other country except our own, could stand.

The fact that it is wealth which titled foreigners are seeking when they marry American girls is self-evident. Whoever hears of a European noble marrying a poor American girl whoever hears of an English heiress marrying a poor American? If international marriages were based on love the rule would work both ways.

