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We occupy this entire building. Our plant is equipped with the latest, most up-to-date machinery known to the trade. Each machine is operated by individual motors. Our presses are all equipped with automatic feeding machines.

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WE INVITE INSPECTION.

A. I. ROOT, Incorporated

GUSTAV A. WIESE, Manager.

Omaha, Neb.



25,000 Square Feet of Floor Space

Printers to His Royal Majesty KING AK-SAR-BEN XII

EXPERT VIEW OF THE SHEEP

Veteran Breeder Tells of How to Make Industry Profitable.

BREEDING FOR WOOL AND FOR MEAT

Factors for Flockmasters and for Smaller Breeders as to Kinds and Conditions for Growing and Feeding.

In these times of great financial concern in the rapid accumulation of wealth when the profitable investment of capital is directed towards speculative interests, when "the get rich quick" methods seem to have invaded the legitimate industries of the country, when land, the very basis of agricultural prosperity, has exhibited an increase in value of from 100 to 200 per cent within a few years, when certain lines of agricultural production have made equally astonishing increases, and when the eyes of the whole world, more than at any past period, are turned to the soil...

The sheep industry in the United States is changing, constantly changing. Not many years ago the farm sheep industry of our country comprised practically all we had in sheep population. At a later date the sheep commenced coming west to the open range districts, until now two-thirds of all the sheep in the United States are west of the Missouri river. These evidences of great flock development, which are settling down over large areas of a strictly pastoral country on the western side of the United States, are the result of fixed principles in the natural resources of the country to be successfully a grazing industry. It is the intelligent undertaking of this diversity of conditions and requirements in the handling of the flock that should appeal to the prospective owner and handler of the range sheep.

Necessary to Know Things.

In the first place, in starting with the sheep it is necessary to know what the flock demands are, or, in other words, how what kind of sheep is best suited to the soil, climate, pasturage and feed conditions of the country or locality the enterprise is to be started in. When these requisites are assured, then the flock must be made to conform to the market requirements of the country or district where the surplus of the flock and wool product is to be marketed. We presume that no man engages in the sheep raising business simply because he likes the work, the one great incentive in the industry is the profit to be made in the investment of time, labor and capital in the industry. The natural inclination or love for the flock is the key to success in sheep raising, but this is also supplied nowadays by hiring a manager or foreman to look

after the needs and requirements of the flock and the real owner is occupied in other matters entirely free from the cares and perplexities of detail work.

The western idea, or range ideas, of growing sheep is very different from the farm flock system of handling sheep in the east. On the one hand thousands are often run together on the same pasture or grazing lands, while on the other the flock is divided and sub-divided into little bunches ranging from twenty-five to 100 in a pasture; therefore, it does not follow that a man well versed in the care and management of the eastern farm flock would be a success on the range. It is safe to say, however, that the boy or man who has grown up in the care and management of sheep, no difference where that has been, is vastly better qualified to take hold of a flock and learn its needs than the man who never learned the habits, characteristics and peculiarities of the sheep in health and disease.

What Breed of Sheep?

There are breeds of sheep suited to almost every condition of care and feed that can be supplied in any district or country. These various conditions have had much to do in making the breed and its habits.

All breeds of sheep are not well adapted to range conditions, consequently some breeds are more successful on the range than others. The large mutton breeds are better suited to farm accommodations than to make a profitable living on the range, where they are required to travel in large flocks over extensive areas of grazing lands. These larger breeds are in a great measure specialty-breeds, their prime purpose in creation was mutton, the fleeces property a minor and secondary feature. Their habits are those of dependence; they incline to be fed and provided for; they eat, sleep and grow fat, while the wool breeds, such as the merino, forages every where, traveling miles each day in search of new feed. They are often termed the poor man's sheep, because they are active in hunting up their own living and do not depend on prepared feed, only when dire necessity compels them.

The feature of the sheep business of most interest to the western flock owners at this time, is what breed of sheep is best suited to the range and large flock requirements? The merino has been accorded this place, after years of experimentation and tests of the various breeds and cross-breeds of long wools that the merino is the range sheep, taking the history of the range sheep country, not only of America, but of the entire sheep countries of the world.

It is the combined properties of wool and mutton that stimulates actively and interested in the speculative and business traffic in the sheep. When these two products are in active demand, as at the present, the commercial importance of the sheep is at once recognized by capitalists and dealers, and a period of successful trade in growing and handling sheep, as a result, follows. Until recent years the wool product was regarded as the important feature in the sheep business, mutton being reckoned a secondary matter. These conditions are now changed, however, mutton being regarded the product of greatest value in the sheep, and the wool secondary. Mutton and wool being the two important factors in the commercial importance of the sheep industry, the combination of these, to the highest degree possible in one breed of sheep, is

the reasonable demand in economical production.

Not an Entirely New Idea.

The fact that there are specialty breeds of sheep both for wool and mutton does not argue that there cannot be a combined wool and mutton sheep that will equal, if not surpass, either of the specialty animals in their specialty. This is not an entirely new idea. For years breeders of sheep have been making efforts along this line of getting a mutton and wool sheep in the same animal. These efforts have been uniformly along the lines of crosses of one mutton breed onto another. A long wool and a short wool breed, thus hoping to retain the size and physical properties of the big mutton carcass and to secure a fleece of better texture than the original basis, shorten the fiber on the long wool sheep, thicken it up, make a more dense fleece, therefore more weight; while on the opposite the offspring would carry a fleece that would be longer in fiber, finer in texture and better manufacturing quality and better weight of fleeces. The fibrousness in an illustration of effects in this direction and is today possibly the most popular mutton breed in America, because of its claim of mutton and wool combination. But is it a range sheep? Will it go out on the range and face the grazing condition that the merino will? These are questions that the flock owner and shepherd must answer when he is planning for the extension of his flock interests. The merino is an old established type of sheep; for centuries its inherited flock properties have characterized it as an unbroken wandering band of wanderers. It is the only breed that will bear crowding, without apparent injury. In sheds, corrals and on the range it accommodates itself to the surroundings and seldom suffers, as a result, from disease influences. They herd in flocks of thousands on the range, with apparently the same degree of prosperity as flocks of hundreds.

The term Merino has become a general term for a class of sheep which is divided into many varieties of families, as known in the United States. The merino sheep history of this country commences authoritatively back in 1801, when one ram lamb, costing \$2,000, was imported from Spain to the farm of a Frenchman on the Hudson in New York. In 1805, and later up to 1835 and 1842, there were extensive importations by Chancellor Livingston, Colonel David Humphries, Seth Adams, William Jarvis and others. Here is where the critical features of the merino sheep industry of the United States take date. During all this work of importation and distribution of Spanish and French merino sheep into the United States there was no system of pedigree or registration thought of until about sixty-five years following, when close competition in the breeding and exportation of the merino sheep encouraged rival competitors to devise means of advantage other than their flocks possessed. In 1875 the subject of a sheep breeders' register was introduced at the annual meeting of the Ohio Wool Growers' association. This was the beginning of the present system of pedigree with the merino sheep breeders.

Uniformity in the Flock.

One of the important features of sheep raising is to establish uniformity in the flock. This is a desirable quality in any line of stock breeding, but more especially is it desirable in the sheep, since there are two features of product that demand a market consideration, wool and mutton.

Selection of Breeding Rams.

The great work to be accomplished in flock improvement is to be brought about by the breeding rams, and the culling out each year for the mutton market, the undesirable and off-styled animals, retaining nothing that is in the least deformed, or so objectionable as to attract the eye of the casual observer. In the selection of breeding rams constitutional qualities and fleece properties are the two grand divisions to be consulted. From these any breeder may construct his ideal sheep. The putting together properly the qualities to be used in the structure, of course, determines the value of the ideal sheep that we may so construct.

Quality and Type of Wool.

The same importance of uniformity is attached to the wool product in its commercial value. If the highest price is to be had for the crop of wool it must be uniform in quality and condition. The length of staple, the fineness and trueness of fiber, the quality and cast of the yolk or oil and the condition of the fleece as to the freedom from dirt or foreign substances, etc., are qualities in fleece that must be observed by the flock owner and carefully guarded. The matter of handling the fleece has a great deal also to do in the advantage of sale. The fleece should be carefully taken off and as carefully sorted and tied up, so that there will appear a uniform sameness in appearance when the wool is piled in the storehouse for sale, or when it is being graded for sale to the manufacturer. The wool from a flock that contains a half dozen distinct qualities or types of sheep, and as many grades of fleece by condition, necessitating an assorting before an approximate manufacturing value can be placed on the clip or crop of wool, cannot be classed as No. 1 or even good or medium, and must necessitate a big cut in price to stand the culling and assorting, which it must eventually undergo.

Must Be Properly Handled.

There is a great deal of truth in this dream. It figures out on paper better than any live stock proposition on earth. But "everything is not sold that glitters," neither is the sheep business without its drawbacks and irregularities in matters of unrestricted success and profit. The sheep to be made profitable to the limit of its

resources must be systematically and properly handled, systematically and properly bred, and in these two requirements there is a demand for skilled and well trained labor. It is one thing to be properly trained in the work of feeding and care of the flock, but an entirely different one in being able to skillfully mate, in order to assure the best results, or even desired results. The proper use of stock rams is the secret of improvement. This part of the flock should all be of one type. They should be as nearly possible of one quality in fleece and form; they should be of the same strain and family, if not from the same breeding flock. This is necessary to establish uniformity in the produce of your flock. The height of ambition of the flock owner should be to secure a flock whose individual members all look alike and produce the largest possible fleeces of fine, long, crimping, white wool. And whose physical make-up is a perfect type of mutton production. These combinations are possible and it only remains for the ingenuity of the breeder to determine how fast he can progress towards this desired end.

The usual influence shown by having sheep of various ages, all in one flock, of course, will be apparent in the large flock as well as in the smaller ones; this, however, is a matter of flock management and does not argue against any breed. To successfully handle sheep on range or farm, especially where large numbers are thrown together, there should be a classification of ages and kinds in order to secure the best results. It must be remembered, that in the results depends the profit in the business. If by a little extra care and attention 90 per cent of the increase of the flock is grown into matured animals, yielding a full average in wool and mutton, how much better it is, from a business standpoint, than to raise 75 per cent.

Hospital Flock or Division.

There should be a hospital flock or division on all sheep farms or ranches. There are sheep at all times of the year that are sheep to disadvantage in the main flock; this may be caused from various reasons. Sickness gets into the animal family on very much the same basis that it does in the human. The well fed and well cared for sheep are apt to be in good health, but let a sheep get on the decline, and where kept in large flocks, it soon loses its ability to keep up. His alone improve. If drops back, it is crowded out and away from the best and most nourishing feed and it rapidly goes down and is lost.

The lambing period, in the range flock brings with it many perplexities and annoyances as well as the hopes and expectations of a profitable increase. The management of a large flock of sheep at this critical period will tax the ingenuity and patience of any man, especially if the weather is wet, cold or stormy, when the new born lambs are demanding your attention.

Care of the Lamb Flock.

The lamb flock should be given extra advantage in all that tends to rapid growth. When the lambs are two weeks old they commence to feed on tender grasses, and if given an opportunity will eat bread, shorts, meal, etc. This is the opportunity to make your flock industry profitable to the highest degree. If the sheep business is worth pursuing, it is worth getting all out of it that is in it. No farmer will

Imagine a flock of 5,000 ewes, and on going out in the morning to the corral you find any place from 100 to 200 new born lambs running about, bleating wildly for they know not what; if the mother sheep is sufficiently alert and attentive she will follow the little stranger about until she gets its attention and gets it to understand that she is its rightful protector and guardian. Scores of these lambs, however, get lost in the flock, the mothers get bewildered and don't know their own lambs; sometimes two ewes want the same lamb and the natural offspring is disowned and pushed aside. Again there are scores of unnatural mothers who desert their lambs, and refuse to own any lamb, thus making a surplus of foundlings on the hands of the shepherd. This wild excitement that prevails in the breeding flock for fully a month is enough to drive any nervous person distracted. Do the best you can and there are a lot of foster lambs on hand to be killed, or fed on the bottle, a business which hardly pays, unless it is to assist the poorly supplied lamb until its mother can fully care for it. In small farm flocks where there is only one or two hundred ewes in the flock, this work can be handled without much loss, but where the ewe flock reaches up into the thousands, a kind of wholesale management must be resorted to, and the division of the ewes with their new born lambs is a necessity of separating them from the main flock. This division is best carried out by numbering the ewes and the lamb with it; when the ewes are found, starting with 1 and running up to 200 at least; then change the color of your paint and commence again with one and so on until you get a flock of ewes and lambs as large as you desire. Then start another flock. The main thing is to get the ewe and the lamb to know each other; when this is done your labor with that pair is usually over with.

It is a good idea to have a woven wire corral for the lambs and ewes; this does away with the possibility of lambs getting out and wandering off or being taken by wolves or dogs. A wire fence of this kind and one-half or three feet high, with three or four strands of barbed wire above, makes a good fence for sheep corrals. The sheep business does not require much expensive preparation, but it does require an abundance of convenient corral and shed accommodation, so as to be able to sort over and properly classify your flock for advantage in administering needed care and attention.

Attention.

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