THE WOOL INDUSTRY OF CANADA

Steady progress continues to be made in the Canadian wool industry. According to the estimate of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd., the Dominion wool clip of the past season has been about 11,000,000 pounds, as compared with 10,000,000 pounds in 1925, an increase of about ten per cent. This is only the wool as removed from the mature breeding sheep and does not include any lambs' or pulled wool. According to the same authority the wool has, for the main part been removed in good condition, and there is every indication that gradually a superior product is coming from the producers of wool in this country. It is now only the occasional clip which reaches the market in any way unsuitable for sale in direct competition with the main grades from other countries.

This is in marked contrast to the situation a few years ago when wool produced in Canada was offered for sale in such an unsatisfactory state that even Canadian manufacturers regarded the domestic product with indifference. In considerable measure the revolution is due to the introduction of Government grading and the systematic marketing effected by the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, the producers' own organization. Today Canadian wool is not only used extensively in Canadian industry but is going in ever greater extent to foreign markets.

INCREASING PRODUCTION.

Figures of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers for the present season are indicative, not only of increasing production but of a growing conviction on the part of producers, of the profit in consistently marketing the wool on a graded basis. Ever since 1921 an increasing amount of the Dominion wool clip has been coming forward on consignment to the growers' own organization, for grading and sale on the collective basis, and 1926 has made the best showing to date. Approximately 3,750,000 pounds, it is estimated, will be handled co-operatively this year as against 3,270,000 pounds last year. All provinces, with the exception of the Maritimes, have registered increases.

Following are the wool consignments to the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers in 1926, with the figures for 1925 in brackets:—Alberta, 1,300 000 lbs. (1,550,000); Ontario, 760,000 lbs. (740,000); Saskatchewan, 535,000 lbs (420,000): British Columbia, 210,000 lbs. (161,000); Manitoba, 185,000 lbs. (160,000); Quebec, 192,000 lbs. (93,000); Nova Scotia, 67,000 lbs. (85,000); Prince Edward Island, 30,000 lbs. (40,000); New Brunswick, 19,000 lbs. (21,000).

The Eastern domestic wools, coming from Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces, have been quite up to the usual standard in the matter of length, strength of staple, and cleanliness. The Western domestic wools, as coming from the farm sections, are considered the best ever produced there. With regard to the range wool of Southern Alberta and Southern Saskatchewan, it is stated that the fleeces are easily from one to one and a half pounds heavier than the general average of six years ago. This is largely attributed to the wider use of fine wooled Rambouillet rams with the Western range flocks. Generally speaking, the efforts of Governments and livestock and wool growing organizations to promote the sheep industry in Canada would seem to be meeting with a gratifying success.

ONE HALF OF CLIP EXPORTED.

Approximately half of the wool clip of Canada remains in the Dominion for manufacture and the remainder is exported. According to trade returns in the twelve months ended July, 1926, Canada exported 6,456,671 pounds of raw wool valued at $2,255,232, as compared with 5,618,092 pounds worth $2,426,156 in the previous corresponding year, and 5,935,835 pounds worth $1,986,134 in the year ended July, 1924. Of the 1926 total 6,416,562 pounds worth $2,238,990 went to the United States, as against 4,731,794 pounds worth $1,956,899 in the previous year. The United Kingdom in the past year took only 17,868 pounds worth $6,622 as compared with 873,031 pounds wodth $463,399 in the previous year.

That there is very broad opportunity in wool production in Canada is indicated in the figures of imports. In the twelve months ended July last Canada imported 14,913,072 pounds of raw wool as against 13,827,686 pounds in the previous year. Of the current year's total 5,855,393 pounds came from the United States and 5,228,012 pounds from the United Kingdom. This is a volume greater than the entire Dominion production and suggests the need of expansion to meet domestic needs without regard to the possibilities of export.

A Rotation for Dairy Farmers.

A three-year rotation that Messrs. E. S. Hopkins and W. C. Hopper, of the Field Husbandry Division of the Dominion Experimental Farms, recommend to dairy farmers who require much silage and possess only a small acreage of land, consists of corn, grain and clover hay used in that order. This short rotation they point out is admirably suited to maintain the fertility of the soil. The clover crop coming once every three years helps to maintain the nitrogen and organic matter supply of the soil. The rotation, the authors also say, is not suited to the average farmer because it contains a rather larger acreage of corn and a smaller acreage of hay than is desired and is only applicable where it is thought advisable to feed the cattle indoors the entire year or where other land is available for pasture.

They advise the application of farm manure for the benefit of the corn crop. Unless the land is too rolling it is customary to spread the manure on the sod land during the winter and to plow it under in the spring.

The foregoing, it should be stated, is taken from Bulletin No. 72, published by the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, consisting of 57 pages dealing with crop rotations and soil management in Eastern Canada and procurable without cost by applying to the Publications Branch of the Department.

A four-year rotation described in the bulletin adds pasture to the rotation, but otherwise only differs from the three-year rotation in that the hay crop is allowed to stand two years instead of being plowed after one crop of hay has been secured. Then follow descriptions of five and six-year rotations, combination, double and other rotations and a great deal of matter on soil and methods of cultivations.

Why Cattle Should Be Dehorned.

Experience has abundantly proven that the man who offers horned commercial cattle for sale is acting disadvantageously to his own interests. In this connection the Chief of the Dominion Live Stock market intelligence division and the Dominion Animal Husbandman of the Experimental Farms, Messrs. P. E. Light and G. B. Rothwell respectively, in a pamphlet numbered 15 that is being reissued at Ottawa, and can be obtained at no cost by addressing the Publications Branch there, call upon breeders and farmers generally to "cater for higher market prices." Illustrations showing benefits derived by the cattle themselves emphasize the subject, but the reasoning employed more than justify the wisdom of dehorning.

Apart from the material gains shown by the pamphlet the following resolution unanimously adopted at a conference of governmental chiefs, professors from agricultural colleges, representatives of live stock associations, packers, railway men and the Canadian Council of Agriculture, should be sufficient to commend the practice and to ensure its general adoption. "Experience has proven," runs the resolution, "the great advantage from every standpoint of dehorning commercial cattle, and this conference is of the opinion that a great benefit would accrue to the livestock industry if all commercial cattle were dehorned." The resolution then goes on to appeal for the support of all interested and the encouragement of dehorning of commercial cattle between March 15 and April 15 or during the month of October.

The pamphlet proves that not only are better prices obtained for dehorned cattle, but that serious losses are avoided, that the cattle feed better, making greater gains, are in more demand, are in greater comfort themselves and are easier to handle. An extra large commission firm is quoted as saying: "No single step or operation in the handling of cattle yields bigger returns in money than the single act of dehorning."

Skim Milk for Laying Hens.

A four-year test at the Nappan, N. S., Experimental Farm shows that skim milk has a very high feeding value for laying hens. The experiment was conducted in order to determine the relative value of beef scrap and skim milk as a source of animal protein for poultry. The hens used in the test were divided into two pens and fed a regular grain mixture and dry mash. One pen was given beef scrap in addition and the other skim milk. Both pens received all the water they could take. Taking the average of four years the profit per bird over feed cost was $1.67 for the skim milk pen and 1.13 for the pen receiving beef scrap. The hens receiving skim milk laid considerably more eggs and cost slightly less for feed than did the others.

The Agricultural Representative Says—

What to do on a rainy day?

Always keep a list of the things that can be done in the shop or barn.

How many of your tools are under shelter now?

No man can live by one crop alone.

Your community reflects what you are and what you believe.

'Tis about stock-taking time.

Don't let January slip up on you without taking an inventory.

Limed land produces without a grouch.

You'll never find any money in farming—you'll have to work for it.

Make a map of your farm, showing fields and rotations.

If at first you don't succeed, lime and then sow clover.

Precautions Against Fire in Winter.

Read, mark, learn, and thoroughly digest is good advice regarding an article in the last number of Seasonable Hints, a periodical issued three times a year by the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa. The Dominion Animal Husbandman, G. B. Rothwell, dealt with the subject of farm fires and dwells on precautions against loss by fire during winter. As Mr. Rothwell suggests that although the menace of conflagrations by lightning, by carelessness of tramps, and to some extent by spontaneous combustion, is removed, there is danger in winter in the very concentration of the work and in the increase of the dark hours. First comes the necessity of care in the use of the stable lantern which should be kept clean, supplied with the best grade of oil, with well-trimmed wicks, and above all when out of hand should be placed well away from the ceiling, the walls, and any inflammable material. Mr. Rothwell truly says that aside from combustion arising during the early stage of hay storage the best preventive methods can be described in one word—orderliness. Avoid artificial heating in barns as much as possible but when absolutely necessary use the greatest care in selection of the instrument used, in handling, in material and in placing. Mr. Rothwell urgently advises no smoking in farm buildings and suggests that cards should be placed in prominent positions bearing the legend "No Smoking" or "Don't Smoke." Special care with matches and in dumping ashes is advised. Close outhouses rigidly at night and keep a good dog as precautions against the entrance of tramps. Keep a good fire extinguisher and have regard to the water supply and to the handiness of the hose are Mr. Rothwell's concluding items of counsel.

Alfalfa as a Feed.

While the writers of Bulletin No. 72 of the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa (Messrs. E. S. Hopkins and W. C. Hopper of the Field Husbandry Division, Experimental Farms) do not recommend alfalfa hay and grain alone as an ideal feed for cows, they point out that at certain experimental stations in the United States alfalfa and concentrates have given as good results as when corn silage has been fed in addition. They think that in districts where alfalfa will grow satisfactorily it might be used to advantage to replace the hay (usually red clover, alsike and timothy) and pasture frequently employed with grain as a cropping practice. Unless the land is well supplied with fertility in such a practice the writers say the yields of hay and pasture become so small as to be unprofitable.

While pointing out that on soil to which it is adapted alfalfa not only gives a much larger yield per acre than other hay crops but also possesses superior feeding quality, Messrs. Hopkins and Hopper wish it to be remembered that alfalfa pasture has a tendency to bloat ruminant animals, and that, consequently, considerable care should be exercised in placing them on the pasture. They add that it might be advisable to have in addition to the alfalfa some mixed clover and timothy pasture, both from the standpoint of the avoidance of bloating when the alfalfa was wet and as a protection against winter-killing.

Peas for Grain and Fodder.

The growing of peas has dropped to a low place on many Canadian farms. With a view to securing more productive varieties, the Experimental Farms have been crossing some of the sorts that were largely grown years ago. More than thirty years ago a variety of exceptional merit was produced from a cross between Mummy and Black-eyed Marrowfat. A pure line selection of this cross-bred variety was given the designation of Mackay Ottawa Number 25. In comparative trial plots on practically all of the Branch Farms as well as at Ottawa, for several years, this sort has produced large yields both of grain and straw. The peas are creamy in color but rather darker than most sorts and carry the black eye of the old Marrowfat. This variety yields well both of grain and straw making it an excellent fodder crop when sown with such varieties of oats as Banner or O.A.C. No. 72, which take about the same number of days to ripen. This mixture is giving excellent results in the form of hay for feeding to dairy cows and other stock. The Dominion Cerealist announces in his report for 1925, available at the Publications Branch, Ottawa, that a large number of farmers were this year supplied with seed of this variety for testing on their own farms.

Our Non-Freezing Pump.

We have a pump in our horse lot that was frozen up about half the time in winter. We put the cylinder about four feet below the ground surface and then drilled a small hole about the size of a shingle nail just above the cylinder in the pipe. That was two years ago and we have never had it freeze yet.

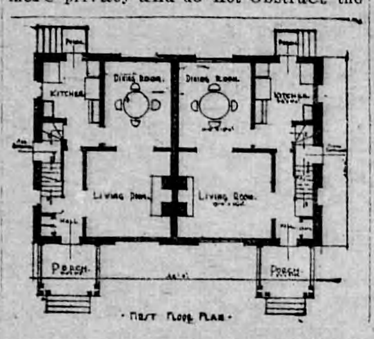
We also had the same trouble with our pipes leading to our tank under ground when the pipes would freeze. We finally made a false well at the lowest point of this pipe and put in a small hole to let the water drip out. We haven't had any more trouble with frozen pipes and pumps.—B. J.

THIS SEMI-DETACHED HOME IS DIFFERENT

By Walter Stuart Pavey, Architect

Many semi-detached homes possess very marked and objectionable tenement character but the tendency of this design is to create the impression of a private residence instead of accentuating the fact that it is not. The cottage roof, for instance, and the well separated front entrances both contribute to this effect.

The small porches are also an interesting departure from the full width verandah which has become such a common and deplorable feature of houses of this type. They afford much more privacy and do not obstruct the living room light.



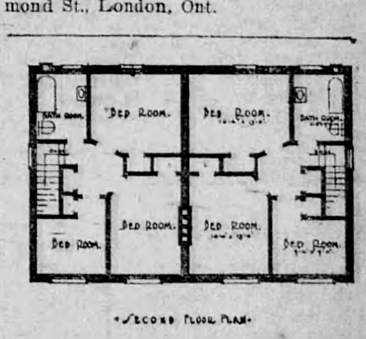
The dimensions are 42 ft. x 28 ft. Hollow tile backing and brick are suggested for the first floor walls with hollow tile and white stucco above. This permits the interior plaster to be applied direct to the tile or it may be furred and strapped, and then lathed and plastered in the usual way.

Good quality cedar shingles should be used on the roof. A very striking and attractive effect can be obtained by having the shingles dipped in several shades of brown and some red but remember also that the success of such a treatment depends on random variegation and should never suggest having been studied.

The well proportioned casement windows, with stationary shutters and window boxes painted a bright green, are not only pleasing from a strictly detail viewpoint but blend in perfect harmony with the ensemble. It may seem rather "de trop" to mention that the window sills are of brick with the brick laid on edge, but if the effect be good—surely the cause is important.

The floor plans show that the house at the right is slightly larger than the other. It is not noticeable from the perspective, which is absolutely symmetrical in every respect, but you will notice in the plans that the dividing partition wall is nearer the windows at the left. However, the layout of each house provides the same accommodation and convenience as regards the number and position of the rooms.

Readers desiring further information regarding the plans and specifications for this house should communicate with the architect direct. Address, Walter Stuart Pavey, 380 Richmond St., London, Ont.



THE PRETTIEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE

BY ETHEL CARPENTER.

When I first went to housekeeping I made up my mind that my kitchen would be the prettiest room in the house. There was nothing conventional about the kitchen; in fact, the floor plan of the room wasn't even squared, having three straight sides and one diagonal one. The walls and woodwork were in a shocking condition; the dresser was straight in front, whereas the wall back of it was diagonal; there wasn't even a draining board by the sink.

And yet the room had three lovely windows from which could be seen wide country views. Window views of the out-of-doors count so in kitchens where much work is to be done every day.

And I counted on mine not only to make working hours pass pleasantly but to inspire me to build in my room a proper frame of beauty around them.

The first year or so I didn't spend much money on my kitchen; instead I created what magic I could with paint and gay flowery stuff at the windows. Everything I did counted, and counted big.

AWAY WITH DULL KITCHENS.

I water-tinted the walls in cream; these had been pink and were flaking badly; but when I saw them in their new dress I was encouraged to paint the old dirty yellow woodwork a lovely peacock blue, which I made by mixing together light blue and porch-chair green—two-thirds of the former to one-third of the latter. I painted my floor a greenish blue too, but to this mixture I added enough varnish to insure good wear as a kitchen-floor finish, giving the floor two coats and promising it a fresh one about twice each year.

I was amazed at the difference already to be seen in the beauty of my kitchen. So I set out with a real thrill to choose my curtains and my little rag rugs. I found just the curtain material to lend sparkle to my scheme; it was a cretonne, showing a sweeping design of birds and flowers in orange red, black and blue on a cream ground, the design straggling sufficiently over the surface to allow plenty of the cream color to show through. I made these curtains on rings, and at night I pulled them together for privacy, a pleasant practice which dispensed with the need of window shades. Three tiny rag rugs in blue and red and black added a note of decoration to my floor as well as relieving the wear on those much-used sections in front of the sink, table and stove.

With such fine beginnings it was an easy matter to decide to use paint of a soft cherry rose for the interiors of my blue dresser and the interiors of a kitchen cabinet which had been done on the outside in cream color to match the walls of the room. Two wooden chairs and a stool were painted cherry rose too.

I just loved to work in this room, and perhaps that is why I canned more than I really needed during the first summer, for I saw several hundred jars of fruit, vegetables and preserves gradually and colorfully take their place along the shelves in my dresser and cellarway.

So often we hear kitchens discussed from the side of efficiency alone. But how can any room be a hundred per cent. efficient if it is not beautiful too? And the kitchen, of all rooms, may be, as I know, the prettiest room in the house if just a very few aids to beauty are tendered it. So let us have done with dull kitchens once and for all, striving instead for effects which radiate sunshine and cheer.

When we think of the quaint old colonial kitchens with their wide hearths, their hanging cranes and burnished copper, their settles of pine and tables of deal—kitchens which have been honored in classic poem and prose, and which are now found worthy of being reproduced not only in museums but in the homes of people who can afford such reproductions of quaintness—perhaps we realize more positively than ever before that the beauty as well as the efficiency of our kitchens is very near the heart and ideals of our land. And whether we strive for a beauty which is reproduced or a beauty depending upon a colorful simplicity or whether we depend upon our own planning, we may feel sure that our efforts will be worth while and repaid by lovely results.

In answer to the simplest planning any kitchen at all can be made beautiful. For every kitchen has walls, woodwork, windows and floor, the best places for beginning real kitchen beauty. As a further aid to real effect, in a kitchen there isn't the temptation to be too pretentious; this room cannot err as can so many others through being too overstuffed or too gilded or too plushed.

COLORFUL EFFICIENCY.

Here in the kitchen you have simple things like spindled chairs and rag rugs to deal with; you may have paint, and chintz, and rows of aluminum pans so well scoured they are as beautiful as pewter. You may enjoy the efficiency of tiers of convenient kitchen-cabinet units, and you may enjoy also the way you have painted them yourself to go with your own color scheme.

Kitchen color schemes should be sufficiently decorative to afford intense pleasure as everyday duties are done; it costs nothing more, really, to choose kitchen crockery of yellow when the woodwork of the kitchen is blue; it takes no extra time, really, to thrill with the joy of fixing red and yellow and green salad on a large plate of green.

Curtains used in the kitchen may be as colorful as desired, whether patterned or plain; but usually if there are valances these should be fulled rather than fitted. Curtain material, of course, should be washable, but cretonnes, calicoes, chintzes, ginghams and prints copying cheaply old toiles de Jouey, as a rule may be tubbed most successfully; it is the simplest matter in the world to wash a sample before purchasing the goods.

Pots of flowers on the window sills may be planned to accent the color scheme. A pewter plate or so, some candlesticks of brass, the recipe books in new jackets of calico or cretonne, some colorful bits of china picked up for the pure joy each affords, may lend special beauty to hanging wall shelves or shelves bracketed in some odd wall space just waiting for such improvement.

Ants in South America have been known to construct a tunnel three miles long.