PAINT UP FOR DULL WINTER DAYS

The New Colors and Kinds of Paint Have Great Value for Decorative Purposes.

BY JULIA W. WOLFE.

In these days color has become one of the most important factors in the decoration and beautifying of the home, and one of the simplest and most successful methods of introducing color into a room is by means of paint, and many new paint mixtures suitable for use on a variety of surfaces have been produced to meet the demand.

A most effective color note, for example, can be produced by painting a wooden floor with a special floor paint, or by using the same paint over a neutral-tinted linoleum. This paint can be procured in a number of shades, from a warm brown or soft gray to a vivid blue or bright buttercup yellow. A floor thus painted gives a note of color and gaiety to an otherwise dull and dreary room, and brings a change with the more usual scheme of intensified colors in wall or furniture.

From an economy point of view floor paint is also a great asset, for it can be used as a covering in the case of shabby or worn linoleum. It has a hard, non-chipping surface, and wears very well.

The painted floor is much in vogue these days. Many charming colors can be obtained by means of a painted floor in conjunction with rugs of contrasting or neutral shades, and softtoned draperies. The dreariest "backroom," or attic can be made "livable" if a colored floor is introduced in keeping with the furnishings.

The value of paint as a beautifier of the commonplace has not been altogether appreciated in the past; yet the most charming results can be accomplished with a little ingenuity. The dullest-looking chair, for instance, can be transformed into a thing of gayety by a coat of enamel and a decoration of fruit and flowers. Furniture painting is not a difficult art, and is sufficiently fascinating to be well worth while. Enamel gives the best results.

The preparation of the surface to be painted is an important step, and should be carefully attended to if satisfactory results are to be obtained. Any handles, knobs, etc., should be removed from the furniture and treated separately. The surface must be made perfectly smooth by rubbing well with either pumice stone or glasspaper. It should then be given a thin coating of "filler"—a flat paint for use underneath the final coating.

The "filler" is bought as a thick paste, and needs to be thinned down with turpentine before being used. The surface must then be allowed to dry thoroughly, and afterwards rubbed down once more with paper glass, and remember, all this preliminary care is essential in order to obtain an absolutely flat surface.

If the final coating is of enamel, care must be taken to apply it very thinly, otherwise the result will be uneven. Two coatings of thin enamel, evenly applied, are much more satisfactory than one thicker coating.

If floral decorations are to be first executed, the whole surface should first be painted, and then the portion to which the design is to be applied should once more be rubbed with glasspaper, and the design lightly drawn in with pencil before the colors are applied. A thin coating of light varnish should be finally given. All sorts of things can be treated in this way. A very successful window-box, for example, a man may make by fixing an oblong box of the right dimensions on to an ordinary towel-rack and painting the whole stand black—with perhaps a thin line or border of some gay color. The box can then be filled with flowers and is a distinctive piece in your living room.

Wickerwork lends itself to color and decorating very well, and by using enamel very charming effects can be secured.

Puddings English Children Enjoy.

CINNAMON PUDDING.

Weight of 1 egg in butter and sugar, weight of 1 egg in flour and half as much again, 1 teaspoonful of baking powder, 1 teaspoonful of cinnamon.

Cream the butter and sugar and add the eggs well beaten. Mix the flour, baking powder and cinnamon together and add to the mixture, beating all well together. Put in a basin and steam for three-quarters of an hour. Cinnamon sauce put over it is an improvement.

STRAWBERRY PUDDING.

Weight of 2 eggs in castor sugar, butter, and flour; half a teaspoonful of carbonate of soda and baking powder, 2 tablespoonfuls of strawberry jam. (Whole fruit if possible.)

Mix the sugar and butter together. Then add the flour and soda, and the eggs well beaten, and finally the jam. Steam for three hours.

Rather less butter may be used. For twice the quantity the weight of three eggs in butter will be sufficient.

LEMON PUDDING.

Three ounces of butter beaten to a cream, 3 ounces of castor sugar, 3 ounces of flour, 2 eggs, a little lemon rind grated and some juice, half a teaspoonful of baking powder.

Beat all the ingredients well together for 10 minutes. Put into a mold and boil for half an hour. Serve with sweet sauce.

SUET PANCAKES.

One-half pound of flour, ¼ pound of suet, 2 teaspoonfuls of sugar, 1 teaspoonful of baking powder, enough milk to make a stiff dough.

Mix all well together. Roll out about an inch thick. Cut into small rounds, and fry in lard until a nice golden brown. Serve hot with golden syrup or jam.

Precautions Against Foul Brood.

As precautionary measures against foul brood the Dominion Apiarist, Mr. C. B. Gooderham, in his bulletin on "Bees and How to Keep Them," recommends the adoption of the following: Never purchase colonies of bees unless absolutely certain they are free from disease; never feed bees with honey of unknown origin; if the bees need feeding give sugar syrup not honey; do not purchase old combs, used hives, or second-hand supplies unless it is certain that they come from healthy apiaries; keep all colonies strong; invite neighboring beekeepers to co-operate in the prevention and treatment of the disease; don't leave colonies to die on their stands and expose combs of honey taken from those colonies for bees to feed upon; transfer bees kept in box hives to hives with movable combs, and thoroughly clean and purify discarded receptacles that have contained honey from a diseased colony. Explicit directions are given for treatment of the disease in the bulletin which is numbered 33 and can be had free on applying to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Records recently unearthed show that a good chariot horse brought around $2,000 in Egypt at the time of the Romans.

FLARED IN THE PARIS MANNER

Semi-fitted to the figure, in accordance with new style tendencies, this princess frock developed in charmeen is distinguished by its four set-on, semi-circular panels. With front fastening, it displays a contrasting vestee and trim collar buttoned close up to the throat with small buttons. If desired the versatile collar may be worn turned down and look equally well. The foundation of this dress is plain both in the front and back. The edges of the flared panels are finished and sewn to the dress just part of the way or all the way to the lower edge. No. 1264 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust. Size 36 bust requires 5¾ yards 36-inch, or 3¼ yards 54-inch material. Price 20c.

The designs illustrated in our new Fashion Book are advance styles for the home dressmaker, and the woman or girl who desires to wear garments dependable for taste, simplicity and economy will find her desires fulfilled in our patterns. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Easy Stocking Mending.

Do you like mending stockings? I didn't until I devised the following method: Take the sock that requires mending and run a row of stitching around the worn part with a darning needle to prevent it fraying, then cut that part out. Cut the unworn part of the toe of a worn-out sock to the exact size of the piece cut out of the first sock, and set it in place, sewing with an over-and-over stitch.

Socks and stockings mended in this way are just as comfortable as new ones and can be mended in a fraction of the time it would require to darn them.

Corn is attacked by 300 different insects.

An After Christmas Tree Party.

What could be nicer than an After-Christmas Tree for the birds? If the winter has been a cold one, weed seeds may be getting scarce, and our little feathered friends and helpers will have to face hunger, as well as cold.

Of course, there ought to be a bird somewhere on the invitation. If you have a set of the little colored bird cards, cut those out and mount them on your invitation card. The invitation should read:

"Won't you please come
To my After-Christmas tree?
If you wish, bring some bread crusts
Or suet, for me.
Signed: Susy Sparrow,
Christopher Chickadee,
Billy Bluebird.
To be held at ———'s home (your own name here)
December — from two o'clock to five."

Add a postscript to your invitation asking each child to find a story about birds—a true one—that he either read, or heard from some one who saw it happen.

Since the After-Christmas tree is specially for the birds, the lunch for the children need be no more elaborate than time and means suggest. Hot chocolate, little sandwiches of chicken (or ham or beef run through the grinder and then thickened slightly) and jumbles cut with a bird-shaped cooky-cutter will be ample. A small evergreen branch stuck upright in a flower-pot or support of any kind and decorated with a few of the trimmings from the real Christmas tree, or any bits of gay paper and ribbon, will made a nice centrepiece. A cute little bird's nest at each child's place may be made by lining a cup or a little box with cotton, or fine hay. And a handful of jelly beans will serve delightfully as bird eggs.

The tree for the birds may be arranged according to your surroundings and the number of children invited. Where there are but few children, and only a small back yard, the After-Christmas tree can be made beautifully of an old broom, to the head of which the children tie their decorations. Put the tree up by thrusting the handle end into a large snowball, and put it as far from the house or any bird-danger point as possible. Or if there is no snow, put the handle in a hole in a box, so the broom will stand upright.

If you have plenty of trees, and expect a number of small guests, have strings a foot long which they can tie round the decorations, and before the party decide upon which tree you will decorate. It should be a small, naked one with boughs within reach of the decorators.

Lumps of suet make beautiful decorations; so do heads of wheat or rye if you can obtain them, and bread crusts, or a single cruller would be appreciated. Apple cores, too, will be very welcome. Scatter a few crumbs on the ground under the tree, and let the children watch from a convenient window. Unless there are no feathered folk in the neighborhood, you will find Susy Snowbird and all her friends eagerly responding, and flocking round their tree. Of course, the tree decorating should begin as soon as all the guests have gathered.

Tell them of the insect pests that would eat everything we plant, in spite of our continued fighting, if the little winged people did not have nests full of always-hungry babies who are eager for these insects. Then let the children in turn tell their bird stories.

Now it will be time for "the party," and afterward—especially if Susy and her friends are enjoying their party—it will scarcely be necessary to have any regular entertainment planned. But, either in the beginning, or else before the party is over, be sure to tell the children of how the people in Norway always gave the dear birds a Christmas tree, by tying a sheaf of wheat to a great pole and erecting it in the barnyard.

Care of Thermos Bottle.

The care of the cork of a thermos bottle which is used constantly for cocoa, milk or soups is a matter of importance, for the pores of the cork absorb and retain the liquids. Ordinary scalding or boiling is of little use, for the cork refuses to remain immersed.

To solve the difficulty take a small glass jar with a screw cover (a pimento cheese jar, for instance), just a little larger than the cork. Fill it with a solution of soda or of powdered soap and put to cork to soak in it. Screw on the top and allow it to stand for an hour or more. After removal rinse the cork thoroughly before replacing it in the thermos bottle.

If the thermos bottle itself is filled after washing with a solution of soda and water and allowed to stand thus overnight, it will keep sweet and clean.

Potato Chowder is Good.

Pare four large potatoes and cut them into neat cubes; chop fine a large onion and a tablespoonful of parsley. Arrange the potatoes, onion and parsley in layers in a kettle and pour a pint of water over them. Cover closely and cook until the potatoes are tender. Meantime cook to a paste a tablespoonful of butter and one of flour; then pour a pint and a half of rich milk which has been brought almost to the boiling point over the paste, stirring constantly till thick, then add to the chowder. Season nicely and serve at once, sprinkling with finely chopped parsley.

S.S. LESSON

January 10. Five Men Believe on Jesus. John 1: 19-51. Golden Text—Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.—John 1: 29.

ANALYSIS.

I. THREE CALLED, 35-42.

II. TWO MORE CALLED, 43-51.

INTRODUCTION—Jesus had a passion for disciples. The choice and training of these men formed a large part of his ministry. The success that followed his efforts is proof of his greatness. Insignificant men do not have a following. Jesus was a great leader drawing people by the fascination of his personality. He was also able to read character and tell what was in men, while nothing reveals his disinterested love more clearly than his devotion to these disciples who came to join his kingdom. The first public incident in Matt. 4: 18-22 is the call of the first few disciples. John also gives the place of primacy to the call of the five. It is the narrative of one who has been present himself and who vividly recalls the important scenes. The chapter is also of great value, as is John's Gospel generally, to make the Synoptic account more intelligible. The apparent absence of preparation for the incident of Matt. 4: 28 is explained by the fact here narrated, that these men had seen Jesus at an earlier time in Judea.

I. THREE CALLED, 35-42.

These men were disciples of John the Baptist and they had come from Galilee to the Jordan because of the deep impression made on them by this religious movement. They were seekers after truth. Their teacher had proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, and had represented him as a fan and sword and fire, but when Jesus appears, the Baptist sees him to be the "Lamb of God." Two of these disciples hear what their Master has said of Jesus and they follow him.

V. 37. Two disciples . . . followed. One of these is unnamed, but most will supply the name of John, the author of the Gospel. He keeps himself in the background and only refers to himself indirectly as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," 13:33; 19:35; 20:2, 21; 21:7. John dwells on the details of this great day. It meant so much to him. This was the first day he saw his Lord. His memory recalls everything connected with that event. The effect that Jesus produced on John was instantaneous. It was love at first sight. He came and abode that day, and also all the rest of his life. They went to see where he dwelt, but they forgot all about that in the wonder of this man who could reveal to them all the secrets of life, of God, and of heaven. They had found the Christ.

V. 40. One of the two . . . was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother becomes less known to the later church. Here is the agent in calling his brother.

V. 41. He first findeth. This may mean that while John went in search of his brother James, Andrew was the first to find his brother Peter. Andrew is again mentioned in ch. 6:9 in the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and in ch. 12:22 where he is associated with Philip in bringing the Greeks to Jesus, the first fruits of the Gentile world. Andrew was a choice missionary spirit to whom people came for counsel, a much trusted friend always included in the first division of the twelve, Mark 3:18.

V. 42. Simeon . . . Cephas. This man was to be the most famous of the group. His pre-eminence is noted from the earliest days. Jesus gives him the new name of Cephas, the Aramic equivalent of the Greek, "Peter a rock." In the early church he is commonly called Peter. His character was impulsive, and he likely longed for the strength that could resist temptation. Jesus promises him that of which he had so often dreamt; and coming years fulfilled the promise. Peter became the rock-man of the Church.

II. TWO MORE CALLED, 43-51.

V. 43. Jesus . . . findeth Philip. In this case Jesus himself seeks a disciple. He is again mentioned in ch. 6:5; 12:21; 14:8, and was a matter-of-fact man, not able to make any great venture of faith. He was inclined to rely on the judgments of others and did not trust himself. Therefore, Jesus seeks him out. Tradition says he was the follower who asked to be allowed to go and bury his father. However, he had the root of the matter in him, and he immediately goes off to call his friend. All he will say is "Come and see," but that is enough.

V. 45. Nathanael. One of the twelve also called Bartholomew, and usually mentioned along with Philip. He belonged to Cana and exhibited the local prejudice of the villager. "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" a rival to Cana, vs. 47, 48. Jesus meets this man with a word of praise and appreciation that surpasses him. An Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Jesus did not mean that he had no fault, but that he was absolutely honest and pure in his purposes, like Jacob after his conversion (Gen. 22:28), one of the finest products of Judaism. These words made a deep impression on Nahtanael and showed him that Jesus could read the deep thoughts of his heart, and one who could do this must be divine. Hence, the confession of v. 49, containing the highest titles that could be given to the Messiah, vs. 50, 51. The promise of Jesus goes back to the Old Testament Story of Jacob at Bethel who dreamt that there was a golden ladder with angels inviting him, Gen. 28:12. How much Jesus used the Scriptures! Jesus, who has solved the perplexities which Nathanael had faced under the fig-tree will bring him to a place where the flood of heavenly light will make all the future which is now dark as clear as day.

V. 51. The Son of man. This is the remarkable self-consciousness of Jesus who claims to be the ladder between earth and heaven, the Mediator who brings us to God.

Thus does John describe those memorable hours when Jesus received his first disciples, when these men took his yoke upon them and learned of him. This is the birthday of the church. "The kingdom is now astir. Man has begun to believe."

Cultivation of Alfalfa.

The most profitable farm crop on the Experimental Farm is undoubtedly alfalfa, remarks the Dominion Field Husbandman, who in his annual report tells of the methods pursued there in sowing and cultivation. It has done well both on sandy soil and heavy clay. Good natural drainage is necessary for success with alfalfa, says Mr. E. S. Hopkins, the Husbandman. The soil should not be acid or sour. The most economical method of trying this crop is to include a few pounds of the alfalfa seed along with the regular hay mixture. Only Canadian-grown alfalfa seed should be used, as the crop resulting from seed produced in southern countries will be killed out in severe winters. On land that has not grown alfalfa or sweet clover previously the alfalfa seed should be inoculated. Care should be taken to clean the field of weeds, especially couch grass, before seeding. If it is intended to leave a field in alfalfa for a number of years, which has not previously grown this crop, continues Mr. Hopkins, it would be wise to grow on it a mixed hay crop, including alfalfa, first and then, at some later period, seed to alfalfa. In any case it is wise to add a few pounds of timothy seed to fill in any low spots in the field in which the alfalfa might get killed. Five pounds of timothy to fifteen pounds of alfalfa will serve. While the choice is not important as a rule barley is preferable as a nurse crops to oats or wheat. At the Experimental Farm in Ottawa it is customary to seed down with oats.

Killing and Dressing Turkeys.

Dress your turkeys before sending to market. This is the advice given by the Poultry Division of the Dominion Experimental Farms. Turkeys are easily dressed because of their thin coat of feathers. Before killing, advises Mr. Taylor of the Division in his bulletin on Turkey management, starve the birds twenty-four hours, during which time they should be confined to a pen and given all the fresh water they will drink. This improves the flavor of the flesh and cleans the intestines. Execution best results from bleeding in the throat, the sticking being done through the mouth. By pushing the knife up through the roof of the mouth and giving it one turn, plucking is made much easier. A can should be suspended from the beak to catch the blood. The flight wing feathers and the tail feathers may be left on as well as the head and feet and the birds left undrawn. Dressed birds, says Mr. Taylor, should be thoroughly cooled before being packed. Packing may be done in barrels or boxes, the birds being arranged firmly to prevent movement while in transit.

Machine Stitching.

When making a coat or any garment which I wish to give a tailored appearance, I loosen the shuttle screw of the sewing machine slightly. Then fill the bobbin with a rope silk and thread the needle with a botton thread. I then make several rows of stitching around the collar and cuffs or any other place where a fancy stitching may be used. This resembles the tailor's stitching and removes the home-made look from a garment.—A. M.

CUTTING DOWN THE FARM "OVERHEAD"

BY P. C. GROSE.

Of late years we have been giving more thought and study to the overhead costs in our farm methods, and we have been able to reduce them a great deal. We began by classifying the amounts that we put back into the farm each year, that couldn't be directly charged up to crops or stock. For instance, what we spent for fertilizer was not counted, as that would be charged against the crops. But there were the sums we spent for repairing or replacing fences, opening up inactive drains, repairing farm buildings, insurance costs, and all those little costs that come along each year to keep the equipment in shape.

When we began our figuring, we found that our farm of 140 acres had 880 rods of line fences. Half of this had to be built and maintained by us, thus making 440 rods of line fence. A highway cut through our farm, thereby adding 160 rods of highway fence. Our interior fences amounted to 560 rods. This made a total of 1,160 rods of fence that we had to maintain. This may seem like a lot of fence for a 140-acre farm—and I'll admit we were a bit dumbfounded when we figured it up for the first time—but I think most farmers will be surprised when they sit down and figure the total investment they have in fences. A dollar a rod is a conservative estimate of the cost of fence, counting anchor posts, etc., and many farmers place it much higher, but at that low figure, we had $1,160 invested in fences of various kinds.

LESS MONEY IN FENCES.

Where land is pastured and fences are exposed to the ravages of stock, ten years is a pretty good life for a fence. But assuming that a fence lasted an average of ten years, that meant that we had an annual fence-replacement cost of $116.

We began by rearranging our fields, making them larger and thereby reducing interior fences. At that time we had two lanes on the farm totaling a length of 160 rods. After the rearrangement, we had reduced this to 80 rods. Our interior fences now total just one-half what they formerly totaled; in other words, a reduction of 280 rods. This means that we have reduced our annual fence cost $28, besides increasing the amount of ground under cultivation.

LARGER FIELDS, TOO.

We now use what we call a portable roll of fence (a 40-rod roll) which we put up temporarily whenever we want to divide one of the large fields for pasture purposes; a stretch that long reaches across any of our fields. When it is no longer needed at its last place each fall, it is taken down, rolled up, and the next spring is placed on a sled and drawn to its new place and unrolled. This work is done during the slack season, so that the labor is of no consequence. The posts need be set only a short distance in the ground, as they will stand only a few months. Steep posts are used, as they can easily be driven into the ground or lifted after a rain. The two ends of the woven wire are permanently fastened to two scantlings as long as the height of the fence. These scantlings are then secured to the anchor posts with other wires. This prevents the ends of the fence being broken off by being repeatedly bent and twisted each time the fence is set up.

Our larger fields save us time and worry in using the large implements like binders and hay-loaders, as turns do not have to be made so frequently. The reduction in lanes and fence rows give us considerably more tillable land.

Fence upkeep is but one item in farm "overhead," and this shows how we succeeded in reducing that item. Others could be cut down in the same way.

Care of Turkeys in Winter.

Turkeys should not be inbred. Mr. A. G. Taylor of the Poultry Division, Dominion Experimental Farms, says in his bulletin on "The Care and Management of Turkeys" that in mating the males should be unrelated to the females. Well matured birds of good constitution and vigor should be chosen for breeding. Small birds should not be retained as progenitors, but it is not necessary that the largest should be chosen. Good bone is a necessity. Breeding turkeys, says Mr. Taylor, should not be confined to houses during the winter, but should be allowed to roam during the day. At night the only shelter required is a straw barn or closed-in shed, any building that will not admit rain or snow being suitable. During the winter breeding turkeys should receive limited rations, as otherwise a tendency to over-fatness will be manifest. Hard grains are preferable to mash or ground grain in feeding. Equal parts of oats, wheat and buckwheat are suitable during the cold months, but in spring the buckwheat should be discontinued. Once daily in the winter is often enough to feed. The grain should be scattered in a litter (the threshing floor in the barn is a good place) and the birds allowed some exercise in scratching for it. Grit and oyster shell should be placed where the turkeys can help themselves. Clean water should be provided once a day. Turkeys should be wintered where they are expected to lay in the spring.

Clean Battery Tops.

It is a good plan to take the storage battery out of the car occasionally, or whenever its top assumes a wet or moist appearance. Then, after seeing that the vent plugs are tight, turn a hose on it and wash it off thoroughly. This removes the acid that seeps out of all batteries and attacks terminals and battery box.

Corroded terminals can be quickly cleaned with ordinary baking soda or saleratus dissolved in water. However, use care that none of this solution gets inside the battery. A coat of paint applied after the battery box is clean and dry will make it last longer.

Gay Place Cards.

I wished to have something new in place cards for a family dinner. So I bought some of the common honey cakes covered with white icing and wrote the names on them with a toothpick dipped in candy color. Everyone seemed pleased with the novelty.—E. J. H.

Large numbers of persons are leaving the country for the city all the time. This is very much as it should be. If all the boys and girls growing up in the country should stay there we should have to split our farms in two almost every generation, which would be the surest way in the world to make peasants of our farmers.

Walk your corn to market.

No one should fear a decline in our rural population. The fewer farmers there are the more profit there will be for those who remain, and the more profit there is in farming the more competent farmers there will be.

Our brains are capable, if properly trained, of retaining any number of different vocabularies, although some persons have a greater facility for acquiring foreign languages than others.

SHEEP ON THE SMALL FARM

The sheep industry of Western Canada, for the stimulation and development of which so many campaigns have recently been vigorously prosecuted by governments and livestock organizations, has in the past largely had regard to the raising of this animal in great numbers under range conditions. It has been the exception to find sheep raised intensively on the smaller farms of Western Canada and the sheep-raising territory has for the main part been strictly limited to the ranges of the south.

According to report at the present time, however, a greater number of farmers in the Western provinces are contemplating the addition of a small herd of sheep to their other diversified activities, and having regard to modern cattle developments in the cattle industry in this area, considerable is to be expected from this movement. An anticipated deleterious effect to the cattle industry through the curtailment of the range was followed by a greater cattle population of superior qualities raised on the intensive farm, and something of the same development may in time be looked for in sheep.

RAISING ON SMALL SCALE.

Space was recently given to the opinion of various authorities on the opportunities sheep raising in Canada offered to-day, and these may well be followed up by the experience and advice of J. Howell, an Australian sheep breeder, who settled a few years ago in the vicinity of Irricana, Alberta. Mr. Howell had studied sheep farming in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and set out to adopt the methods of these successful sheep countries rather than those which have been followed for so long on the ranges of the south. The best support of his advocacy of this system is the fact that in five years of farming he has made a net profit of $15,000 from his sheep alone.

He advocates the raising of sheep under fence rather than herded on the range, basing his argument on the well-founded discovery of sheep countries that herded sheep require five times the acreage of sheep under fence. He is a strong supporter of the raising of sheep on a small scale on the Western Canadian farm, his experience being that one sheep will winter satisfactorily on a quarter of a pound of oats per day and will fatten on one-half pound per day. He is of the opinion that there is scarcely a farm in Alberta to-day—which would equally apply to all of Western Canada—which could not carry at least fifty ewes per farm at great profit.

According to the last return of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1924 there are 240,681 sheep and 183,877 lambs in the Prairie Provinces. This works out at less than one sheep per farm in that broad area. Supposing each farm were stocked with but half the number of eyes advocated by Mr. Howell, this would give the Prairie Provinces a sheep population of nearly six and a half millions, or four times as many as there are in the entire Dominion to-day.

SHEEP POPULATION INCREASING.

In the period from 1922 to 1924 the average value of sheep in the Prairie Provinces ranged from $7.00 to $10.00, the prices being highest in 1924 largely by reason of the demand for stock by smaller farmers. In the period April to July, 1925, inclusive, the average prices at the Winnipeg market were: light sheep, $7.70; common sheep, $4.60; good lambs, $13.20; and common lambs, $10.00. In 1924 the average returns from wool, unwashed and washed respectively, were in Manitoba 20c and 24c per lb., Saskatchewan 23c and 26c, and Alberta 23c and 27c. At these prices sheep farming would seem to be quite a profitable addition to Western Canadian agricultural activity.

Very rapid progress has been made in recent years in the various issues affecting sheep raising in Canada, and the increase in sheep population has not been in anything like justifiable proportion. In this lies the gist of present-day opportunity in raising sheep in Canada. It has been satisfactorily demonstrated that Canada can raise sheep in competition with any country, and Canadian wool is now so graded that it is a standard product realizing the best prices. It is gratifying to note the increasing interest Western Canadian farmers are evincing in sheep, further indicated in a substantial increase recorded between 1924 and 1925, but it will be some time before that area has the population its opportunity in this line warrants.

Revealed by Violet Rays.

A new and valuable use for ultra-violet rays was revealed at the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, Paris, by M. Samaran, who said it had been possible to read the original texts in palimpsest documents with them. Many books and scrolls during the Middle Ages were obscured by scribes in order to write the records and chronicles of their own time instead. Thus many priceless documents were lost, among which were the missing books of Livy. By inspecting the palimpsests with the ultra-violet rays the inferior layers can be easily read, where chemicals have been tried and failed to produce results.

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