

## Handling Wool Co-operatively

(1) Grading Wool in Alberta.  
(2) Sheep on an Irrigated Farm in Alberta.

**E**IGHT years ago, after thoroughly investigating the sheep industry in Canada, the sheep commission reported: "From a marketing point of view, the wool of the world is handled in a worse manner than Canada. As far as the wool of native breeds and cross breeds go, we do not know of any country where it is handled in such an unsatisfactory way and delivered in such bad condition."

Having reached this conclusion, the commission intimated that the way was open to find a remedy for the trouble. It was soon after this that the Canadian Department of Agriculture was organized, and by 1914 the work of applying the remedy had begun. This consisted of the organization of wool growers' associations throughout Canada, the direction of their efforts in producing good wool, and in classifying it. During 1914, the first year of the work, 206,129 pounds were graded for societies organized in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. The following year, through 19 organizations distributed over Canada, 120,000 pounds were classified and offered for co-operative sale. The season of 1916 saw 1,712,596 pounds, while in 1917 this was increased to 2,957,909 pounds.

It was early in 1917, because of peculiar war conditions, that Martin Burrell, then Minister of Agriculture, recognizing the importance of centralizing the sale of wool, and the advantages that must accrue from having one centre of operation, sanctioned the rental of suitable premises in Toronto, for the storage of the wool of the various associations where clips would be graded by the wool experts of the live stock branch, and shipped out where purchased. This led to the further step of 1918 in the organization of the Co-operative Wool Growers' Limited as the central agency for the disposal of wool shipped in and collected from all parts of Canada.

Whereas, when the central warehouse was first established, it was estimated that as much as 2,000,000 pounds of wool might be received during

1919, no less than 2,500,000 pounds of wool had been sold up to the end of August, 1918, due to the associations in the various provinces putting together. After that amount had been sold a considerable quantity of wool remained in storage, but it was anticipated that all would be disposed of at favorable prices, which was later proved true.

Thus co-operation in a few years actual service proved the revolutionizing factor in the wool industry in Canada. Breeder and farmer were quick to learn the oft-repeated lesson that to get the best prices the best must be produced. Formerly the wool was sold in bulk for what it would bring. To-day, under the new work plan, the wool is sorted and inspected, grade values becoming apparent, and sheepraisers are learning more and more to recognize the importance of care in selection, industry in keeping and the exercise of intelligence in shearing, packing and shipping.

In Manitoba there has been a decided increase in the number of sheepowners who market their wool through the co-operative system. In 1915, 39,000 pounds reached the warehouse; in 1916, 154,000 pounds; in 1917, 170,000 pounds, and in 1918, 335,000 pounds were received. In 1917 there were 455 sheepowners who participated in the work, while in 1918 this number increased to 517. The grading system has had a marked effect on the quality of the wool, and graders as well as grades uplift the belief that the co-operative work in this nation is doing an incalculable amount of good, and increasing the revenue derived by the sheepowner from the sale of his wool. In former years, when wool was sold at a flat rate, the importance of keeping the wool in a clean condition and avoiding tyeing with binder twine, as well as moving the black and ran with the pounds of wool might be reduced to

seedy and dead, with higher grade wool, was not appreciated, and resulted in a serious loss in revenue to farmers and a serious wastage of a product much in demand.

It cannot be gained that wool sold under the co-operative system has on the average brought a much higher price than could have been obtained by farmers selling to local buyers. This fact is evident to the sheep-raiser, as evidenced by the increasing number of Manitoba patrons.

How the fire of co-operation is best spreading over Saskatchewan is best evidenced by a few figures, showing the development of the industry since 1914, as follows:

No. of Sheep	Average price per lb.
1914, 1,113,000	55.40
1915, 1,318,000	55.28
1916, 1,447,000	55.25
1917, 1,423,000	55.21
1918, 1,495,000	55.25

It will be noted that the 1918 business was 50 per cent over the 1917 business. The Southern Saskatchewan Wool Growers' Association, which is a co-operative organization, has been the most successful in the province, being the first to organize and to handle its wool. In Alberta, likewise, a large territory for one agency to handle, there are three organizations mentioned in the 1918 report, each revealing a large increase in business. These are the Provincial Sheep Raisers' Association, the Alberta Live Stock Association, and the Pincher Creek Wool Growers' Association. These three agencies did not in the past represent any provincial system in Canada. In 1918, when they combined, graded and shipped 1,200,000 pounds of wool of various grades. L. W. Dyer (Times Herald).

## Remarkable Story Told

By Maria Botchkareva,  
Leader of Death Battalion

**M**Y name is Maria Botchkareva. You probably first heard of me when I formed the Women's Death Battalion in Russia. But, dear me, I had experiences before that. I was in the war from the beginning. It was only after the revolution that I formed the Women's Battalion to shame our men who would not fight to drive out the Germans. In the army my name was "Yashka," and that is what I called my book, which Isaac Dou Levine has written for me, because I am one of those 90 per cent. illiterate peasants in Russia of whom you have heard often enough. I can hardly write my name. I am thirty years old.

My parents were utterly poor and destitute. My father was born in serfdom. When he married my mother he gave her her first pair of shoes as a wedding present. My mother's mother, my grandmother, had worked from sunrise to sundown for ten kopecks a day, or five cents in your money. I myself began to work when I was eight years old. I worked for three years in a grocery store, cooking and scrubbing from morning till night, and sleeping on a box in the passageway. I received a ruble a month and my board. When I was fifteen I had a position as a domestic servant, for which I received seven rubles a month. I was seduced by a promise of marriage by one of the officers in the household.

I then married, at fifteen, Afanasi Botchkarev, a common moujik. The day after we were married we both went down to the docks to hire our-



MARIA BOTCHKAREVA.

Prussians in sailor suits. The Prussian Junkers are very angry with the German navy. The following letter appeared in the Women's Supplement of the German Deutsche Zeitung over the signature of a certain Frau Agnes von Below:

"It has hitherto been a common custom to dress our children in sailor suits. Our youth, the pride of Germany, must no longer be permitted to wear this dress, for it has been besmirched with dirt and blood. From the sailors have come all the misery that has broken over our country and that is still to come. They alone bear the guilt for the disgraceful conditions of armistice and peace, and later on they will themselves curse their deed. German mothers, away with the sailor suits! Give the children different dresses of home-made cloth, that may not always be reminded of that crew without a country."

Wireless For All Airplanes. One essential to the development of a long-distance airplane service for passengers, mails, and parcels delivery, is the use of wireless telegraphy. All the airplanes used in this service will, like every large ship, carry wireless and an efficient operator, thus making it possible to send telegrams from any part of the world, on sea or land to the airplane during its voyage. The airplane will also receive regular messages regarding the weather conditions in the regions towards which it is heading and will therefore be able to adjust its course to avoid fog and other dangers.

Conserving Steel. Great Britain's efforts to conserve steel and iron have resulted in the development of an asbestos and cement material that is being used instead of corrugated iron for roofing purposes. It is made by mixing one part of finely ground asbestos to six parts of Portland cement. When made into paste by the addition of water, it is rolled into sheets which after being trimmed, are corrugated and then seasoned. The asbestos serves as reinforcement.

A Japanese Invention. A sub-sea magnet, invented in Japan, promises to be of great assistance in locating sunken vessels, to recover which salvage operations on a big scale are expected after the war. Tests on this magnet have recently resulted in bringing up thousands of Japanese shells, fired in practice at the base of the sea, and it is hoped that it will be used in extracting shell scraps from European battlefields. The value of the iron at present is huge.

and complete, including the front. Talk has killed Russia. Both Kerevsky and Rodzianko, president of the Duma, supported the plan to form a Women's Death Battalion to shame the men who refused to fight. I shall never forget that day in the great cathedral when they gave me the banner with my name, Maria Botchkareva, written upon it. I also appeared on the platform and spoke with Kerevsky and others.

But I soon had trouble with the Bolshevik agitators, who tried to prevent the organization of the battalion, and with Kerevsky himself, who insisted that there should be no punishments or discipline, and that I should form committees. Committees had destroyed the Russian army, and I refused. I defied Kerevsky and he was very angry. I told him committees did nothing but talk. I believed in discipline. I sometimes slapped the girls. During one of our abortive and costly offensives, while our company was being cut to pieces, I deliberately in the rear for some distance to come to our aid. When I saw one of my girls and a soldier making love, I bayoneted the girl. The man escaped.

The Bolsheviks became stronger and never ceased their attacks upon the battalion. Twenty of my girls were lynched by the maddened soldiers, who wanted everybody to lay down his arms, and did not care whether the country was given over to the Germans or not. In April, 1919, I came to America to ask your intervention to help to save Russia. You may think my story reads like a dime novel. If so, there is at least one dime novel that is true. It is I, Botchkareva, who was called Yashka by the army, who tells you this. Of all the stories of the war, perhaps mine is the strangest. I hope you will read my book, and pray for Holy Russia that she may be saved from the nightmare of terror that has overwhelmed her.

## THE BATTLE OVER BANAT.

Rich Territory Claimed by Roumanians and Serbia.

Banat, in Southeast Hungary, where Roumanian and Serbian claims conflict, is rich in agriculture, minerals and history. Political football of continental powers for centuries, Banat has been the theatre of the course of European history, experiment station for early reclamation projects and scene of a pioneer "back to the farm" movement. Banat never has cut a large political figure on its own account.

The district derives its name from a "ban" government it never had. A territory named by a "ban," who corresponds to the German "markgraf," or the early Polish "plan," meaning master or lord, was known as a Banat under former Hungarian designation. Banats of Dalmatia, Bosnia and Croatia disappeared during the Turkish wars, but curiously, the name clings to the counties of Torontal, Temes and Krassó-Szörény, though this group never was ruled by a "ban."

Long referred to as "the Banat," the region to-day commonly is called Banat. Sometimes it is described more exactly as "Banat of Temesvar," thus identifying it by its principal city, less than 200 miles south of Budapest.

Hemesvar, picturesque and busy before the World War, bears both scars and monuments of its eventful history. Its springs were known to the Romans. The Tartars destroyed it. Its diet was the foundation for the Hungarian representative system. New Temesvar was defeated the peasant forces headed by Stephen Dosza, in their encounter with John Szapolyai of Transylvania four centuries ago. Dosza was captured, a throne of fire was built in mock honor of the "King of Peasants," and as he was placed amid the flames a red hot crown was set upon his head. Thus Dosza's name became a Hungarian byword for heroism, and, according to popular belief, Szapolyai was smitten with blindness for his cruelty.

To-day the crumbling walls of the inner city of Temesvar, from which radiate avenues, like wheel spokes, to four suburbs, bear testimony of the strong fortifications built by King Charles Robert of Anjou, one of the most powerful monarchs of his day. Rich agricultural lands about the city and throughout Banat, recall the drainage of marshes, swamps and thick forests, instituted by Maria Theresa, the "Good Queen Bess" of Austrian history, who, incidentally, almost accomplished the overthrow of Frederick the Great. She failed, partly because Russia abandoned the Allies of the seven years' war.

An arsenal stands where Hunyadi Janos built a castle fifty years before Columbus set sail for America. That famous Hungarian general is credited with being one of the first military leaders to substitute strategy and organization for personal courage. So successful was his theory that he all but drove the Turks out of Europe.

Conspicuous in Temesvar's principal square is a Gothic shaft, ordered there by Emperor Francis Joseph, in recognition of the city's defenders during a 107-day siege against Hungarian revolutionists in 1848.

Banat is an area a little smaller, and has a population slightly greater than the state of Maryland. Temesvar to-day has a population about equal to that of London, Ont.

## Locating a Bullet.

The army surgeon now finds that by connecting one terminal of a telephone with a moistened electrode applied to the patient's skin and the other terminal to a metallic probe it is possible to discover a bullet located in a man's body. Directly the probe touches the bullet inbedded in the tissues a grating sound is heard in the telephone receiver. This method not only reduces the time of search, but prevents serious disturbance of the patient's tissues.

## Animals That Weep.

Among the creatures that weep the most easily are the mammals. All hunters know that the stag weeps, and the giraffe is not less sensitive, and regards with tearful eyes the hunter who has wounded it.

## Fresh Strongly in Favor

Of Russian Conference.

## Held on Princes' Islands

**T**HE moral prospects of entering into negotiations with the Bolshevik Government may be argued pro and con; but it is difficult to see what else the Allies could in regard to Russia. This seems to be the general trend of editorial opinion on the question of the Princes' Islands conference. On the other hand, it is universally pointed out that for the contending parties in Russia it would be suicidal not to accept the invitation, especially after the Bolsheviks have declared their intention to attend.

One writer summarizes the situation thus:

"The Allies greatly desire a settlement of the Russian question, and will have scant patience with any group which refuses to negotiate. A parallel might be found in the case of a labor war which has no exhausted tolerance that either labor or capital by refusing concessions might easily cause a shifting of sympathy toward the other side."

"This psychological side of the case the Lenin Government has not overlooked, and the rival governments cannot afford to overlook it, either. If sympathy with the Bolsheviks is still confined to very narrow circles, it is obvious that sympathy with their opponents has waned very rapidly of late."

It is equally to the interest of the Allies and the non-Bolshevik Russian parties, some writers contend, that the latter should be represented in full at the Prinkipo conference. It would be most unsatisfactory for the representative of the Allies to meet with the Bolsheviks alone. That would be tantamount to a direct treaty with an organization that is generally regarded as an outlaw. Possibly, however, acceptance by the Bolsheviks will cause a reconsideration by the other Russian elements.

That for the Allies the condition sine quo non for parleying with the Soviet Government is the latter's recognition of the Russian national debt is generally emphasized. Says the Ottawa Citizen:

"We learn now that Lenin has accepted the Soviet Government's policy of the bond interest on the foreign debt of the country, and that with this concession he will go to the conference on Princes' Islands with the armor of a declared business. As a matter of fact, he will not go otherwise. The first of Russia's good faith to be demanded by the Allies would have been the recognition of the responsibility of whatever government Russia would have, ultimately, for the bonds in question, unless Russia conceded that the Allied and neutral nations would be treating with an outlaw nation in a commercial sense and all the treaties and agreements that could be entered into in the circumstances would not help matters. No country will treat with a man who has repudiated his honest debts."

"Turning to the foreign press, it may be said in general that the British newspapers, all except the extreme Tory organs, favor the plan of the Princes' Islands meeting, whereas the majority of the French press are distrustful and even hostile. The London Mail says the assumption that the calling of the conference means recognition of the Bolsheviks is "too hasty."

"Le Figaro" implies the warning that this measure of conciliation may sow the seed of dissension between the Allied powers themselves, pointing out that the French radicals are capitalizing Wilson's stand for the purpose of opposition to their own Government.

## Gen. Foch's Golf Tactics.

Now we know where Marshal Foch got his strategy. The great Frenchman plays golf—not a professional game, but in a safe and sane amateur manner, and he hates to lose a ball.

Also he hates to waste time from the game to hunt up the missing. So after the day was over he would take his flash-light and patrol over the links after the stray. Almost invariably he would come in with more balls than he started with. No one could identify the derelicts, and so they went into his box.

That was how it was that the Germans were surprised so often and how so many of them were rounded up in the dark. The careful golfer should make a good tactician.

## Almanacs.

The first written almanacs were probably compiled by the Greeks of Alexandria between 100 and 150 A.D. Calendars are much older, the ancient Romans having proclaimed the first of the month, and posted a notice of its occurrence in a public place. The first of the month thus came to be called Kalends, from "I call" or "I proclaim," and thus the word calendar was derived. Probably the oldest calendar in existence was found in the ruins of Pompeii. It was cut upon a square block of marble, upon each side of which three months are registered. The first almanac printed in Europe covered the years 1475, 1484 and 1513, and was published at Buda, Hungary.

## Peanuts.

The peanut growing industry in the Salt River Valley of Arizona has made a long stride in the last year. From a few scattered acres of a few years ago the area planted to peanuts in that district has grown until it now reaches 1,000 acres. The yield to the acre averages two hundred pounds.

## No Women Allowed There.

The Asiatic town of Malakoff, on the borders of Russia, is peopled by men only. Women are forbidden entrance there.

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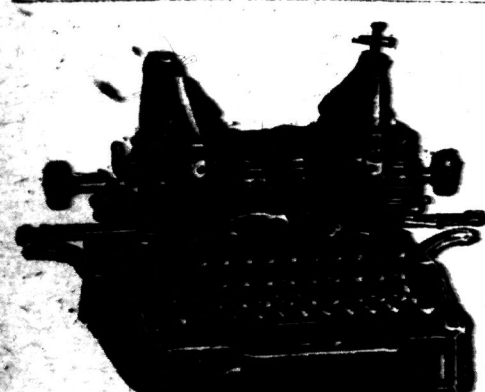
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**Worth It.**  
Tommy (laid up from eating too much Christmas dinner)—I feel awfully sick, ma, but it was worth it.

## Irrig

**F**EW agriculturists grow to produce more than the crop. Lethbridge in the driving through wards the end of prominent official Government at Ottawa making an extensive Canada, remarked most prosperous condition he had whole of his trip. In relative. All over there are very pure modern home well fitted granaries of live-stock and subject the welfare of the nation may be given.

Driving into one from the east, one immediately improves settlement, the settlement, the de-alphs, in which he are pasturing the buildings, mostly of the wall fenced evidence of a prospering built up on not sure of the fast of whole of the territory this village has grown. But a very highway siding of an active business lumber yard, has general stores, hay facilities, bank and the community is of the best and modern solidified schools in. Probably no other Canada has received who have purchased average price while by those who have. Coalmine communities two years. Many have come from the of the States, particularly, Idaho and illustration will show the value placed by this territory. A chased a farm four acre at \$102 an acre the quarter section, \$100 an acre. This improvements over a dow. But the pro-



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