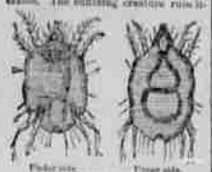
VERMIN ON SHEEP.

Small but Wicked Foes of the Sheep Raiser.

Owing to their thick, warm fleeces, sheep are more subject to vermin than other animals. The three worst pests that trouble them are the sheep tick, sheep louse and scab mite. Illustrations of all three are given below. By far the worst is the scab mite, which is something similar to the tick mite that attacks the hands of dirty people. Crozier says that if a lock of wool from a scabby sheep is laid upon a sheet of white paper there will be seen particles which look like moving dust. These are scab mites. They are vermin in their ravages. They burrow into the animal's skin under the wool and set up a running sore. The sore becomes caused with a scab and the wool pack off. The thinking is intolerable. The suffering creature runs to



Under side. Upper side.
SHEEP SCAB MITE.

self against fences and trees in its efforts for relief, and it leaves wool and mites scattered along its way, and the next sheep that comes past there will get the infection.

When wool from a scabby sheep is sold and passes into the hands of the wool sorters, the mite attacks their hands and produces wool sorters' itch. It is to be dreaded more than any other scourge of sheep breeders, except perhaps dogs, and for this reason must be guarded against rigidly. The moment a sheep in a flock is seen to be losing its wool and rubbing itself against posts and buildings, examine it at once, to see if there is not a scab where the rubbing and bare spots are. If so, separate it from the rest of the flock, and give it a dip into a mixture composed of four ounces of tobacco juice, or coarse tobacco, and one of sulphur, mixed and steeped thoroughly in a gallon of boiling water. This should be the proportion and the quantity used should be sufficient to cover the sheep all over except its head. The liquid should be hot when the animal is dipped, not less than 120 degs. Rub the scab entirely off with a very rough cloth. In two weeks repeat the dip and the animal will be cured.

The loss from the scab mites to sheep raisers cannot be calculated. Some times whole flocks are destroyed. As a precautionary measure, many extensive sheep owners practice dipping their flocks once a year in a sulphur and tobacco decoction, once at shearing time and again in the fall.

Sheep Ticks and Lice.

The same decoction of sulphur and tobacco will destroy two other troublesome pests of sheep, the tick and louse. When the sheep are shorn in spring, the ticks will fall off and leave them and crawl off upon the backs, which they torment till the helpless creatures sometimes die.

SHEEP TICKS (natural and enlarged size). SHEEP LOUSE.

The sheep tick is about the size and color of the insect that infests the heads of shaggy human creatures. It sucks sheep's blood just as the other unmeasured, nasty little beast sucks the blood of humans.

Points of Interest.

When eggs are cheap feed your chickens and eat your hens. When eggs are dear sell them and turn all your hens into layers as far as possible. Give egg producing food and let your non-sitting breeds have full action.

Complaint is made that feeding onions causes loss of the teeth of animals. This may be remedied by feeding some hard, dry food daily along with the onions. Some hay to chew on is good, also occasionally oat grains are desirable.

In the Rhode Island Agricultural school and in the Michigan Agricultural college bookeeping is taught as one of the regular branches. So it ought to be in all schools of farming.

Be extremely careful in breeding the fowls you mean to keep for stock. See that the birds you mate are free from lice, mites, in the prime of chicken life and in perfect health. Then after the eggs are laid take the utmost care of them, selecting only the largest and finest for hatching, unless you want to breed dwarfs; in that case choose the smallest ones. If this care were exercised there would not be so much complaint of defective hatching. To hatch well eggs must be handled with great care, and not shaken or moved violently.

Farm horses well taken care of have a working life of twelve to eighteen years. Street car horses, on the contrary, live only four or five years.

Never use a long, gangling, overgrown rooster for breeding, says a poultry writer. It is nearly impossible to fill him up, and he never makes a good table fowl.

A well stocked fish pond ought to be a part of every farmer's resources, and the brooks and streams on his place ought to be alive with fish. The fish commission of New York furnishes fish stock to those who make application, and every state in the Union might have similar arrangements.

Put tarred felt on the outside of a chicken house and whitewash on the inside.

Duck Not Pay.

One of the largest duck farms located in the New England states has been conducted in such a manner that today it owes in net cash for its owner over $2,500. The sales the past season have run to nearly $7,000. The furniture is the power, with its next friend, the irrigator, while the duck does her part as the egg producer, and does it well. The average number of eggs to each duck during the year has been 131. This is an average among 7,000.

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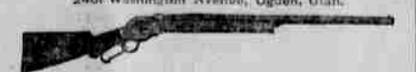

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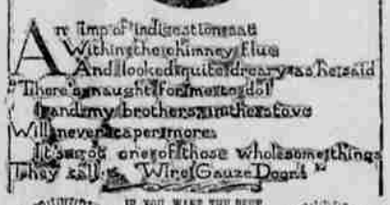

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