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Races - The best varieties -  
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THREE YEARS

# The Country Gentleman

Sheep Raising in N.Y.  
K. ROSE  
SEPT 18  
NRY GARVIN



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# Sheep Raising in New Zealand

*Home of Good Flocks*

By ZANE GREY

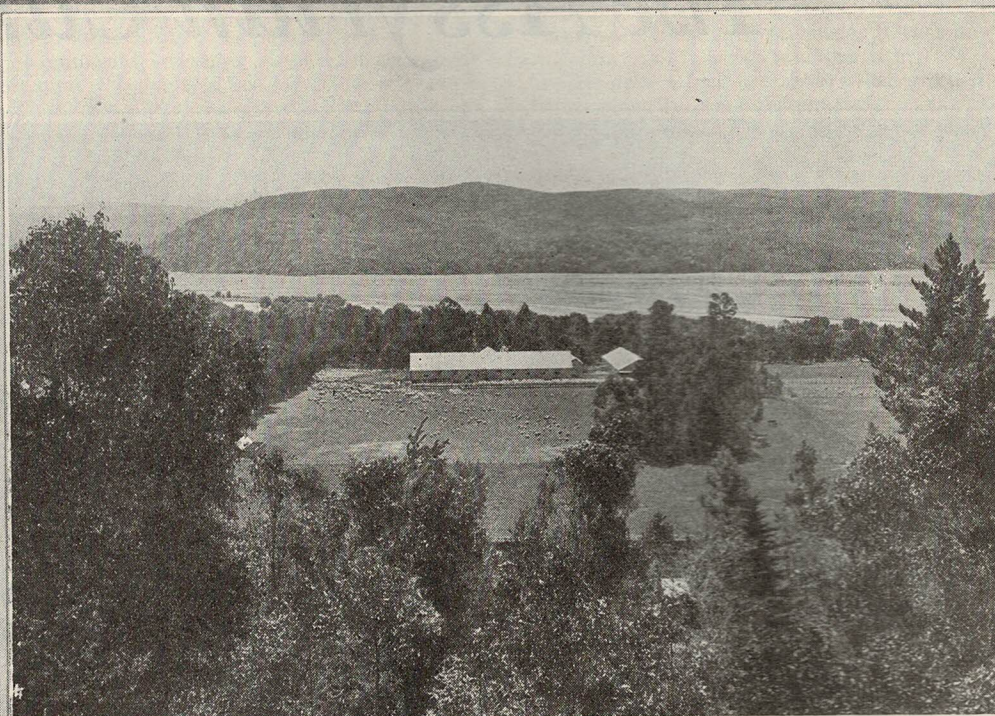
VERILY New Zealand seems the home of opportunity for sheepmen. I came to this conclusion slowly, for the beauty of a country rather than its industry is always uppermost in my mind.

When I first rode through the fertile plains and valleys of Britain's antipode Dominion I was so satisfied with the wide, sweeping panoramic views, the green of ferny vales and dells, comforting to eyes fresh from the glare of the sea, that it all seemed of single beneficence to me. Snug homes nestled here and there in the open country were significant only as a part of a satisfying picture, until a drove of sheep, coming suddenly over a ridge to halt dismayed at sight of the train, sent a strange pang of nostalgia quivering through me.

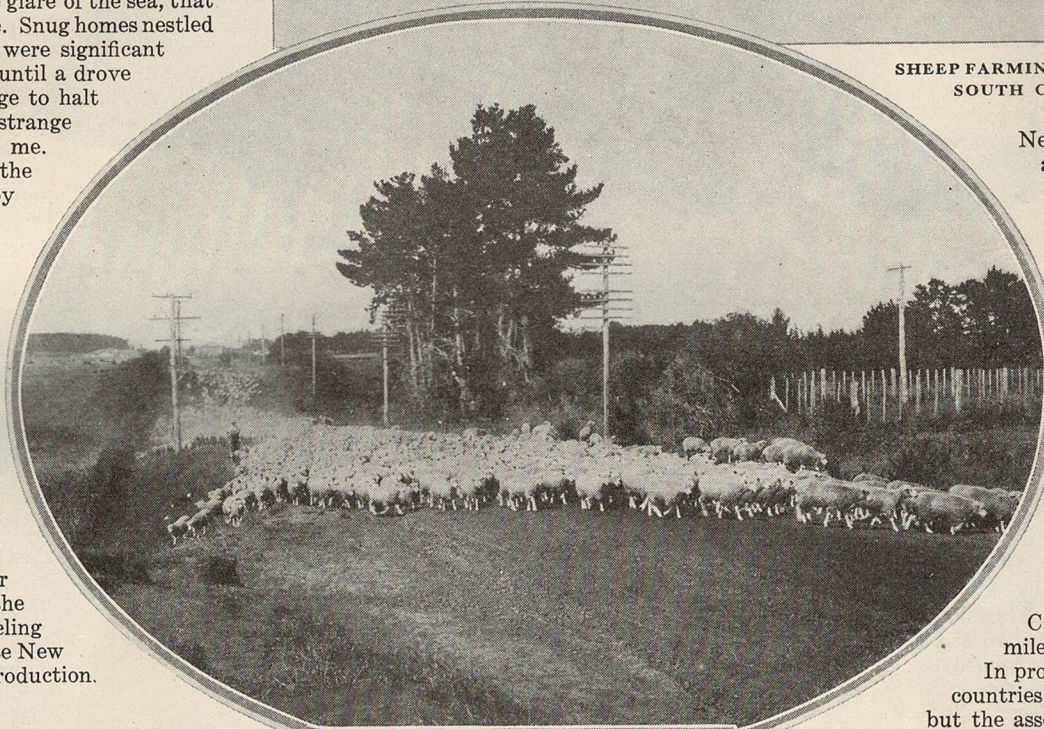
Home! Arizona! Navaho sheep in the shadows of canyon walls, frightened by the approach of a stranger! Sheep and desert, one and inseparable in my memory! But this was not desert, this was a promised land; the sheep were not lean thirst-driven creatures, they were round and plump, splendid pure-bred stock. The men who herded them were not Indians; they were New Zealand stockmen, riding English saddles in unfamiliar posture.

## *A Land of Wool*

THUS was I reminded that I was in the land of many sheep stations, or ranches as we would call them, that the country over which I had been traveling was part of the fertile areas that create New Zealand's leading industry—wool production.



SHEEP FARMING IN THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY,  
SOUTH CANTERBURY, SOUTH ISLAND



New Zealand—the Dominion proper and the additional outlying islands—has an aggregate area of 103,568 square miles. There is the North Island, 44,130 square miles, and the South Island larger than the North by some 14,000 square miles, and Stewart Island and the Chatham Islands of sufficient size to be mentioned independently. The North Island has much hilly land, and is mountainous in parts, but there are also large territories of plains or comparatively level country. The South Island is larger than the North and it boasts much flat and undulating land, paramountly the Canterbury Plains, which are 150 miles long and forty miles wide.

In proportion to pastoral areas of other countries New Zealand's may seem small, but the asset of wholesome climate—temperate summers and mild winters—promotes her pastoral industries to such degree that they constitute her source of wealth. Rainfall varies in different localities but is well distributed; snowfall is most unusual except high up in mountain districts where no one would attempt commercial stock raising. Animals do not need to be housed during the winter, which is of special advantage to the stockmen and a decided bounty to the stock.

RECENT FIGURES  
SHOW NEW ZEALAND HAS 23,775,000 SHEEP

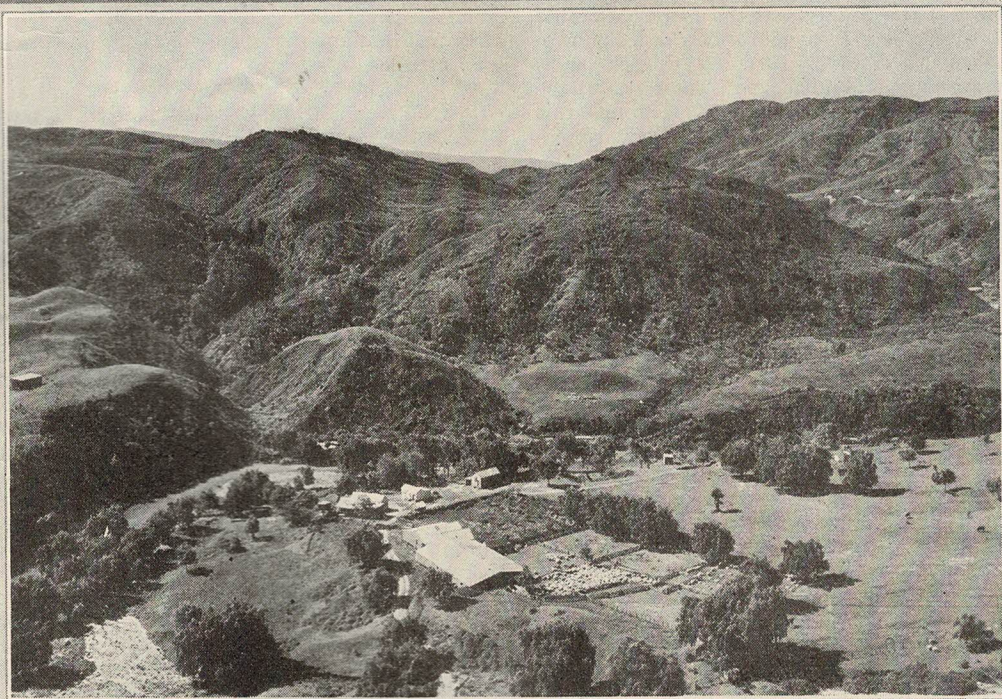
## *Pioneers Who Looked Ahead*

LED to experiment on the country's possibilities, the earliest settlers cleared the greater part of 62,000 square miles of densely wooded country for pasture land. Early operations had exposed a soil of rich humus, so they carried the work through on an extensive scale. I love trees too well to sacrifice them for any cause, but the urge for development silenced sentiment in the souls of these men.

Regarding their particular objective these pioneers had foresight; they realized that the best profits would come from the best breeds and imported high quality breeding stock, a policy continued through a period of eighty years, with the result that New Zealand has become an exporter of first-class breeding animals to other countries, especially to America, South Africa, Australia and the Pacific Islands.

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(Continued on Page 83)



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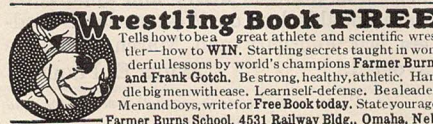
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## Sheep Raising in New Zealand

(Continued from Page 11)

Breeding sheep entered in the flock books of the Dominion comprise the following breeds: Merinos, Lincolns, Romneys, English Leicesters, Border Leicesters, Shropshires, Southdowns, Corriedales, and a few flocks of Ryelands, Dorset Horns and Suffolks.

The greater proportion of the flocks of New Zealand—over 80 per cent—are classed under the generic term cross-bred. Most of the North Island cross-breeds are of the Lincoln-Romney foundation. In the South Island, originally tracing back to a Merino basis, they have been bred up by successive uses of long-wool rams, the Romney and Lincoln predominating, and are now of a most useful type, throwing medium to heavyweight clips of good combing length and of medium quality. A large proportion of the lambs fatten early if on suitable country and, as two and four toothed, the wethers are the mainstay of the mutton export trade.

New Zealand's breeding and flock sheep run to high figures. In 1924 there were 23,775,776 sheep owned by 23,423 farmers.

### Well-Handled Marketing

MOST sheep shearing in New Zealand is done by machinery. In the low country shearing usually begins toward the end of October or early in November; in the high country it begins almost a month later, continuing well into the new year. Thus sheep shearers under a series of contracts throughout the country are kept busy from late October to April.

The wool is carefully sorted at shearing, the bales are forwarded to the selling point properly marked, and are set out carefully lotted for examination by the wool buyers. England, France, the United States, Canada, Japan, Italy and Germany are directly represented at the local sales. The bidding is usually keen for choice lots.

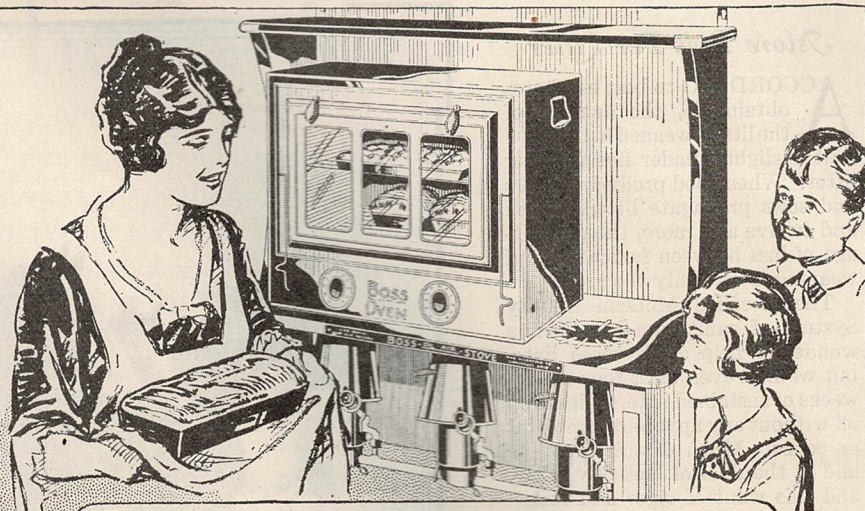
Slaughter for meat exportation usually begins in November, and the season closes about the end of June, which is midwinter in the antipodes. Only those carcasses which come up to the required high standard are passed for export. The by-products of the meat industry are put to such good use that there is practically no wastage whatever.

### Loans on Easy Terms

FARMERS in New Zealand are able to obtain loans on easy terms from the government. State advances are made up to 75 per cent of the value of the security. Interest rates do not exceed 6 per cent and are reducible to 5 1/2 per cent for prompt payment. I understand that in no other country of the world is the farmer able to get more help from his state than New Zealand gives. The farmers themselves are organized for the promotion of their welfare through various associations.

The beautiful Orupukupuku Island, where I made camp for eight weeks while deep-sea fishing, was given over to sheep raising. Charles F. Baker, who owned both island and sheep, also ran a profitable retail store in the town of Russell. I was impressed with the very slight attention his sheep interests claimed. Mr. Baker's infrequent visits to the island were made at seasons which necessitated shearing and dipping and separation of young sheep from the dams. For weeks the members of my party were sole inhabitants of the sheep station. Nature supplies good growth of pasture on Orupukupuku.

Mr. Baker's only effort to assist her was in his annual rotative burning over of half the island's pasture area. Throughout New Zealand many graziers dispense with the growing of supplementary fodder crops, but progressive pastoralists in some districts recognize that profits can be increased by a certain measure of cropping.



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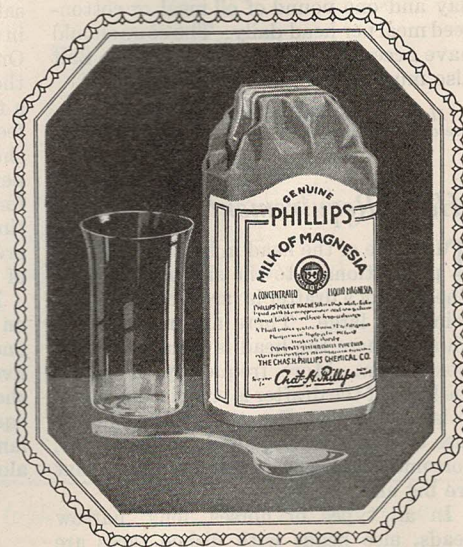
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