

**THE SHEEP AND WOOL INDUSTRY OF
AUSTRALASIA; A PRACTICAL
HANDBOOK FOR SHEEP FARMERS AND
WOOL-CLASSERS, WITH CHAPTERS ON
WOOL-BUYING AND SELLING, SHEEP-
SKINS, AND KINDRED PRODUCTS**

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The sheep and wool industry of Australasia; a practical handbook for sheep farmers and wool-classers, with chapters on wool-buying and selling, sheep-skins, and kindred products by Henry B. Smith

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HENRY B. SMITH

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THE SHEEP AND WOOL
INDUSTRY OF AUSTRALASIA



"THE LEADER" READY FOR THE TRACK.

The strongest beasts carry four bales, equivalent to nearly 1,400 lb. The rest carry two bales each.

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A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR
SHEEP FARMERS AND WOOL-CLASSERS

WITH CHAPTERS ON WOOL-
BUYING AND SELLING, SHEEP-
SKINS, AND KINDRED PRODUCTS

By HENRY B. SMITH



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TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

PREFACE

WHAT a history of fascinating romance surrounds the sheep and wool industry! It is woven into every department of our national and social life. It is Australia's—and was once the main source of England's—national wealth, for woollen goods at the beginning of the eighteenth century formed two-thirds of England's exports.

The trade in wool has caused great wars and, what is more, has paid for them, which cannot be affirmed by many persons and things that have brought about international bloodshed. For centuries it was the pivot on which much diplomatic and political intrigue revolved, and kings and statesmen thought and dwelt in sheep and wool.

Australia is at the present time the leading sheep and wool-growing country in the world; it owes this position to the early pioneers who, with indomitable grit and courage, faced the Blacks, the droughts, the loneliness, and other dangers of the Australian bush, that only the stoutest hearts could survive.

At the present time there are numbers of sheep farmers carving out homes in the more unsettled parts of Australia's great continent, and undergoing a good many of the minor disadvantages of their brave pioneer forefathers.

I have often thought how valuable to them would be a well-illustrated and practical handbook, explaining in simple language the most suitable sheep for the various types of country in Australia, and the best methods of marketing wool.

In the following chapters I have endeavoured to provide information useful to both the large station owner and the man grazing a few hundred sheep. Each class of wool-grower will

find in them many interesting points about his sheep and wool, no matter what breed of sheep or type of wool he goes in for.

Many farmers, in addition to wool, have skins, hides, and rabbit-skins of which they wish to dispose, and they will find in these pages valuable information about this class of produce and the best methods of preparing for market.

This volume will be found helpful to country wool and skin buyers, especially in assisting them to arrive at the correct value of the produce they deal in.

I desire to express my thanks to Mr. E. Gooley, of Melbourne, for his kind assistance in many ways with this book ; and to Mr. Sep. G. Jones, of Brisbane ; and Messrs. Smith and Keighley, of Geelong, for valuable help respectively in chapters on Australian Produce and Manufacturing.

I am also greatly indebted to the many gentlemen who kindly provided me with photographs, acknowledgments of which appear in the following pages. My thanks are also due to Messrs. Dalgety & Co., of Sydney, and A. F. Barker, Esq., of Bradford, for allowing me to use illustrations from their publications.

HENRY B. SMITH.