

contributing body shall be asked to appoint its representatives on the General Committee for the ensuing year, and members shall hold office until their successors are appointed. In the event of vacancy, body to elect another.

6. *Meeting of Committee and Election of Officers.*—A meeting of the General Committee shall be held in the month of July of each year, and shall be called the "annual meeting," at which the Executive Committee, chairman, and vice-chairman shall be elected for the ensuing year, and the annual report and balance-sheet shall be presented by the outgoing chairman. A copy of the annual report and balance-sheet shall be forwarded to each contributing body as soon as possible after the meeting. Other meetings of the General Committee shall be called by the chairman as required, but the chairman shall at any other time call a meeting on the requisition of members representing any three contributing bodies. Seven days' notice shall be given to each member of all meetings of the Executive Committee.

7. *Executive Committee.*—The Executive Committee shall consist of one of the two members of committee representing each contributing body, and shall be elected by ballot of all members of the General Committee present at the annual meeting. The Government Fields Supervisor for the district shall also be an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee. In event of vacancy occurring in executive after the annual meeting, executive to fill same.

8. *Meetings of Executive Committee.*—Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held when required, and shall be called by the chairman, who shall give at least four days' notice to each member.

9. *Chairman.*—The chairman and vice-chairman of the association shall be elected from the Executive Committee by ballot of the General Committee. The chairman shall be *ex officio* chairman of the sub-committees, and shall have a deliberative as well as a casting vote at all meetings.

10. *Duties of General Committee.*—It shall be the duty of the General Committee to receive suggestions from the contributing bodies for the advancement of the objects of the association, to receive reports from the Executive Committee, to give directions to the Executive Committee as to the general lines on which operations are to be carried out, and generally to carry out the work of the association.

11. *Duties of Executive Committee.*—It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to draw up details of operations to be undertaken, to attend to the finances of the association, the leasing of land, the employment of labour, the purchase and sale of material, produce, and stock, and generally to carry the details of the association's operations; but the actions of the Executive Committee shall at all times be subject to review by the General Committee.

12. *Inspection of Operations.*—Every member of the General Committee shall inspect every plot or experiment of the association at least once in each year, and also on other occasions as far as possible. Members representing counties shall inspect the plots or experiments situated in the counties which they represent at least four times in each year.

13. *Secretary.*—The General Committee shall appoint a secretary, whose duty it shall be to record the minutes, conduct correspondence, give notice of meetings, and keep the accounts.

14. *Bank Account.*—All moneys received shall be paid into a banking account, cheques on which shall be signed by the chairman or vice-chairman and countersigned by the secretary.

15. *Quorum.*—Five shall form a quorum at meetings of the General Committee, and three at meetings of the Executive Committee.

16. *Alterations to Rules.*—Alterations to the rules must be passed by the Executive Committee and confirmed by the General Committee before becoming operative.

ANNUAL SHEEP RETURNS.

THE complete annual sheep returns for 1917, which are summarized in tabulated form on another page, show a total of 25,270,386 sheep for the Dominion. This is an increase of 482,236 as compared with the previous year, and the total is the highest recorded. Breeding-ewes show an increase of 367,402—namely, 244,968 in the North Island and 122,434 in the South Island. An innovation in the returns this year is that the stud sheep returned by owners are only those entered in the respective flock-books. This will explain the apparent decrease of stud sheep as compared with previous years.