

groove. An easy way to remove the cups is to hold the rack of cell sticks in the right hand and gently take the cups one at a time between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, using the forefinger of the right hand to push gently against the tip of the left finger holding the cup. In this way a steady, controlled push and pull motion is obtained. The cups will break away easily with a thin feather edge and will all be the same depth. The small rim of wax left in the groove is easily peeled off with the thumbnail and a turning movement of the hand.

The forming sticks only guarantee the size and depth of the cups. The secret of making good cell cups is in maintaining the melted wax at the correct temperature for dipping. If the wax is too cool, thick, heavy, and often lumpy cups will result, as shown on the left of the illustration. If the wax is too hot, the cups will require extra dipping and the layer of wax from the first dipping will be full of air bubbles. These are caused by the expansion of trapped air when the overheated wax comes in contact with the cool, wet forming sticks. With a few trials the correct temperature will soon be obtained.

A wax trough of sufficient length to take the full bar of cell sticks sus-

ended in a tank of hot water is best for melting the wax, as the correct temperature is more easily maintained. Any receptacle that is long enough to take the cell sticks will do, provided about an inch of water is first placed in the bottom to prevent the wax from contact with the direct heat.

Only the best and cleanest wax should be used for making cell cups. The cups can be placed in wooden cell bases or attached directly to the cell bars with wax. If the latter method is adopted, a sufficient quantity of liquid wax is slowly spread along the centre of the bar, the cups being placed quickly in position before the wax sets.

## Rejection of Fat Lambs for Export

**A** LARGE number of fat lambs never reach the shipping stage because of grading down or rejection at the works for faults caused either through ignorance or want of thought.

### Bruising through Rough Handling

The principal cause of rejection is bruising, which could be obviated by care and attention. Many handlers of fat lambs in transit for killing do not seem to care where or how they seize the animals. The result of grabbing a large handful of back or side wool is a large purple-red bruise some 3in. to 4in. in diameter at the root of the wool in 2 to 3 hours.

Similar injuries result from kicks, poking with sticks, slamming with drafting race gates, and contact with projecting portions of races or fences. Last but not least is the dog bite. Too many people trucking, droving, or untrucking lambs are in an unnecessary hurry, exciting the dogs so much that they bite the lambs, frighten them, and make them move much faster.

This rough handling of lambs causes extensive areas of bruising, which in time appear as large, dark red patches on the deeper parts of the skin and underlying tissue, spoiling the appearance and detracting from the value of the carcass. Some carcasses with mild bruising drop to second class, thus losing 2d. per pound. Other more

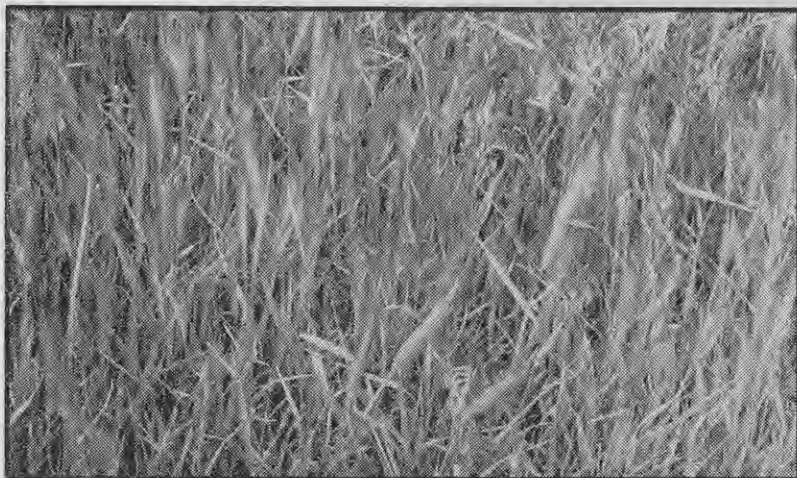
severe cases drop to the reject class with a loss of 8d. per pound; carcasses with more extensive bruised areas qualify for the preserver class and lose 15d. per pound, and with total condemnations there is a loss of 16d. per pound. In one lot of 304 fat lambs sent to the works 16 had been dog bitten and 6 were made second class with a loss of £1 18s. on 38lb. lambs. Another 10 were rejected, showing a loss of £12 13s. 4d., making a total loss of £14 11s. 4d.

### Barley Grass Blemishes

Barley grass when in the ripe, seeded stage causes an appreciable loss to the export trade through the seed heads penetrating the skins of sheep and passing into the flesh underneath. There they set up large dark red patches which resemble and have the same effect as bruising, causing monetary loss to the farmer. If barley grass was topped with a mower before ripening, this loss could be largely wiped out.

One owner railed a mob of 220 fat lambs to the works; 20 were made second class, a loss of about £6 7s. on 38lb. lambs, and 4 were rejected, a loss of £5 1s. 4d., making a total loss of £11 8s. 4d.

One freezing works in the South Island had to reject for bruising 867 fat lambs in 1953 with a loss to farmers of roughly £1098. There are



Ripe, seeded barley grass causes appreciable loss to the meat export trade through seed heads penetrating skins of sheep and passing into the flesh.



A carcass with blemishes caused by injuries received during transit.

37 freezing works exporting lambs and with a similar loss in all of them the export level would be down by 30,345 lambs. It should be possible for these handling fat lambs to take more care and time and avoid this unnecessary loss.

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