

In some of the towns (coastal villages) where the soil is sandy, considerable quantities of *potatoes* are grown, and in southern Iceland, especially, almost every farm has a little garden where potatoes and swedes are raised. Yet the potato and swedes areas do not exceed 500 hectares in all. In 1923—1927 the average annual potato crop amounted to 3200 tons, that of Swedish turnips to 1100 tons. Potatoes and swedes are grown for human food only, though in far from sufficient quantities to meet the country's requirements, and a great deal of potatoes is therefore imported every year. In 1923—1927 the average import of potatoes was 2100 tons, or some 40 per cent. of the quantity consumed.

Here and there throughout the country there are extensive peat bogs, yielding a pretty good quality of *peat* which is much used for fuel, especially in the rural districts; and during the present century, up to the Great War, as much as 250 000 horse-loads were dug every year. But after the War broke out the output of peat increased enormously, owing to the excessively high prices of coal and the risk with which its importation was attended. In 1918 the quantity of peat dug reached its maximum (577 000 horse-loads), but thenceforward it has been gradually decreasing, and had in 1928 come down to 285 000 horse-loads.

The *forests* are used not only as sheep-runs, but are also cut for fuel. During the first decade of the present century it is considered that about 9000 horse-loads of fire-wood were cut, on the average, every year. This in 1911—1915 increased to 13 000 horse-loads per annum, in 1916—1920, to 22 000, and in 1923—1927, to 24 000.

### LIVE STOCK

According to statistics the live stock in 1928 was as follows:

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Sheep . . . . .   | 627 140 |
| Cattle . . . . .  | 30 023  |
| Horses . . . . .  | 52 245  |
| Goats . . . . .   | 2 845   |
| Poultry . . . . . | 36 018  |

In proportion to the number of inhabitants Iceland has a larger stock of *sheep* than any other European country, or five to six sheep to each person, whereas in the countries (Norway and Esthonia), coming next after Iceland in this respect, the number of sheep amounts to no more than about 60 per cent. of the number of population. The kind of sheep reared in Iceland is of Norwegian origin, and belongs to the species most common in northern Europe (*Ovis Brachyura*