

### Shepherds' Dog Trials.

Keen interest is still taken by Scottish people in the annual trials of collie dogs in handling sheep under trying circumstances, as indicated by the following extract from a report in the Scottish Farmer, of the New Cumnock trial last month, at which 25 dogs were entered for competition, and 800 people witnessed the trial, about three-fourths of which were men of the "crook and plaid."

The spectators were stationed on one side of the glen, the trials taking place on the other, a hill burn running between. The competing shepherd was placed well in towards the level of the burn, and four sheep were liberated from a pen towards the head of the burn, on the opposite side. These sheep had to be brought along on the "bune" side of two single poles, through between two sets of poles, turned to the left, then brought across the burn between two more poles, and up past the shepherd, passing between yet other two poles, and thereafter "shed." A start was made about nine o'clock, and the whole of the twenty-five competitors had done their work by half-past two in the afternoon. Then the public favorites for first place were Buff, a black dog, belonging to Mr. M'Morran, Kerroch, Dalry, and Mr. B. Murray's Ken, from Minnygrill, Moniaive. Other two dogs, however, had five marks in the judge's books, and these were Gip, belonging to Mr. A. Murray, Glenochar, Abington, and Sam, a black and tan bearded collie, belonging to Mr. J. Paterson, Meiklehill, New Cumnock. After luncheon, these four had another trial, but on this occasion three sheep were let out, and these were brought half-way, after which other two sheep were released. The dog had to be sent back for these two, leaving the first three, and after getting the five together, bring them to the shepherd. Gip was first put on trial. She tried the patience of the spectators a bit by her leisurely way of going out, but she did work when she got out. She missed two of the poles, however, which took four points off her record. Buff was next run, and made a splendid show. He had got his three sheep half-way and had gone back for the two, but in the interval the first three had got some distance up the hill. In getting the five together, he put in some really splendid work, and was favored with a cheer when he got them through the last poles without having made a mistake. Sam was next tried, but missed one set of poles, thus losing two points. Then Ken was put on his mettle, and came out with flying colors. He had exactly the same difficulty to get over in collecting his five as Buff had, but succeeded in getting them all through without making one mistake. Sam and Gip were now relegated to third and fourth places respectively, but Buff and Ken were still equal in marks. The general trend of opinion at this time was to award the prize to Ken, whose obedience to orders and gentle, intelligent way of handling the sheep marked him out for special favor. The judges, however, thought it better to still have another trial of the two dogs. On this occasion, Buff missed the first two poles, and though he gave a splendid display afterwards, Ken, when his turn came, managed without a mistake. His last performance was a marvellous piece of work, and thoroughly deserved the hearty applause.

### Another Charge Against Dogs.

Hog cholera, it is said, has cost Iowa and South Dakota, in times past, as much as \$30,000,000 a year. In support of his idea that hog cholera is communicated by dogs, Dr. S. A. Brown says:

"My own investigation has shown me that the disease is almost invariably spread by dogs. The farmer who has no dogs is a rarity, but there is one here and there, and he has no cholera among his hogs. It is well known that whenever a dog finds a carcass, he rolls upon it so as to get the carrion into his hair. What he does it for is unknown to the writer. He goes home with every hair of his body charged with whatever is contagious after the death of the animal, and so persistent as to last at times for two years. Let one hog die of cholera, and every dog within a radius of many miles will find the carcass and load himself with infection. Dogs often travel with a female great distances, being away from home days at a time. They have great opportunities to find and carry disease. When they are at home, their constant delight is to worry and nag the swine."

### Winter Fattening Lambs.

The indications at present are that this season's lambs carried on and fitted for sale about February will bring good money. They should be separated from the ewes, be dipped for ticks, allowed room for exercise, and when the grass fails, be given a fair allowance of roots. Feed grain very lightly on the start, and at the heaviest not more than half a pound daily of oats and barley or oats and peas.

### Sheep and Dogs Again.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

While you have already published quite a few articles on sheep and dogs, which contained many good ideas, I feel there is still room for more. At present, there are sheep inspectors appointed in each township to value sheep said to be destroyed by dogs, also to vouch for the fact that they have been destroyed by dogs. When this by-law has been passed by the council, the sheep-owner is paid two-thirds the value of his sheep. Now, I think the owner should be paid in full the value of his sheep, and in order to do this, every dog in town and country should be taxed. Let the dog tax be raised or lowered according to the death rate of sheep. When a lot of sheep are killed, raise the dog tax. When there are not so many killed, lower the tax just the same as any other rate. Even the man that has his sheep worried will be at loss enough by the ill-effect on the thrift of his flock. While I have never lost any sheep by dogs, I don't know how soon my turn may come. One of my nearest neighbors lost seventeen of his flock one night this summer, and was paid only two-thirds their value. By doing it the way I have suggested, the dog owner and the sheep owner will be on friendlier terms. No man likes to see or know that his dog is shot down on suspicion, or because he has no tag on.

Lambton Co., Ont.

A. G. SPARLING.



SOUTHDOWN SHEARLING EWE.

First prize at Ottawa, Toronto and London Exhibitions, 1902.

PROPERTY OF MR. F. E. CAME, CHAMCOCK STOCK FARM, ST. ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK.

### Dehorning of Cattle.

In this and other countries, for some years past, a heated controversy has, from time to time, been carried on, not only as to the advisability of dehorning, but also to the propriety of the proceeding. The advocates of the wholesale removal of horns, in many cases, exaggerate alike the necessity and the advantages occurring from the practice. On the other hand, their opponents are backed by the ultra humanitarian, who stigmatizes the operation as barbarous, or worse, and detect in the procedure grave cruelty to animals. Justly, then, does the operation amount to cruelty? I answer distinctly, it does not. Cruelty to animals may be defined as the infliction of unnecessary pain. Now, the operation of dehorning causes pain, as all surgical operations do, but it is not by any means more painful than many other operations to which we subject certain animals without a single thought. Moreover, the pain is slight, and, as a matter of fact, pales into insignificance before the severe and lasting torture inflicted as a matter of everyday occurrence by animals upon each other when allowed to wear their weapons of offence. As our cattle in the near future, by exportation, are liable to make more lengthened journeys by land and sea, the wholesale removal of horns will not only lessen the owner's risk, but add to the material comfort of the animals themselves. Some advocate the removal of horns by caustic while the animals are only two or three days old, with the object of having what is termed a mulley. This,

however, I believe to be a mistake, for as age advances, they develop the catapult tactics of the mulley, and although less harmful when amongst themselves, are equally dangerous when directed against the owner. For capricious indeed would be the critic who would discriminate between being hooked to death or butted to death. Animals may be dehorned at any age, but the older they are the less favorable the results. I think the proper time is when the animal is about two years of age. At that time, it has learned to depend wholly on its horns as weapons of defence, and if deprived of them at this age, will be, no doubt, as harmless and docile as a sheep. Either the clipper or ordinary jointing saw may be used to perform the operation with perfect satisfaction. Animals may be dehorned any time, except in fly time or when the mercury has dropped below zero. Cold water is the only dressing needed.

W. D. MACCORMACK.

Addington Co., Ont.

Veterinary Surgeon.

### The Western Fair.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I have read with deep interest your article and the letters appearing in the "Advocate" regarding the management, or mismanagement, in certain lines at the Western Fair this fall.

Personally, I have many pleasant memories of the courtesy of the secretary, Mr. Nelles, and others in the office with whom I came in contact as an exhibitor of stock, and for several

reasons like to attend and exhibit at the London fair, but, as has been pointed out, there are several drawbacks which, if not remedied, can scarcely fail to prove serious hindrances to the great possible progress of the said fair. In order to win the greatest success, exhibitors and visitors must be dealt with by boards of directors and officials generally in such ways as will put and keep them—the visitors—in the best of humor. And here I would ask if coating over pens and stalls and ring-side railings with whitewash, which was so unwillingly carried off on gowns and mantles, tweeds and broadcloths, to the lasting detriment of the goods, can possibly prove

a drawing card to the fair at London? Nor will stock attendants carry kindly feelings towards that "white trash" which so provokingly fastened itself on trimmed fleeces and polished bristles, on black skins and red skins, and so "disinfected" the uniforms as to make them look like Jacob's flock of the long ago. And the sleeping accommodation for stockmen is as bad as it could be possibly made in such a good building. 'Tis a pity to find so excellent a stock barn so badly laid out as the end given the sheep exhibits is, with the fittings and fixtures so out-of-date and behind the times.

The widespread annoyance caused by the Sunday pass arrangement did not cast oil on the troubled waters, but this rather added fuel to flame, and righteous indignation resulted. Surely a better scheme can be easily devised.

The Western Fair, with its splendid situation, convenient to city, and surrounded by so excellent a country, and having an ideal park for exhibition purposes, is bound to grow and prosper, but that growth and progress is certain to be in proportion to the closeness of touch between exhibitors and management, and we may add, visitors. The board of management can make or mar by studying the necessities and comforts of exhibitors and their exhibits on the one hand, or indifferently and steadfastly ignoring them on the other.

JOHN CAMPBELL.  
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Bear in mind, when feeding young and growing animals, that foods capable of producing muscle and bone are essential. If these be not provided profitable gain cannot take place. Feed to a purpose and you will be rewarded.