

the body and neglecting the care of the feet and legs. These, however, are in the minority, for there are far more colts ruined every year by receiving too little attention than by receiving too much. G.

LIVE STOCK.

B. C. Live Stock Sells High.

From a statement of the prices obtained at an auction sale of live stock in British Columbia, the property of Captain Erskine, recently received at this office through the courtesy of Dr. J. G. Rutherford, it would seem that the Pacific Province is as deeply interested in the live-stock industry as in horticulture and the various other enterprises. Dr. S. F. Tolmie, the representative of the Live-stock Branch in British Columbia, states that good milch cows were never so scarce in the history of the Province, and judging from the sale statement, the prices correspond with the scarcity. At this sale, a filly rising five years old brought \$500, a yearling entire colt \$330, a brood mare eight years old \$445, and another mare \$375. Nineteen head of horses, including colts, ponies and light horses, brought \$4,239.50, an average of \$223.13. The horses sold high, but the cattle went higher. Pure-bred cows sold up to \$302 each, several being bid in at almost the three hundred mark. Grade cows and heifers were in great demand. A three-year-old grade heifer sold for \$190, and \$211 was paid for a grade cow due to calve in April. The 75 head, including both grade and pure-bred cows, heifers, bulls and calves, brought \$8,899.50, an average of \$118.66. When it is considered that by far the largest proportion of these animals were grades, and a very large number were young heifers, this is a high average. Hay sold at \$15.50 per ton, and chickens brought nearly a dollar each, and the total proceeds of the sale, including implements and produce, amounted to \$16,666.70. Such a result cannot fail to be gratifying to stockmen not only in British Columbia, but throughout the Dominion, and it is just one more proof that the live-stock business is a paying business, and that it is on a sound basis in this country.

Buildings for Swine.

From J. H. Grisdale's address to stockmen at the Winter Fair.

The pig's requirements, in the way of shelter, are peculiar to himself. He can endure low temperatures, but shivers in the least air current. He can stand the most severe cold, but pines and sickens in damp quarters. He can withstand the most sudden changes in weather, but must have lots of sunlight and plenty of fresh air. He will always thrive with no shelter save a single-board cabin, but often sickens and waste away in the steam-heated, porcine palace. In short, the pig in captivity has not, like practically all other domestic animals, developed the ability to endure the common combination of warmth, humidity, impure air and inactivity that falls too often to his lot.

What the pig requires in his home is an abundance of fresh air, plenty of sunlight, protection from winds, and a well-littered, dry nest. Give him these, and success is certain, even though rations be poor. With right shelter conditions, no farm animal suffers less from disease than the pig, with uncongenial surroundings, no animal can think of more ways to die in one short winter.

The recognition of the above principles may seem easy, and their application a matter of routine, but it seems to take more than ordinary intelligence for the one, and untiring watchfulness for the other. Over twenty years' experience with pigs, in numbers varying from 25 to 500, at the Central Experimental Farm, has taught us a few things in connection with these principles and their application that are of interest, and should be of value to the farmer.

SUMMER HOUSING.

The less housing in summer, the better, but provide, if possible, a cool, shady spot and a good wallow. For feeders, as contrasted with breeding and growing stock, less yard room or pasture is required, but some way of assuring moderately cool conditions is necessary. Usually one side of the piggery is cool, and may be used. The cabin on legs about three feet high is the thing for breeding stock.

WINTER HOUSING.

Here, again, conditions must be considered from three standpoints: the sow with the litter, the in-young sow, and the stocker or feeder.

The sow in young does best outside, in board cabins for nests. The cabins need not be warmly constructed, but must be well bedded, and not expected to accommodate too large a number; from three to five is about right. So housed, and fed on some succulent food, as roots, and suitable meal, as bran, shorts and a small proportion of oats or barley or corn, success is certain.

This suits the pregnant sow, but not the sow and litter. The newborn pig needs more warmth. He cannot endure the rough winds of winter, nor its deep snows. Here is where skill in piggery construction may get full play. The piggery recently built at the Central Experimental Farm would seem to comply with all the requirements and to exemplify all the principles mentioned or discussed. It is too soon yet to know how it is going to work out in practice, since it was completed only last winter. It is at present giving satisfaction with pigs ranging from eight weeks to eight months old. Described briefly, it consists of nineteen or twenty pens averaging about 10 by 12 feet, in two rows, on either side of a six-foot passage. Windows stand as close as the requirements of strength will allow. Fresh air enters each pen by an inlet on the Rutherford-ventilation-system plan. The floor of every pen slopes to one point, and so drains off all fluids into a tank. The floor is cement, save in the nest, where wooden floors are laid with an air-space underneath. Cement troughs, litter-carriers, chutes for straw over each nest, double windows outside, doors hung to open from passage, and various other conveniences, combine to make it easily kept clean, bright and, one would think, perfectly sanitary.

For stockers and feeders, this piggery is certainly practicable and satisfactory. For farrowing sows and raising young pigs, experience being largely lacking, time alone can tell the tale.

THE FARM.

Special Seed Plots Profitable.

During the year 1911 there were about 110 seed plots in connection with the Canadian Seed-growers' Association, reported upon by T. G. Raynor, who has been for six years engaged in inspecting these plots. In giving an account of his work to the Seed-growers' meeting, held at Guelph during the Winter Fair, Mr. Raynor pointed out that the success of the plans of mass selection adopted by the Association depended upon the men engaged in making the selection. Some men who commenced the practice six years ago are still at it, and making a greater success than ever, while others have lost interest and dropped the practice. The work, said Mr. Raynor, is a matter of selection of men, as well as of seed, and is a survival of the fittest. Besides being a paying proposition, the plots are a source of real, genuine pleasure.

Mr. Raynor pointed out that the past season was not favorable to large crop production in several parts of Ontario, particularly in Western Ontario, where dry weather was pronounced. Spring frosts also injured the clover in many districts. As a result, some of the plots were not so good as others. The weather conditions, however, made it possible to pick out the good soil, and the good and poor soil well worked. Several cases of good results obtained on farms where seed selection is practiced were cited.

C. R. Gies, of Waterloo Co., manures his meadow after hay or pasture, plows and works up a good seed-bed, and seeds with winter wheat, and during the last six years he has never had a crop of less

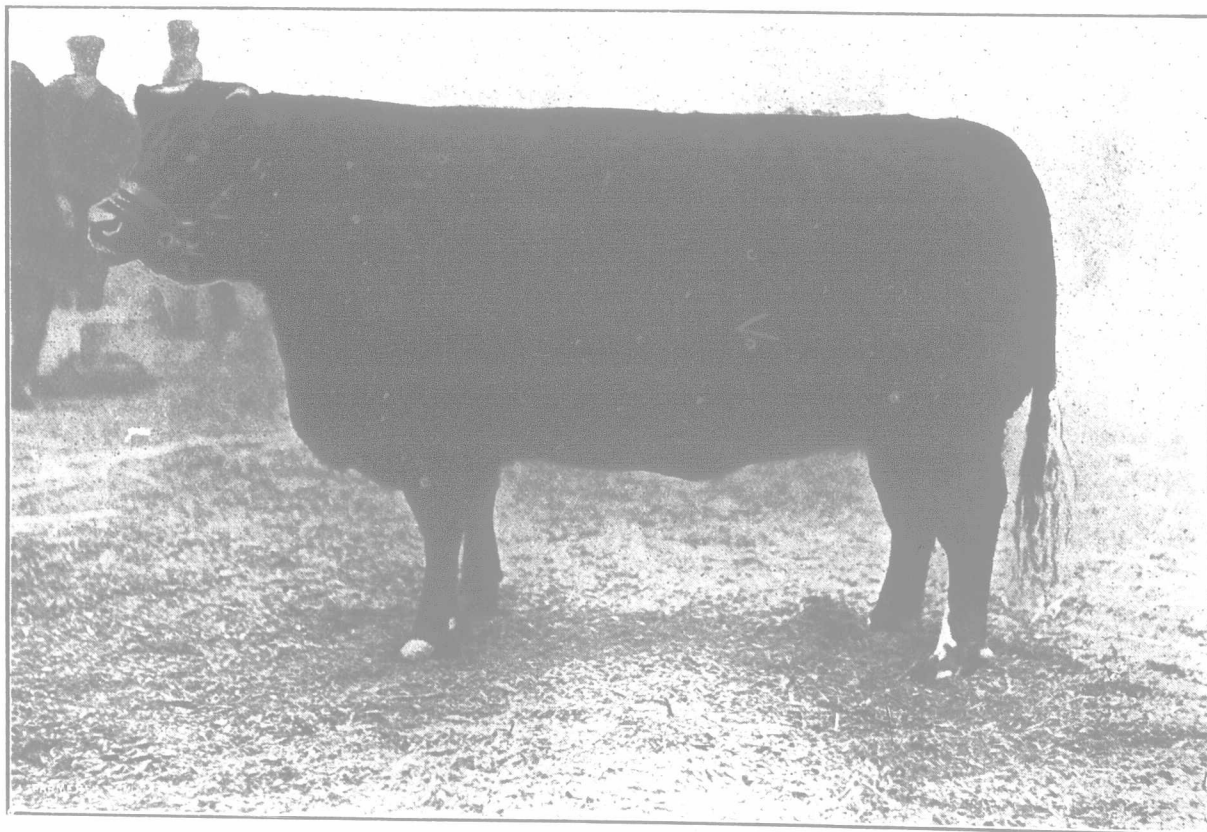
than 40 bushels per acre. Wm. Lewis, of Dunsford, succeeded in getting a yield of about 10 bushels per acre more of barley, and from 10 to 30 bushels per acre more oats than the average of his neighborhood. Alf. Hutchinson's potatoes yielded 200 bushels per acre under unfavorable conditions. The corn men had much the same results. J. H. Coatsworth, of Kingsville, had a field of his new hybrid corn, "Coatsworth's Hybrid," which yielded 120 bushels of corn in the ear per acre, while A. H. Woodbridge had five acres of Reid's Yellow Dent, which yielded 115 bushels per acre, and Robert Thompson, of St. Catharines, had a field of Salzer's North Dakota which yielded 116 bushels per acre. Chas. Pierce, of Wellington, with his new variety, Pierce's Evergreen, a selection from Stowell's Evergreen, produced two and a half tons of green sweet corn per acre; while T. G. Shepley had phenomenal results with his Reid's Yellow Dent and Wisconsin No. 7. This shows that good seed counts for a great deal. When the good qualities of a seed become fixed, they are transmitted even in adverse seasons. There is room for many more farmers to take up this seed-selection work, and that it pays is easily seen from the results obtained by those practicing it.

Our Scottish Letter.

(Held over from last week's letter.)

We are now well into December. This will be my last letter for 1911. It has been a wonderful year. The weather was of the best, and one has to go back to 1868 for a parallel in respect of the long continuance of brilliant sunshine. Many farmers in Scotland have done well. Prices for barley have seldom touched as high a level, and, speaking generally of Scottish farmers, they will have no reason to complain when they balance up results. It is not so, however, in every case, and the season was strangely unequal. The English farmer has been very badly hit. A drouth is much worse for him than for us, and several of the smaller dairy farmers have had to give up altogether, while others have been sadly crippled. It is estimated that the mangel crop in the south will be 11,000,000 tons short of the normal. On what grounds the estimate has been based, we do not know, but when Mr. Runciman announced it at a recent farmers' dinner, there were indications of disapproval. Those who gave these indications did so because the estimate was too low. At any rate, it is going to be a very costly business carrying stock through this winter, and much capital will be lost by English farmers, in particular. Grass was quite as scarce as roots, and the outlook is not at all rosy for those who have a heavy head of stock to winter.

In spite of the high price of grain, there are indications that the breadth of winter wheat being sown will be short. The weather during the past six weeks has only been moderate for such work. We have had exceptionally heavy rains, and it has not been possible to do much on the land. Those having potatoes to sell are doing a good business. Even in spite of the tariff wall, a big lot are being shipped to America, and it is long since potatoes were marketed of such excellent quality. Indeed, the season has been altogether a splendid



Village Lassie.

Shorthorn heifer, grand champion as best beef animal, any breed or cross, Smithfield Show, 1911.