

## A Stiff Tax on Dogs.

SIR.—It appears to me unjust to ask any Government to legislate on sheep-killing dogs until we can show beyond dispute that we have done our duty, and that little word, duty, means more than we always do. Our first duty then as sheep-raisers is to bury our dead sheep and lambs. I fancy I hear someone saying, "We do bury them." Well, I know there are a great many that do not bury them.

Our next duty is to feed our dog. It is a great mistake to think a dog can live on the wind, for they are sure to want some mutton mixed with it. Let us treat our dogs as members of our family. Let us keep our dogs closed up or tied at night, for I don't think there is one dog in a thousand will attack sheep in the daytime. Let us count our sheep every day at least once, and oftener if convenient, and be sure that they are not dead before the dogs kill them.

We have been raising sheep now for thirty-nine years, and have never had any killed by dogs. Catching dogs eating a dead sheep is no proof that they have killed it. We have lost a number of sheep by their getting over on their back and being unable to turn over and get up again. The only remedy we know for this is to keep them well watched. It is always in the summertime we lose them, and in no case have we ever found them to be touched by a dog, and they are on a farm summer and winter that there is no one living on, one mile from where we live and three miles from a village. There is no nobler animal in the whole brute creation than the dog, if used right, but there are so many people that keep useless mongrel curs that have no more use for them than a wagon would have for a fifth wheel. If those people could be persuaded to keep a pig instead of a dog they would find at the end of the year that the pig would be the more profitable. I can see no way to get that class of dogs choked off but by a good stiff tax, nothing less than ten dollars, and let us have that much less to pay on something else; but on no account should it go to insure any man's sheep.

Re the article in last ADVOCATE, on Sheep-killing Dogs, I have no sympathy with such half-hearted farmers who give up keeping sheep on account of the vexatious evil. I would house my sheep every night in the year rather than give up the pleasure of having them, saying nothing about the profit. I fear sometimes when we talk about the Government, we imagine it is either at Ottawa or Toronto, when we are the Government, and the easier we make our country to govern, the more money it is in our pockets. WILLIAM WIGGINS.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

P.S.—We always keep our dog in the house in winter and tie him in the summer. We have to only rattle the chain and he will come to get tied. W. W.

## Animal Portraiture.

Isaac J. Hammond, Greencastle, Ind., writes:—"During the past few years there has been a great improvement in animal painting and portraiture. This is especially true in the United States. Some of this work is very true to nature, and we feel that the artist was honest in his desire to reproduce the animal on canvas as near to life as he could approach. There are also artists in the field, and men of no mean ability, who are using their talents merely for mercenary purposes. Their productions are overdone, and one can readily see that the animal on canvas is more a representation of the artist's ideal or perfect animal, and is not true to life. At present, the camera is assisting to remedy these impositions of artists, breeders and stockmen. Whenever one of these overdrawn pictures is compared with a good photograph we find that the contrast is too great, and the model, which (with a few changes in coloring, etc.) served for either a Shorthorn or a Hereford, must give way to the negative true to nature. The careful breeder, in sending out an illustrated catalogue or even in placing a cut in an agricultural paper, should remember that these unnatural animals (although they may approach his ideal in form and symmetry) are impostors, and deceive our correspondents and intending customers, and are a source of more harm than good.

"I am pleased to notice that your recent work, 'Canada's Ideal,' is free from the above criticism, and I hope that you may ever continue in this line."

## The Weaning of Pigs.

A common practice has been to allow the pigs to suck until they are six weeks old, and then they are suddenly weaned, and one or two pigs are left to keep the sow's udder from inflammation. That course has a tendency to stunt the pigs taken away; and when a pig is once stunted in its growth it hardly ever recovers what it lost. Pigs should be left to suck not less than eight weeks. They should have learned to eat with their mother. By throwing a handful on a clean place on the floor, when the pigs are three weeks old, they will begin to pick it up.

Then there should be a low and shallow trough in a part of the pen partitioned off for them, from which they can obtain warmed skim milk mixed with a little ground grain or shorts. If the young pigs can be turned out with their mother on a clover field before they are weaned, they will learn to eat it readily. They should be given a chance to take plenty of exercise even before they go out to clover. From the time they are weaned, a moderate supply of skim milk, buttermilk and green clover or similar feed will promote the growth of muscle, which becomes lean flesh.

Want of exercise and want of flesh-producing food during that period of their growth will prevent any breed of hogs from developing the fleshy qualities which are wanted in the market for bacon and hams. It is improbable that any kind of feed during the fattening of animals can result in producing a large proportion of lean flesh unless the animals are well grown during the two months which follow the time they are weaned. A pig should grow from the time it is born until it goes to the market for killing. Every day that it stands still lessens the profit which its owner might make out of it.

It will be found a profitable practice to have a small clover field for a pig pasture. If clover be not available, a fair pasture may be made of a small field of winter rye, or from a mixture of spring rye, oats and peas. The pigs should be fed, morning and evening, a small quantity of grain and about one gallon of skim milk or buttermilk to every three pigs per day. As a rule, under those conditions, it does not pay to feed a larger quantity of milk. If they have free access to a mixture of charcoal and salt they will not root the ground very much. If ringing is necessary, it should be done on each side of the nose. The castration should be done when three weeks old. CLAUDE BLAKE.

Elgin Co., Ont.

## Periods of Gestation.

At the request of several correspondents we republish the following table, giving the periods of gestation for mares, cows, ewes, and sows:

Time of Service.	Mares. 340 Days.	Cows. 283 Days.	Ewes. 150 Days.	Sows. 112 Days.
Jan. 1	Dec. 6	Oct. 10	May 30	April 22
" 6	" 11	" 15	June 4	" 27
" 11	" 16	" 20	" 9	May 2
" 16	" 21	" 25	" 14	" 7
" 21	" 26	" 30	" 19	" 12
" 26	Jan. 5	Nov. 4	" 24	" 17
" 31	" 10	" 9	" 29	" 22
Feb. 5	" 15	" 14	July 4	" 27
" 10	" 20	" 19	" 9	June 1
" 15	" 25	" 24	" 14	" 6
" 20	" 30	" 29	" 19	" 11
" 25	Feb. 4	Dec. 3	" 24	" 16
March 2	" 9	" 8	" 29	" 21
" 7	" 14	" 13	Aug. 3	" 26
" 12	" 19	" 18	" 8	July 1
" 17	" 24	" 23	" 13	" 6
" 22	March 1	Jan. 3	" 18	" 11
" 27	" 6	" 8	" 23	" 16
April 1	" 11	" 13	Sept. 2	" 21
" 6	" 16	" 18	" 7	" 26
" 11	" 21	" 23	" 12	Aug. 5
" 16	" 26	" 28	" 17	" 10
" 21	" 31	Feb. 2	" 22	" 15
" 26	April 5	" 7	" 27	" 20
May 1	" 10	" 12	Oct. 2	" 25
" 6	" 15	" 17	" 7	" 30
" 11	" 20	" 22	" 12	Sept. 4
" 16	" 25	" 27	" 17	" 9
" 21	" 30	March 4	" 22	" 14
" 26	May 5	" 9	" 27	" 19
June 1	" 10	" 14	Nov. 1	" 24
" 6	" 15	" 19	" 6	" 29
" 11	" 20	" 24	" 11	Oct. 4
" 16	" 25	" 29	" 16	" 9
" 21	" 30	April 3	" 21	" 14
" 26	June 4	" 8	" 26	" 19
July 1	" 9	" 13	Dec. 1	" 24
" 6	" 14	" 18	" 6	" 29
" 11	" 19	" 23	" 11	Nov. 3
" 16	" 24	" 28	" 16	" 8
" 21	" 29	May 3	" 21	" 13
" 26	July 4	" 8	" 26	" 18
Aug. 1	" 9	" 13	" 31	" 23
" 6	" 14	" 18	Jan. 5	" 28
" 11	" 19	" 23	" 10	Dec. 3
" 16	" 24	" 28	" 15	" 8
" 21	" 29	June 2	" 20	" 13
" 26	Aug. 3	" 7	" 25	" 18
Sept. 1	" 8	" 12	" 30	" 23
" 6	" 13	" 17	Feb. 4	" 28
" 11	" 18	" 22	" 9	Jan. 2
" 16	" 23	" 27	" 14	" 7
" 21	" 28	July 2	" 19	" 12
" 26	Sept. 2	" 7	" 24	" 17
Oct. 1	" 7	" 12	March 1	" 22
" 6	" 12	" 17	" 6	" 27
" 11	" 17	" 22	" 11	Feb. 1
" 16	" 22	" 27	" 16	" 6
" 21	" 27	Aug. 1	" 21	" 11
" 26	Oct. 2	" 6	" 26	" 16
Nov. 1	" 7	" 11	" 31	" 21
" 6	" 12	" 16	April 5	" 26
" 11	" 17	" 21	" 10	March 3
" 16	" 22	" 26	" 15	" 8
" 21	" 27	" 31	" 20	" 13
" 26	Nov. 1	Sept. 5	" 25	" 18
Dec. 1	" 6	" 10	" 30	" 23
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" 31	" 6	" 9	" 30	" 22

## Argentine Cattle Prohibited.

Owing to the prevalence of foot and mouth disease in the Argentine Republic, the British Government has prohibited the importation of live cattle from that country into Great Britain, the order going into effect on April 30th. While this may have the effect of increasing the South American export of dressed beef, it is believed by many that it will have a decidedly stimulating effect on the present season's export of live cattle from Canada to Britain. The withdrawal of freight boats, for use in the South African war transport, has had a very prejudicial effect upon the outlook for trade across the Atlantic, and an effort is being made to call into service the vessels now shut out from the South American carrying trade. The reorganization of the Dominion Live Stock Association at Montreal has also been proposed.

## COMMENTS ON THE PICTURE.

## The Admiration of Britain and America.

A. J. LOVEJOY, Gen. Supt. Illinois State Fair.—"I consider the engraving a masterpiece of workmanship; full of character and very lifelike."

J. DEANE WILLIS, Bapton Manor, Codford St. Mary, Bath, Eng.—"'Canada's Ideal' arrived safely. It is well done, both its execution and, as far as I can judge, its individual portraits."

HON. D. FERGUSON (Senator).—"In my opinion 'Canada's Ideal' is indeed a beautiful work of art in animal portraiture, and cannot fail in having an excellent influence on the minds of the young farmers of Canada."

I. P. ROBERTS, Director College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.—"It is a most emphatic and beautiful way of giving instruction in the breeding and feeding of live stock. It is a volume in itself. I trust that your people will appreciate it as highly as we do."

THOS. A. SHARPE, Superintendent Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B. C.—"'Canada's Ideal' is indeed a beauty, and worthy a frame in any breeder's library. It must be exceedingly gratifying to those who owned the animals to have them so splendidly illustrated."

WM. WARFIELD, Lexington, Ky.—"'Canada's Ideal' is hanging now over my head in my library, and makes a very handsome appearance among many very celebrated men and Shorthorns. I wish I was strong enough to write you more than this brief note."

F. D. COBURN, Secretary Kansas State Board of Agriculture.—"'Canada's Ideal' surely required a vast deal of work and study of the breed and the animals it represents. It is the most extensive affair of the kind that has yet come to my attention."

HON. M. H. COCHRANE, Hillhurst Farm, Compton, P. Q.—"This handsome picture of Shorthorns is well named 'Canada's Ideal,' and affords abundant proof that the Dominion is deserving of the place she has won as second only to Great Britain in the exportation of pure-bred stock."

WM. SAUNDERS, Director Central Experimental Farm.—"'Canada's Ideal' is one of the best things of the kind I have ever seen. The animals are all very choice representatives of the breed, and they are admirably shown in the plate. You deserve much credit for the good work you are doing."

PROF. THOMAS SHAW, University of Minnesota.—"The animals represented are a credit to any country, and they are beautifully sketched. The dissemination of such pictures cannot fail to convey more correct ideas as to animal form and to stimulate young breeders to aim still higher."

H. J. ELLIOTT, Danville, P. Q.—"Rightly named 'Canada's Ideal,' especially at the present time, when the Shorthorns are taking such a prominent place throughout the world, and should serve as a means of stimulating that standard of excellence amongst the breeders of Canada's live stock. I appreciate it more highly on account of my having the honor of being the breeder of one of the animals—No. 7—Robert the Bruce."

JAS. MILLS, President Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.—"I look on this engraving as a valuable contribution to the stock industry of the Province at the present time, bringing prominently before the minds of students and others the pre-eminent value of the Shorthorn breed of cattle for the farmers of Ontario. I am inclining more and more to the opinion that Shorthorns, and well-selected Shorthorn grades, some for beef and others for milk, are amongst the most profitable cattle in this country at the present time."

HON. JOHN DRYDEN, Minister of Agriculture, Toronto, Ont.—"Both the readers of your paper and yourself are quite familiar with my conviction that one of the best means that can be used to encourage better production in our live stock is the presentation before our people as often as possible of what may be considered the correct ideals to which they should work. The most perfect living animal that can be secured is undoubtedly the best object lesson. The next best thing is to secure as good a portrait of the animal as possible. Your second picture of this character, called 'Canada's Ideal,' will be very useful in carrying out this idea. I have no doubt that the privilege of gazing upon the portraits of the animals therein presented will, in the days to come, be a means of stimulating and encouraging many of our young men to try to follow the guide thus presented, and thus aid, so far as they can, in the production of prime beef in this country."