

farmer gets out of a load of hogs cannot always be judged by the price. The feed cost must be taken into consideration.

In some localities there is considerable complaint about cattle having sore feet. This trouble may be brought on by broken hoofs, stone bruise, stepping on edge of a hard substance and breaking the flesh between the toes, standing in liquid manure, walking through muddy places, or it may be due to infection. Treatment of some kind should promptly be applied. Bathing with hot water, applying a poultice of hot linseed meal and dressing the raw surface with one part carbolic acid to 30 parts sweet oil should give relief. The patient should be kept in a clean, dry place.

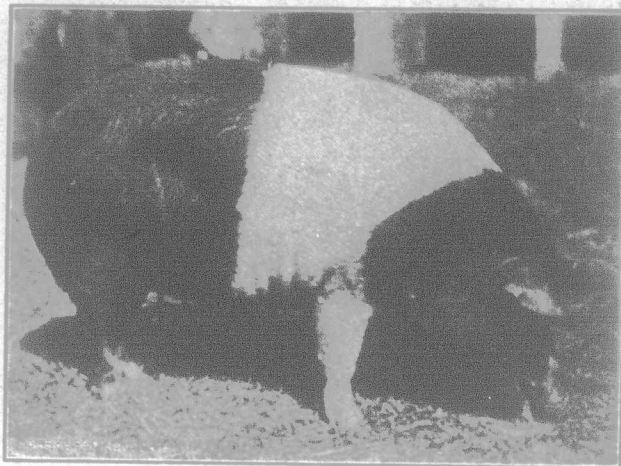
Compensation For Sheep Killed by Dogs.

Although dogs are taxed in practically every community, and that tax was doubled at the recent sitting of Parliament, it has by no means stopped the destruction of sheep by canines. From different sections of the country come reports of numbers of valuable sheep being killed, or so worried by dogs running at large that the owner was forced to kill them. This is a serious loss not only to the individual but to the country in this time of shortage of meat and wool. While the owner may receive compensation either from the township or from the owner of the dog; it does not entirely make up for the loss. A number of queries have come to this office regarding the compensation which the owner of the sheep will receive, and also concerning how to go about to secure same. An Act passed in March, 1918, reads "where the owner of any dog killing, injuring, terrifying, or worrying sheep is not known the municipality in which such sheep were so killed, injured, terrified or worried shall be liable to compensation to the full amount of the damage sustained, but no municipality shall be so liable unless application has been made for damages as herein provided within three months after such sheep have been so killed, injured, terrified or worried. The amount of damage sustained shall be determined in the following manner: The council of every local municipality shall appoint one or more competent persons to be known as sheep valuers. Within forty-eight hours after the discovery of any damage the owner of the sheep or the clerk of the municipality shall notify the sheep valuer who shall immediately make full investigations and determine the extent of the damage. The sheep valuer shall make his report in writing, giving in detail the extent of the injury and the amount of damage done, to the clerk of the municipality and shall at the same time forward a copy of such report to the owner of the sheep damaged. Where the owner of such sheep considers the award inadequate to cover the loss of same, he may appeal to the Minister of Agriculture who may name a competent arbitrator to make a further investigation and the award of the arbitrator so named shall be final, provided the appeal to the Minister shall be made within one week after the award of the local valuer has been received, and shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$25 which shall be forfeited if the award of the local valuer is sustained. If no sheep valuers are appointed by the municipal council, or the clerk or the sheep valuers do not perform the duties provided for by this section, or any of them within a time specified, the person who has sustained the damage shall have a right of action against the municipal corporation for the amount of damage recoverable in any court of competent jurisdiction. The owner of any sheep killed on injured while running at large upon any highway or on unenclosed land shall have no right to compensation from a municipal corporation." According to the wording of this Act compensation shall be made to the full amount of the damage sustained, and the extent of the damage shall be determined by sheep valuers. It is not made very clear as to whether or not the owner of sheep killed by dogs shall be compensated according to the value of the sheep for mutton or for breeding purposes. This is the point about which a number of sheep owners are in doubt. It is a well known fact that pedigree and certain qualities as to type and conformation enhance the value of an animal for breeding purposes above that of an ordinary sheep which is being raised for meat alone. The Act can well be interpreted to cover the value of the sheep for breeding purposes as it plainly reads "to the full amount of the damage sustained."

It is believed that the dog nuisance is responsible for so few sheep being kept in certain sections of the Province. Farmers have had their flocks greatly decimated in a single night and this has so disheartened them that they preferred investing their money in other breeds of stock. Some would go so far as to destroy practically all the dogs in the country; however, this would be rather a radical step as the good dog has a place on every farm. Not only does he guard the property but he lends considerable assistance in bringing the flocks and herds from the field to stable. True, a dog may damage the stock but this is the result of poor breeding or poor training, or both combined. The well-fed dog that is brought up with cattle and sheep is not likely to molest the flocks at night. It is the canine that is half starved or that is not used to mingling with stock that usually does the damage. The increased tax on dogs will undoubtedly get rid of a number of useless ones. Then, too, the Act provides that if the owner of the dog that destroys sheep is known he shall be obliged to pay the damages to the owner of the sheep killed or injured. If a dog is restless or prone to wander away at night the owner would do well to tie him up and so avoid the risk of him doing damage to other men's property. It is better to guard the dog than to be called upon to pay for damages he may cause.

Prolific Sows.

When newly weaned pigs find ready sale at nine and ten dollars apiece it is important that the sow kept be prolific and a good mother. One quite frequently hears of litters varying from fourteen up to twenty in number but these too frequently dwindle down to six or eight by weaning time. On the other hand there are sows which fail to produce more than a half dozen pigs twice a year. A dozen pigs make a profitable litter and most sows have teats and milk enough to feed this number if properly rationed. There are some feeders who are perfectly satisfied if they raise eight to ten in a litter and who prefer that number to a larger litter, claiming that there is less likelihood of there being any runts and the entire bunch is usually more thrifty than where a greater number are raised. Some breeders contend that the time of service influences the size of the litter. For instance they claim that service early



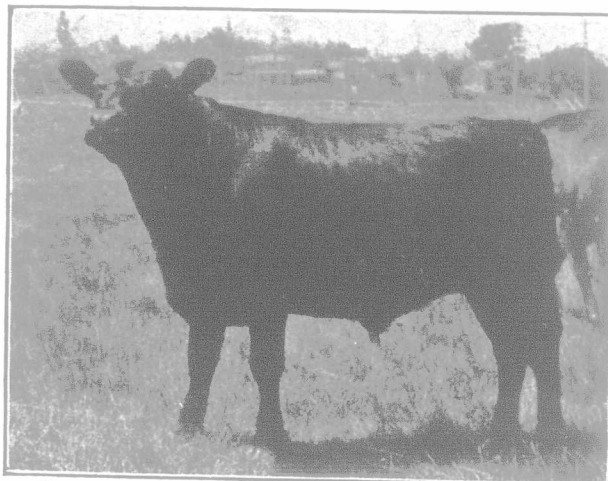
A Typey Hampshire Sow.

in the period of oestrus and then turning the sow in the pen or paddock with other pigs has in many instances resulted in small litters, while service near the end of the period of oestrus and the sow kept by herself for a few days has given large numbers of pigs. If the sow is commencing to flesh up at the time of service she is likely to be more prolific than if she is very thin in condition.

It should be possible to select and breed a strain of sows for the production of large litters and a good milk flow to feed the progeny, as it is to increase the milk flow of a strain of cattle by selection and breeding. With young pigs at present prices the prolific sow that feeds her litter properly is a valuable animal to have in the herd. Securing breeding stock from sows which are regular breeders and which produce and raise large litters is advisable. The law of "like tends to produce like" works in all classes of stock.

Cost of Raising and Finishing Two-Year-Old Steers.

That there is a good profit in raising and finishing beef cattle at the present prices is a foregone conclusion with many people, but there are few feeders who are in a position to give the exact gains, cost of gains and net profits for certain feeding materials. It is unfortunate that more do not keep accurate records so as to be in a position to know the most profitable age at which to feed the animals the heaviest or to finish them for the block. J. G. Rutherford, who is Superintendent



About Ready for the Block.

of Agriculture and Animal Industry of the Department of Natural Resources, Canadian Pacific Railway Company, gives the following account of a bunch of steers fed at Strathmore Farm, in Alberta, and sold through the Alberta stock yards at \$16.80 per cwt. The report is to the effect that the thirty head of steers marketed at the above-mentioned price were of Shorthorn and Hereford breeding, which were picked from a lot of sixty-one calves which were got together the latter part of November, 1916. Some of them were range stock and others were bred by the Animal Industry Branch. As regards quality, there was no special or extraordinary feeding merit attached to the steers. The remaining thirty-one calves were quartered in box stalls in a warm, well-ventilated, comfortable barn,

and in May, 1917, brought 11 1/4 cents per pound. They made a daily gain of 1.81 lbs. The thirty steers which were marketed this year spent their first winter in an open shed on practically the same ration as those above mentioned, except that no alfalfa hay was fed and only a small quantity of silage during the months of April and May. The daily gain per head was 1.06 lbs. at a cost of 12.1 cents per pound. The calves in the barn rounded out, laid on flesh, accumulated fat, and came out in the spring with an attractive finish and bloom. Those in the shed grew and developed size, and although as thrifty, did not compare with the others in point of flesh or finish, thus showing the importance of warmth and comfort in the finishing of yearling steers. On the other hand, wintering young stuff in open sheds tends to develop strength, constitution and size, which are desirable as a foundation for the subsequent heavy feeding required to finish cattle the second year. The first feeding period was from December 1, 1916, to June 1, 1917, and the following table shows the ration fed, the weight of the steers at commencement of feeding, the daily gain per head, and the cost per pound of gain.

Thirty steers weighing 15,587 lbs. Dec. 1, 1916, cost \$1,178.95.

Amount and value of feed consumed from Dec. 1, 1916, to June 1, 1917:

17,194 lbs. oats at 43c. per bushel.....	\$217.45
8,597 " barley at 60c. per bushel.....	107.48
6,643 " bran at \$28.00 per ton.....	93.00
5,078 " silage at \$3.50 per ton.....	8.89
19,361 " oat sheaves at \$7.50 per ton.....	72.60
32,494 " hay at \$10.00 per ton.....	162.47
1,543 " cut hay, sheaves and straw at \$7.00 per ton.....	5.40
514 " salt at 1 1/2c. per lb.....	7.71
Grinding 25,791 lbs. grain at 10c. cwt.....	25.79
	\$700.79

Weight of steers at June 1, 1917, 21,377 lbs.

Daily gain per head, 1.06 lbs.

Cost per lb. gain, 12.1 cents.

The second feeding period commenced on June 1 and extended to October 16, during which time the steers were on grass. The pasture was supplemented by 8 pounds of concentrates per day to each animal, made up as follows: 3 1/4 pounds oat chop; 3 1/4 pounds barley chop, and 1 1/4 pounds of bran. No doubt many would consider this extravagant feeding, but according to the following table the steers made a daily gain of 2.07 pounds per head in the time above mentioned at a cost of 6.24 cents per pound:

Feed consumed from June 1, 1917, to October 16, 1917:

13,891 lbs. oats at 43c. per bushel.....	\$175.68
13,891 " barley at 51c. per bushel.....	147.59
5,091 " bran at \$28.00 per ton.....	71.27
4 1/2 months' pasturage at 80c. per head per month.....	108.00
450 lbs. salt at 1 1/2c. per lb.....	6.75
Grinding 27,782 lbs. grain at 10c. per cwt.....	27.78
	\$537.07

Weight of steers October 16, 1917, 29,982 lbs.

Daily gain per head, 2.07 lbs.

Cost per lb. gain, 6.24 cents.

On October 16, 1917, the third feeding period commenced, and the thirty steers were placed in loose boxes in a well-ventilated, comfortable barn. No outside exercise was allowed, and water was provided at all times. The grain ration was composed of oats, barley and bran, with linseed cake added in February at the rate of half a pound per day per head. This was gradually increased until each animal was getting about three pounds per day. This period of feeding was the most expensive of the lot. While they gained 1.78 pounds daily, it was done at a cost of 16.77 cents per pound. This was practically what the animals sold for. While there was considerable profit made on this lot of steers, it was due largely to the increase in value per pound of the animals as they stood before the last winter's feeding started than from the weight gained during the last feeding period. The following table gives in detail the ration for the last feeding period from October 16, 1917, to May 20, 1918.

Amount and value of feed consumed from October 16, 1917, to May 20, 1918:

30,184 lbs. oats at 52 1/2c. per bushel.....	\$466.08
28,080 " barley at \$1.06 1/2 per bushel.....	623.02
6,680 " bran at \$31.00 per ton.....	103.54
5,892 " linseed cake at \$60.00 per ton.....	176.76
18,060 " silage at \$4.00 per ton.....	36.12
6,772 " turnips at \$4.00 per ton.....	13.54
26,460 " oat sheaves at \$7.00 per ton.....	92.61
44,226 " hay at \$10.00 per ton.....	221.13
8,361 " alfalfa at \$16.00 per ton.....	66.89
4,819 " blue joint hay at \$16.00 per ton.....	38.55
15,030 " cut feed at \$5.00 per ton.....	37.57
700 " salt at 1 1/2c. per lb.....	10.50
Grinding 58,264 lbs. grain at 10c. per cwt.....	58.26
	\$1,944.57

Weight of steers May 20 at farm, 41,580 lbs.

Weight of steers May 22, less shrinkage, 41,090 lbs. at \$16.80 cwt.

Daily gain per head, 1.78 lbs.

Cost per lb. gain, 16.77 cents.

This lot of cattle made a profit of \$81.74 per head. At the time of selling they weighed 4,190 pounds and dressed out 60.10 per cent.

While the above figures were obtained from feeding steers in Alberta the ration was much the same as what is fed on an Eastern farm, and the cattle were of the same breeding as are to be found in the average stable.