

LIVE STOCK.

The Joker in Ontario's Sheep and Dog Law.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Relative to an item on "Sheep Killed by Dogs," in the Question & Answer column of the Christmas Number, allow me to state there is there a question asked which vitally concerns me. I am interested somewhat in this line of stock, and it is certain the dog nuisance is the great hindrance to this line of husbandry. It appears to me you have answered the question somewhat roughly, though probably correctly. You say the matter is governed by Provincial legislation, whereas, to my knowledge of the law, and as we have it in our township here (Stanley), the thing is to all practicable purposes governed by municipal by-law, or, in other words, they override the statute by township law, and the result is the council won't pay for sheep killed. Now, I want to ask right here, Mr. Editor, is it right to have a real good law on our statute books like this, and still have it there only in such a way that the average man, or any other man, cannot apply it or put it into force? As far as I understand the statute, it is of no practicable use to me as one engaged in the sheep business. Now, why should this "local-option" clause be put in it at all? It is no use there, absolutely. It seems to me that the local-option clause is first-class legislation in connection with the License Act, but should not have been tacked on to this all-important statute. I, for one, think now a very opportune time to have this very objectionable clause struck out of this legislation, leaving the act on statute binding on all municipalities. Allow me to state, as one who knows, it would be a very great boon to the industry of sheep-raising. The cry is going over the country just now, "Where are our flocks gone?" and so on. Legislators and Ministers of Agriculture are now wanting to do something to help the woolen trade along. We can't have wool without sheep, and we can't have sheep unless the dog nuisance is done away with. I submit this, hoping you will give it your very best attention. I might be permitted to ask a question: Are township councils liable for sheep killed where a dog tax is collected? What was the original meaning or use of dog-tax money?

W. W. COOPER.

Huron Co., Ont.

[Note.—Our answer was quite correct. The matter in question is governed by Provincial legislation, by virtue of which the municipalities derive their authority in the premises. Township councils are not necessarily liable to pay compensation for sheep killed by dogs because they maintain a dog tax. They may, by by-law, declare that the application of the proceeds of such tax, provided by the statute, be dispensed with (R. S. O. 1897, Chap. 271, Sec. 8). The original meaning and use of "dog-tax money" is, we think, to be gathered from Sec. 7 of the statute in question, which section provides that the money collected under the preceding sections is to constitute a fund for satisfying damages arising from dogs killing or injuring sheep or lambs in the municipality. We heartily agree that the "local-option" joker in the law should be removed. It was placed there, undoubtedly, as a concession to such municipalities as might find the provision unpopular. The act should certainly be amended.—Editor.]

Experience with Loose Feeding Wanted.

A correspondent asks the opinion of leading finishers of beef cattle as to the matter of feeding loose or tied. We believe opinion is coming increasingly to favor loose feeding, when a sufficiency of bedding is available, and when cattle are assorted as to size and strength, with not too many in a pen, and with provision made so that each may obtain its fair share of feed. The subject is one, however, upon which briefly-stated experience and opinions would be read with profit. Subscribers who have had experience with loose feeding are invited to send us short letters, of two or three hundred words, dealing with these points:

1. For how many seasons, and with what number of cattle have you had experience in loose feeding?
2. How many head would you have in one compartment, and of what size should it be to accommodate them comfortably?
3. How do you manage the feeding and watering, and the cleaning of the stables?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages, compared with stall-feeding, in respect to amount and cost of gains, ability of the cattle to stand a prolonged feeding period, amount of bedding needed, preservation of manure, and amount of labor required?

Notes from Ireland.

CATTLE FROM THE ARGENTINE.

While the political forces were mustering their array, it came as a bolt from the blue to Irish farmers to learn that it was the intention of the Liberals, if returned to power, to remove, in the month of April, 1910, the embargo upon live-stock from the Argentine, at present in operation at British ports. At first glance, this news, coming from an unofficial but well-informed source, was regarded by many as a subtle electioneering-vote-catcher to serve Ministerial interests in shipping circles and dockyard districts; but soon it became patent that there was some foundation for the rumor, and inquiry at headquarters elicited the fact that the matter was really engaging the serious consideration of the authorities, to whom assurances had been given of the freedom of the Argentine from cattle disease. The announcement took us by surprise, and to this fact may be attributed certain misconceptions that prevailed for the time being. For instance, it was thought an outlandish suggestion that any Government calling itself British should treat a foreign country with special consideration by affording it facilities which were denied to one of our own colonies, Canada, to wit. But, later on, when we began to collect our senses, we remembered that at present, while Canadian live stock are admitted for immediate slaughter, South American animals are not allowed in at all, except as dead meat. So the proposed change really means that Argentine and Canadian exporters are to be treated in exactly the same way.

The South American authorities are moving strongly in the matter, and they have influential allies in the shipping companies and harbor com-

ket from the County of Wexford. This meat, which was properly dressed, consisted of the carcasses of five prime Aberdeen-Angus heifers, and was despatched by the new Fishguard route of the Great Western Railway, which goes through South Wales across England to the metropolis. The beef arrived in first-class condition, and met a ready sale at the top price of the day, viz., 4s. 4d. to 4s. 6d. per stone of 8 pounds. The experiment, of course, had the benefit of special care at all stages, but it must be regarded as providing encouraging evidence in favor of the feasibility and profitableness of the new trade.

IRISH FAT-STOCK EXHIBITION.

In view of the foregoing, it was especially appropriate that our recent winter Fat-stock Show in Dublin should have proved one of the most popular and successful functions of the kind ever held in Ireland. The Department of Agriculture, the Cattle-traders' Association, and the County Committees of Agriculture all co-operated with the actual promoters, the Royal Dublin Society, to lift the show out of the dull and functionless state into which it was rapidly declining, and the united efforts were most successful. Excursion parties of farmers were organized by the county instructors, and a record attendance of the right kind of people was thus obtained. The show itself was not, of course, perfect, but it marked a great improvement on its predecessors, and a still better advance is looked for next winter. Upwards of 400 entries were received in the cattle section, while we had 47 pens of sheep, but, softly, please!—no pigs! Of roots and grain, butter and poultry, there were 688, 265 and 768 entries, respectively. With regard to the cattle, a notable feature was the fine display of useful out-fed

beasts, which testified to our good grass and genial climate. The show also strikingly demonstrated the remarkable influence of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in producing choiceness of meat and high quality of finish. The comely blacks accounted for many of the chief trophies. Herefords, too, showed up advantageously as a cross with Shorthorns or Angus cows, but it was observable that these crosses were not so good over the quarters where the steaks lie, or so well ribbed, as crosses.

A



Dunure Shapely (i-)

Clydesdale stallion. Three-year-old Clyd-
and Ottawa Winter Fairs, 1909. O-
bus, Ont. S-

missioners, who also actively backed efforts to secure the admission of C. The health of our home stock which directly appeals to these they do not appear to give this subject serious thought.

IRISH DEAD-MEAT

Synchronizing with the di imports has been a notable posed Irish dead-meat trade realization of which would satisfaction. Not only w considerably by devoting of the finished article. legiance to the store-trial population wou extensive supplies of very large number maintained all of stem the tide of at home, and enh Irish tanning inc would be amon slaughtering of shown by it in In different pa trade is best ment offici farmers, a shipping the last fo Irish beef