

time, and too much care cannot be taken in handling. Improper handling at this time often is the beginning of some of those habits that render an animal unsafe, and one that is not desired in the average farm stable.

Mares that have colts should always be watched carefully during the first few days. They are often quite ugly in disposition, for the first few days after they have dropped their foal. In such a case, observe the greatest care in handling and disturb as little as possible. This usually subsides in a few days, but in some mares may persist during the time the colt is suckling. Some mares will also show this disposition while carrying a foal. Under no consideration should a mare be punished under these circumstances.

We who have handled horses know the effect that idleness and cold weather have upon the average horse. We have often seen the old family horse jump and kick, and possibly pretend that he was going to run away. This same feeling is present in the younger horse, but in much stronger degree. It is always proper to pay particular attention to the horse that is worked only occasionally during the winter months. A little play may result in some little accident or incident that may frighten or injure the horse, causing him to run away or to become entangled in the harness or vehicle. This is simply the result of an over-abundance of spirit and calls for nothing more than a little care and judgment in handling.

Due to improperly-fitted collar, poorly-adjusted harness, or from carrying much weight, the horse's neck often becomes sore. Horses are just like people as far as wounds or injuries are concerned, and it is often necessary to use a lot of skill in caring for some sore-necked horses, to prevent them from injuring you. Horses of this kind should be handled just as carefully as possible and should not be whipped, as this does as a general thing only aggravate the trouble. It is while a horse is suffering from this condition that he is apt to learn crowding in the stall, and like habits.

#### PUNISHING THE HORSE.

It is not often that punishment is necessary. There are, in most cases, good and sufficient reasons why it should not be done. In the first place, it is not and never should be the proper punishment to kick a horse in the stomach, or to whip him about the head. It is cruel to beat a horse under any condition, and from our own experience, we feel that it never was justified in a single instance. In our experience we have handled a few of the so-called mean ones, in the harness classes, and the less we used the whip the better progress we made. It is not often that a horse refuses to do a thing, if you can succeed in making him understand what you want him to do. There is no real place for a whip about the stable, or any place else for that matter, aside from that of appearance. In a fancy rig or turnout, it has about the same effect there on appearance as a collar and tie for the driver. In training and driving race horses we usually carried a whip, but usually we used the whip at just the wrong time, and later when we decided that we did not often need a whip we got along better than before. The tendency of every driver that carries a whip is to use it too often. We do not feel that a whip should ever be used only as a prompter for the horse. There is too much danger of striking the horse in the eye, and it injures the skin too badly. With drivers who carry team whips it is the common practice to see them demonstrating their ability to strike the animal on the ears, or on other unusual locations just to show themselves off. Such practices are all too common and should never be tolerated.

A horse should never be jerked. This is one of the most cruel punishments that drivers subject their horses to. It is all too common among average drivers.

If it is necessary to punish a horse it can best be done by using a short, thin, wide paddle. This will frighten the animal considerably and will not injure the skin. It is the common practice to see men beat horses or whip them with pitchforks or clubs or the handiest article to be had. This indicates a lack of good sense and a violation of their better judgement. When you feel that one of your horses needs punishing take a lot of time to think it over. If you do this you will usually conclude that you were a little hasty after all.

#### The Blacksmith and the Farmer.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As blacksmiths are getting scarce in the country, I feel the farmer is going to be the loser, as you see there are very few young men learning the trade; first because it is, as everybody knows, hard work and all hardware is very dear. The average blacksmith just makes a living. Has any farmer ever tried to hold a horse's foot, especially a colt's? When he goes to pare his hoof or dress his foot, whatever the case may be, does it not make him puff and sometimes raises his temper before he has the foot finished? Such is the case with the blacksmith every day, so do not blame him if he is cross. Holding colts, and sometimes old horses, is no joke. It is true no owner wants to see his horse whipped or abused; but some horses will not stand until they get a good whipping. There are cases where it does no good; a little kindness is better in some cases. A nervous horse is better taken quietly.

As spring work will soon start you will want your colt shod. Do not ask your blacksmith to wrestle with him for an old pair of shoes; if he is not worth new ones do not shoe him at all. A farmer owes a blacksmith a great deal, for there are cases where an unshod horse would lose a lot of money. Many good horses are found with a leg broken for want of shoes.

A BLACKSMITH.

## LIVE STOCK.

The better the live stock the larger the income on most farms.

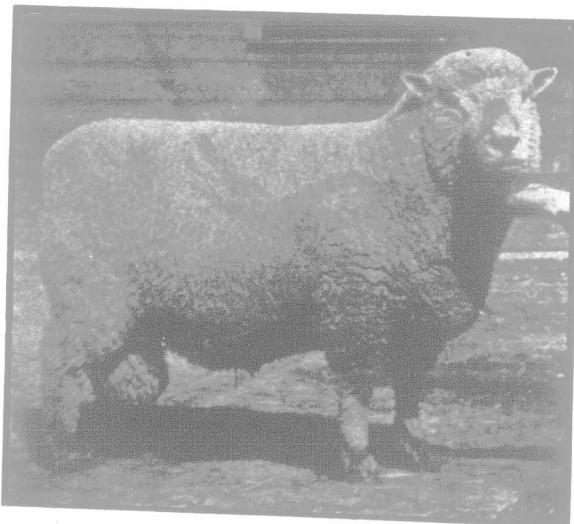
There are fewer crop failures on farms where good live stock is kept and properly cared for.

Silage and clover hay will winter young stock very well, and are the basis of economical rations for all ages of bovines.

Did you ever try feeding silage to those shoats and brood sows? It is surprising how they appear to relish the canned corn.

Stockmen are the salt of the community. They feed the soil instead of mining it by selling everything off in bales or bags.

It is yet many months before the fall exhibitions open, but it is not a day too soon to pick out the stock to be shown and commence fitting it.



Southdown Ram.

A fine type of Southdown, showing substance and character.

A few applications of the curry comb and brush will greatly add to the appearance of the herd, especially as the old hair is beginning to come out.

The appearance of those heifers with up-turned horns can be greatly improved by using weights on the horns to bring them into a more pleasing position.

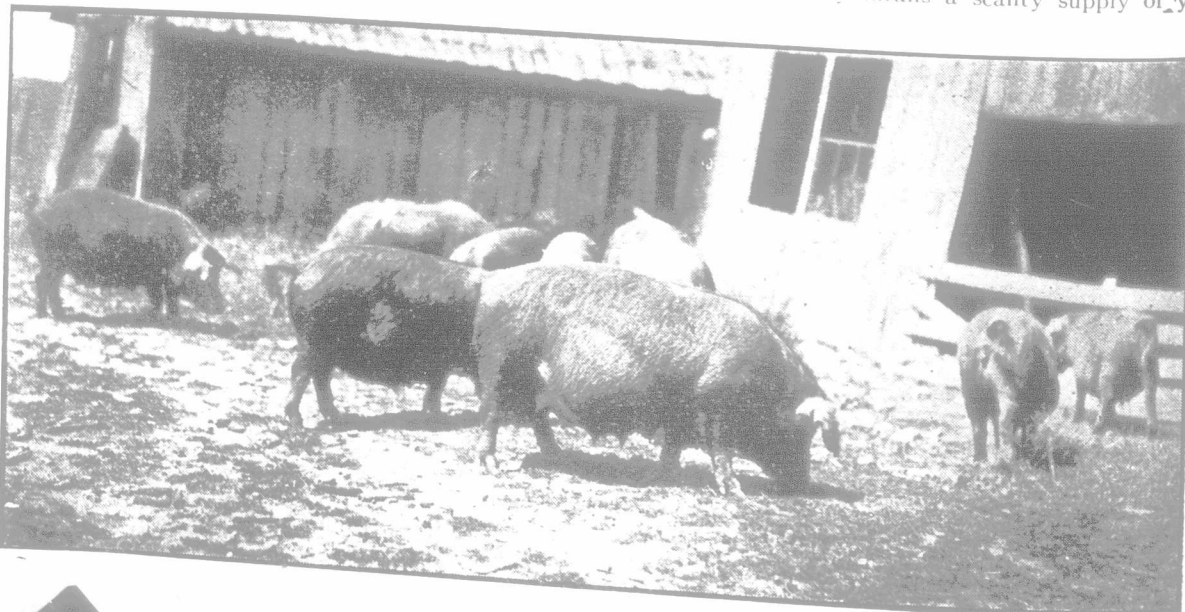
The stability of the Shorthorn trade was again demonstrated at the recent Shorthorn Congress Show and Sale held in Chicago, when 305 head averaged \$958.00.

Plan the cropping system so that you will at least have sufficient roughage to carry the herds and flock. Roughage can be grown more cheaply than it can be purchased.

More silage and clover will enable you to feed more cattle to further enrich the soil to grow bigger crops to feed more cattle. Quality as well as quantity in the stock should be considered.

Those ewes due to lamb this month should be closely watched. Have them in a small enclosure preferable in the sheep pen, if warm enough, before lambing. If the ewe is put in a warm stable she may lose some of the wool.

The spring is the season of year when large increases are made in the herds and flocks. The new-born pigs, lambs, calves and colts should be given every chance to



Brood Sows Feeding in the Open.

Expensive houses are not necessary for brood sows during the gestation period, provided they are dry.

thrive. If you haven't time to care for the weakling, give the boys or girls a chance to raise it, but do not let it be a case of Mary's calf and dad's cow.

The live-stock market continues teetery. It appears difficult for it to become stabilized at a point where the high-priced feeds can profitably be converted into meat. The American market has been even more unstable than ours.

March litters very often require as much attention as those farrowed in early winter. The blustery March winds have the habit of penetrating the piggery walls and chilling the silken-clad new-born pigs. Be as particular about the farrowing pen in March as in December. It will pay.

#### Growing Wool of High Quality.

The market for wool has been particularly good for most grades during the past few years. A fleece now brings almost as much as a lamb used to. The war influenced to a large extent the price received for the different grades. As the demand increased for goods manufactured from the fine grades of wool, the price for these grades rose, to the detriment of the price for the lower grades. It is largely the result of supply and demand. At present there is a considerable difference in the price of coarse wool and that of fine or medium combing. According to Mr. Ackroyd, the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers' representative in Boston, there was on January 1 a very large amount of coarse wool in storage. Consequently, the price did not compare favorably with that received for the finer quality. The mills will manufacture what the people demand. However, it is not expected that this difference in price will be maintained for any great length of time, as the price of the fine-quality clothing will reach such a height that the demand will switch to some of the coarser grades. We understand that already some of the mills are contemplating adjusting their machinery so as to handle the coarser wools. Last year some of the breeders of long-wooled sheep were rather disappointed in the price they received. While they secured the advantage of a large clip, the price was scarcely commensurate. Undoubtedly, in the near future the price of the different grades will become more nearly equalized.

The breeder or shepherd can do a good deal towards improving the quality of his clip. It is important that the fleece be kept clean. The feeding and general management of the flock also influences the quality of the wool. The following paragraphs from Bulletin No. 274, written by Professors Wade Toole and J. P. Sackville, Guelph, give valuable information regarding the care of the sheep in order to produce the highest quality of fleece. The table shows the grades into which the wool from the different breeds of sheep was placed at the grading station in Ontario this year.

While it is true that practically all the breeds of sheep kept in Ontario are mutton sheep and the fleece is more or less of a by-product, yet wool selling at over the half-dollar mark per pound the production of a heavy fleece of good quality is a very important feature of sheep husbandry. Quantity and quality are the essential features of a good fleece. Neither of these can be expected unless the flock is maintained throughout the year in a good condition, and at the same time care taken to keep all foreign matter such as chaff, burs and sand out of the wool. The weight of the fleece depends on the density and length of the wool, and this varies to some extent with the different breeds. A good growth of wool is impossible, no matter what breed, unless the sheep has been well nourished. The growth of wool depends just as much on good feeding and management as does the growth of the animal's body. Quality has reference to strength of fibre, the absence of cotted wool and kemp and a fleece that is free from dirt and chaff. The wool produced during a period of sickness or low condition of the sheep is bound to be weak in fibre. Freedom from cotted wool is dependent upon a regular supply of yoke or grease secreted from the pores of the skin. Here again sickness or low vitality means a scanty supply of yoke,