

but one of the most important points to look to is the constitution possessed. A ram with a weak constitution should never be used. Not only is such an animal unable to do his work effectively, but the chances are that his progeny will be weakly, and great mortality will occur in the flock. A vigorous and active ram possessing all the evidences of hardiness and good health should be regarded as the first point to pay attention to.

Points descriptive of such an animal are a clear, bright eye in a masculine head, a stylish and active walk. Good strength of bone, ample chest development—judged by space between forelegs—belly and scrotum well woolled, and, finally, freedom from foot-rot. In connection with the production of bone, while strength should be distinguished from coarseness, there is a tendency to get the bone too fine. Four well-made and well-placed legs are very necessary, and a common fault, and a bad one, too is to get the front legs nearly touching each other. With regard to the belly and thighs being well woolled, this is a very important point. It has been stated that one reason for the decline in the use of the Shropshire breed in Scotland was due to the poor covering of the belly of the breed. Generally speaking, the belly covering corresponds with the covering all over the body. That is to say, if it is light or scanty, the body wool will be likewise light and scanty. It will thus be recognized that whereas the fleece is supposed to give protection to the sheep, in a harsh climate any deficiency in fleece will tell upon the health of the animal concerned. It is, too, very disappointing on purchasing a ram to find that he is lame. Therefore, if possible, it is best to buy an animal free from foot-rot, simply because he will not spread it amongst the flock, and, at the same time, will be able to do his work more effectively. Many a breeder has been robbed of the services of a good ram at a most favourable period of the tupping season owing to his going lame. Having satisfied oneself about the constitution of the ram, then proceed to note the other important points, and in connection with these it is sometimes fairly easy to be deceived in an animal owing to the skilful manner in which he has been gotten up. If

maturity in breeds, for only lambs which exhibit sufficient size and fattening powers are selected, and thus this early maturing property of the sire is imparted to the offspring. Apart from this, however, it is by no means uncommon to find that a lamb which carried everything before him in his first season when he becomes a shearling has to take a back seat in competition with others. Therefore it would appear to be safer in expending a greater sum on a good shearling than on a good lamb. The shearling is made. Its bad qualities will be showing at that age, if it possesses any, whereas the lamb has to grow, and in growing he may not develop as desired. Likewise, there are some who believe that ram lambs beget more twins than older sheep; but there is no reliable evidence to prove this. So many factors enter into the composition of this question that individuality of the sheep and season must be of more importance than age. However, for old ewes it may be considered a good plan to use a lamb or shearling for the fact is that they are possessed of greater vigor than old rams.

With regard to the number of ewes which can be served, it is not a good plan to overdo a lamb with a greater number of ewes. Fifty, as a rule, should be the outside figure, and if the lamb is intended for show purposes the next season, half the number would be plenty. Shearlings can comfortably manage up to eighty ewes, though older rams, of course, would require to have a reduced number.—Henry G. Robinson, in Live Stock Journal, England.

Market Receipts.

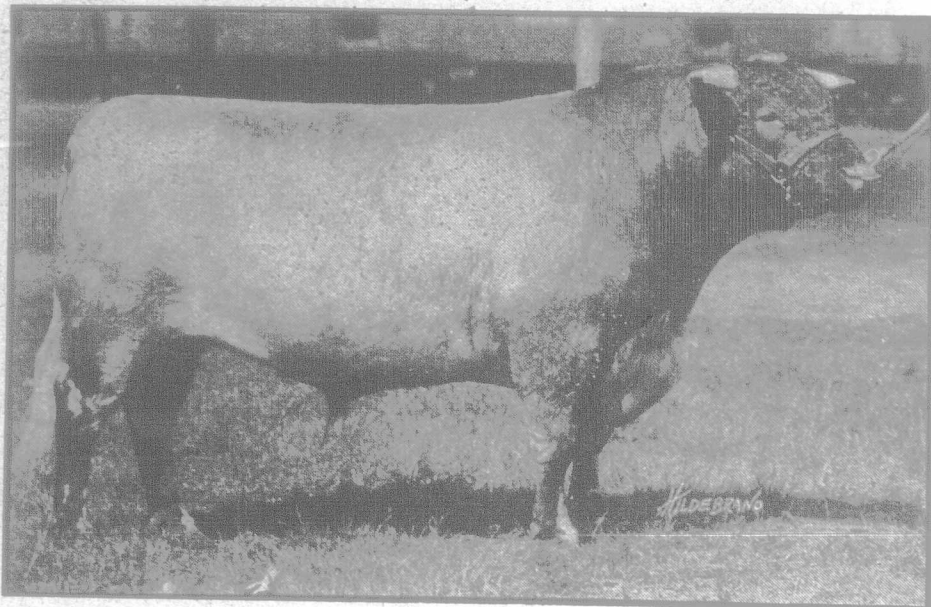
Except when direct control is placed on a commodity the law of supply and demand is the ruling factor in price setting. If there is a heavy run of cattle or hogs on the market the tendency is for it to be more bearish than when there is not sufficient stock to meet the demands. At certain seasons of the year the price of hogs in particular takes a slump but in a few months recovers considerably. This occurred in pre-war days

were received at Toronto in August, compared with 19,524 a year ago. The July shipment was even heavier. Taking these figures into consideration together with the law of supply and demand it is but the natural trend of markets for prices to lower and in all probability we are on the way to a lower price basis as regards farm products. That the prices will drop to a pre-war basis is inconceivable unless labor and all commodities drop to the same level. It is certain that three dollar a hundred oats, twenty-five-dollar a ton hay, and ninety dollar a ton oil-cake or other concentrates cannot profitably be fed to mediocre stock that does not command top prices. It is time to cull out the poor stuff and concentrate labor and feeds on the top notches. This applies to all classes of stock and necessitates careful attention to young and growing stuff so that it will acquire the maximum size and weight in the minimum of time. The uncertainty in markets will be more acute during the reconstructive period than during or before the war. If farms are to be kept up then live stock must be bred, reared and finished, but let it be good live stock. Too much second grade stuff has been consuming our feeds and taking up our time. It is impossible to get into good stock all at once, but there is no time like the present to begin weeding out the culls and laying the foundation for the production of market toppers. With the increase of population home consumption of meats and cereals will increase and if quality stuff is produced the demand for it in other countries will be greater. Help our market receipts grow, but let there be more in the top grades and less in the grades of lowest prices.

Parasitic Diseases of Sheep.—Con. Lung Worms.

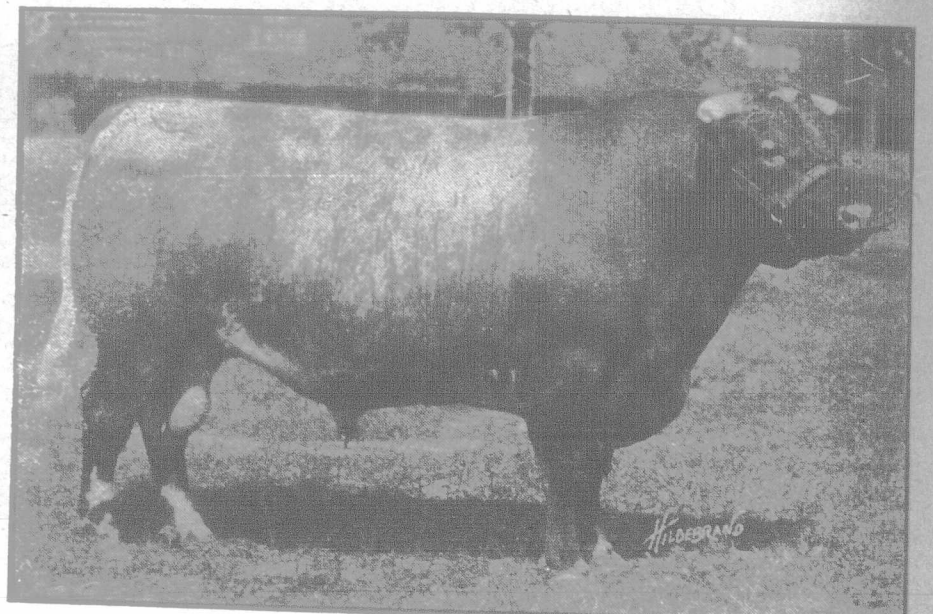
Small, reddish-brown worms, (*Strongylus filaria*) less than an inch long and about as thick as a fine thread causes a disease in sheep, known as Hoose, husk, or verminous bronchitis.

The life-history of the parasite is not definitely



Gainford Supreme.

Senior and grand champion Shorthorn bull at London for H. McGee, Toronto.



Escana Champion.

Senior and grand champion Shorthorn bull at Toronto for G. Gier, Walfermar, Ont.

flesh in the horse and cattle breeding world will hide a multitude of sins, wool and the manner in which it is trimmed often make an animal look far from what it actually is. Therefore, careful handling is essential, for the eye can be quickly misled.

The three things the butcher makes for in a fat lamb are the neck, back and tail. A scraggy neck, razor-edge back and a clothes-line tail should be avoided at all costs. The neck and tail should give the hands something to grip, while the back should be broad and firm, with ribs which are well sprung. Other points to attend to are well-developed thighs and good chest.

Coming to the wool, this must receive more attention in the future than it has in the past. In some breeds extreme fineness of quality seems to have been the aim, but it should be remembered that fineness at the expense of quantity is neither good for the sheep nor for the breeder's pockets. Those fleeces which are dense provide the sheep with a protection against wind, rain and snow, whereas, on the other hand, the scanty and open fleeces subject the animal to adverse weather conditions, and, at the same time, the rain, instead of running off the fleece, soaks through to the skin, and thus trouble begins by the sheep catching cold, which, in turn, is responsible for losses in a flock. With regard to the quality it is important that this should be even all over the body. In some breeds there is a tendency for the wool on the thighs or breeches to be coarse and hairy-like.

In recent years the ram lamb seems to have come into its own for use in a flock. Sometimes one is justified in wondering as to the wisdom of this. There has been a revival in cattle-breeding spheres of using the old sire which has proved his worth. Why can there not be an extension so far as sheep-breeding is concerned? Some may well ask. So far as pedigree sheep are concerned, it has been proved over and over again that wisdom is on the side of those who use a mature sheep, and this is especially true of longwooled breeds. The use of ram lambs has undoubtedly increased early

to a greater extent than during the war, when supply did not keep pace with the demand for meats. It was generally expected that on the cessation of war prices would drop on most commodities. That the live stock branch of the farm would be affected and not the feed never entered the mind of most people. Crop shortage curtailing the supply is responsible for feeds remaining on a war time basis.

High feed prices and lowering stock prices are not conducive to the heavy feeding of live stock. If there was a graded price for stock the year round on the basis of a staple feed the market undoubtedly would be more evenly supplied.

When prices commence to drop the tendency is to rush every animal near fit to market thus causing an over supply. Producers are sometimes to blame for a heavy drop of the market. Of course in the fall the spring litters of pigs are ready for slaughter and cannot be held profitably beyond a certain weight; packers taking advantage of this are blamed and possibly rightly so, for deliberately planning a lower price in order to add to their profits when the retail market is at high ebb. Thus farming is somewhat of a gamble. The tiller of the soil is not in a position to set prices; he produces and takes what he can get. If little is produced the world over prices are high; if production is above normal prices decrease. The uncertainty of prices is one thing which curtails production and so keeps the necessities of life high for the consumer.

At this time of year it is natural for hog prices to be on the descending scale, as receipts are high. According to the market reports issued by the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture 26,807 hogs were sold on the Toronto market in comparison with 17,662 in the same month a year ago. In the West, however, receipts were not half what they were in 1918. With sheep the receipts were heavy, there being 25,486 head as against 14,333 in August 1918. Cattle are being moved off the pastures earlier than usual and 27,978

known. Some investigators claim that the worm deposit their ova in the air passages of the infected animal and the embryos are expelled by the sneezing of the patient or in the faeces. They can live in several intermediate hosts, such as the angle-worm, and when a sheep or lamb drinks water in an infected locality, the parasite, after being swallowed, finds its way to the air passages, where they pass through another life cycle very rapidly.

Symptoms.—The evidence of this ailment are more pronounced in lambs than in older animals, and depend largely upon the number of parasites present. First, there is a well-marked anemic condition, the skin becomes pale and dry looking, this condition is called, "paper-skin." The bronchial tubes and lungs soon become involved which is evidenced by a short, hacking cough. The patient rubs his nose on any hard substance and breathes with difficulty. Later on diarrhoea sets in, the animal becomes very weak, staggers around until it falls and expires.

Treatment.—When the lungs are involved treatment is useless. If the parasites are confined to the trachea (windpipe) the injection of about 60 drops of oil of turpentine or gasoline into the trachea may cause their death and expulsion.

Preventive treatment is far more satisfactory than curative. The healthy animals should be separated from the diseased and kept in non-infected quarters on high ground. Infected pastures should not be grazed for about two years. The disease is usually noticed in the fall following a wet summer.

Stomach Worms.

This is a very serious ailment in sheep, especially in the young. Another member of the strongyles, the *Strongylus* conditions, causes this trouble.

The life-history of this parasite is also not definitely known. It is commonly supposed that the ova are voided with the faeces of the infected animals, other sheep swallow them either on grass or in water, and thus