

### Stockers and Feeder Trade.

The trend of the live stock market is anything but satisfactory to the man with stock to dispose of. It is generally expected that hogs will drop in price during October and November, but it was scarcely thought that they would strike the low level which they have, and no one can say but what they may go even lower. There is every evidence that there is a shortage of hogs in the country, and, according to the market reports, there were 18,000 fewer hogs on the Toronto market during October than for the same period a year ago, and the receipts for November are correspondingly low. The argument put forth for the lowering of prices is a restricted market for pork products and the high handling costs by the trade market. The drop in cattle prices has even been more sensational than with hogs. Many stockmen were two months too late in disposing of their stock, but possibly if marketing had been on a larger scale during August and September the bottom would have dropped out of it sooner than it did. We have heard of men being offered as high as twelve and a half cents for good butcher steers who held out for even higher prices but finally sold, six weeks later, at nine cents a pound. Many count themselves fortunate if they secure this fall what they paid for the stock in the spring. The live stock feeder has been enjoying a brisk market for several years, but it has now changed from a seller's to a buyer's market.

Reports from the Live Stock Markets Branch indicate that the stocker and feeder movement back to country points has been much below expectation this fall. With the abundant supply of corn and straw one would naturally expect that feeders and stockers would be in demand. This, however, does not seem to be the case. Feeders are evidently somewhat in doubt as to the future, and seem inclined to play safe, but if they have a large supply of rough feed on hand it is just a question whether or not they are playing safe in not buying up some good-quality feeders to winter over on this rough feed and then finish on grass. If

pulling their wool, and rubbing against convenient objects. If means be not taken to destroy the parasites the intensity of the irritation gradually increases as fresh supplies mature, the wool is pulled out in patches and the patients become extremely restless and unthrifty.

When the symptoms noted are first noticed a careful examination should be made, by carefully parting the wool in different places and looking for the cause. If it be ticks, little trouble is found in determining the cause, as they are easily seen, but if the cause be lice there presence is not so easily detected. The louse is the most serious pest; it multiplies more rapidly than the tick, interferes more seriously with the health and general thriftiness of the patient, and also interferes materially with the quality of the wool, as it cuts the fibre near the root.

When an examination does not reveal the presence of ticks, a close inspection should be made for either lice or scab. In a majority of cases the former will be discovered. They are of two varieties, the white and the red, and are found on sheep of all ages, but appear to flourish best on those that are in a weak, unthrifty condition. Ticks also appear to have a preference for the weaker members of the flock, and especially for the lambs.

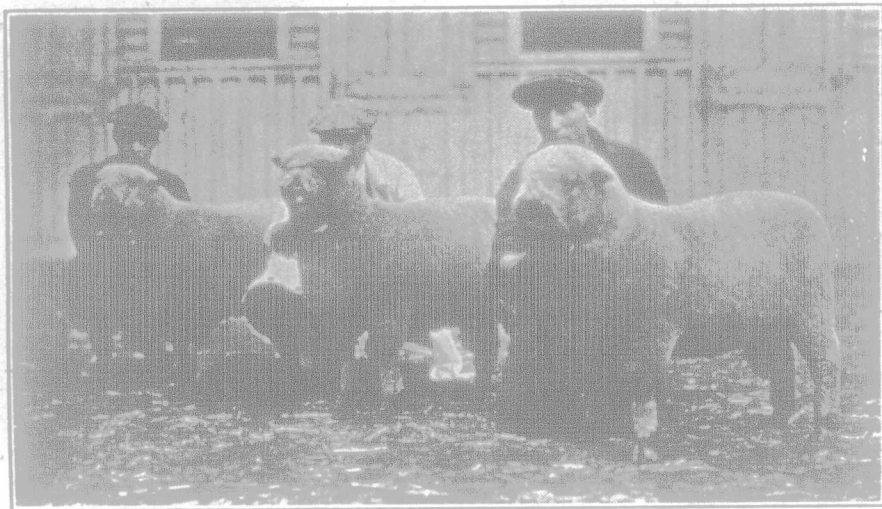
Treatment.—Treatment is not difficult, hence there is no reason why loss caused by their presence should be serious. There are many different preparations recommended; there are many commercial "sheep dips" on the market, each package being accompanied by direction for use. Any of these are effective, and as in order to be effective it must contain a percentage of ingredients that are poisonous, hence it is probable that the use of one of them is safer for the ordinary owner than one put up by himself, in which a mistake may be made, and sufficient poison to do damage be present.

Where a large number of sheep require treatment it is profitable to have a vat or tank made that will hold sufficient fluid to permit of a sheep being stood in it and the whole fleece thoroughly saturated to the skin and kept in this state for two or three minutes, after which it should be moved to a platform and allowed to drip, and the wool lightly pressed, in order

chiefly affected, but older animals are not immune, especially the weaker ones. Strong, healthy sheep, in most cases, appear to have sufficient resistive power to cast off the infection. The trouble is usually noted in the spring, but in wet seasons may be seen at any time.

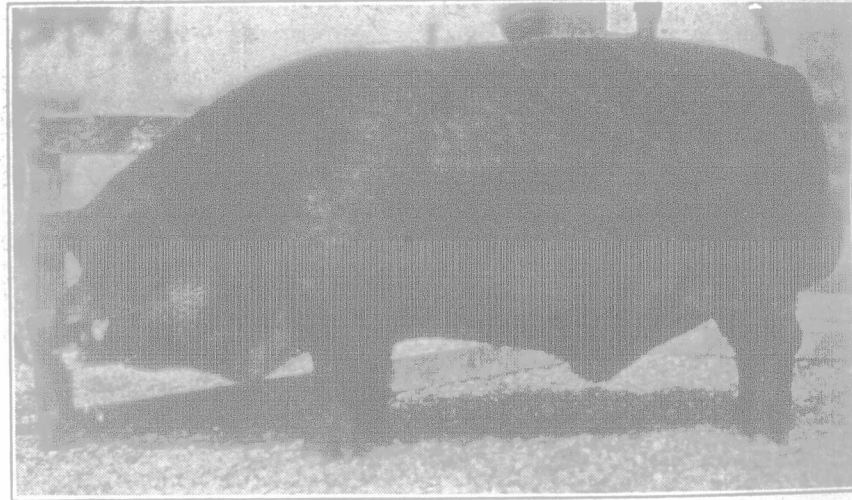
Symptoms.—The symptoms in general are those of a chronic stomachic and intestinal catarrh, causing emaciation, anemia and death. The affected animals are noticed hanging back from the rest of the flock, are weak, thin and progress with a staggering gait. A cold, oedematous swelling frequently develops on the lower jaw and the skin and mucous membranes become pale, the former resembling parchment. They show a decided loss of flesh, the appetite is poor, a dullness and languor are noticeable and the head hangs low; the wool becomes dry and harsh; diarrhoea is generally more or less constant and thirst usually abnormal; the general appearance of the animal is anemic. Some of those infected will withstand the trouble for a considerable length of time, while others succumb in a short period. Sheep in vigorous condition, although they may be affected, may not show any symptoms to lead to suspicion, but lambs and weak, unthrifty, older animals when attacked usually go down rapidly. In most cases a post mortem reveals the presence of a considerable quantity of a darkish fluid in the fourth stomach. In this fluid will be found a variable number of reddish colored, hair-like worms about an inch long.

Treatment.—Prevention, of course, is the best remedy. It consists in keeping the flock in a good, healthy condition during the months in which they are housed. The sheep should be supplied with plenty of nutriment and succulent food, and have free access to salt at all seasons. Winter quarters should be comfortable and thoroughly dry, excluded from drafts, but not close. Free access to air must be provided, but openings should be so arranged that any drafts that may occur will be well above the sheep, and rain and snow must be excluded. These precautions tend to keep the sheep strong and vigorous, and their digestion organs in good condition, in which cases the young produced should also be vigorous, hence fortified to withstand or avoid attacks.



A Trio of Shropshire Rams.

Shown at Toronto by J. D. Larkin, Queenston, Ont.



Duroc Jersey Boar.

Champion at Toronto for Ed McFarlane & Sons, Essex, Ont.

there is a very great reduction in the amount of stock wintered over or fed for the spring market, the shortage of supply next spring would naturally tend to increase the price, and the man who fed the cattle would at least get a good price for the rough feed which he utilized. There is no use prophesying as to what the market will be in the future, as, owing to the unsettled condition of things not only in America but throughout Europe, it is impossible to say what the prices may be a few months hence. This much is certain, however, the man who produces a large bulk of rough feed on the farm and markets it through live stock comes out all right in the end. He may lose one year, but in the majority of cases he comes out all right, and his farm is steadily increasing in fertility, which enables him to produce still larger crops. Where little live stock is kept the soil becomes impoverished and the bank account dwindles. Live stock is the keystone of Canadian agriculture.

that too much fluid be not allowed to remain. The platform, of course, should be arranged so that the fluid or drip will be returned to the vat, and a sufficient amount of fresh fluid should be added to the tank to keep up the required quantity, and that added should be sufficiently hot to keep the whole warm.

Where only a few individuals are to be treated it will probably be cheaper to treat each by hand, by parting the wool in many places and pouring a little fluid in and working with the fingers so that no parts will escape saturation.

It is generally considered necessary to dip at least twice each year, once in the spring after shearing, and again just before or just after being placed in winter quarters.

In many cases it is wise to give a second treatment in about two weeks after the first, as the dipping does not destroy the fibrous covering of the knits or eggs that are present, and these will hatch out in the meantime. Should conditions arise that necessitate treating sheep for ticks or lice in quite cold weather, it is necessary to provide warm quarters for the flock until they become thoroughly dry. If this cannot be done for the flock, some arrangement can be made to accommodate a few at a time, and the whole flock treated in detachment.

#### STOMACH WORMS.

While several varieties of round worms affect the sheep, the principal one is the round worm technically known as *strongylus contortus* or twisted palisade worm. This parasite is a brownish colored thread-like worm.

These worms deposit very minute eggs in the stomach. These are excreted in the droppings and hatch out in a comparatively low temperature, probably as low as 40 degrees Fahr. The favorite hatching place is in pools of stagnant water. The freshly-hatched worms take up a temporary lodging place on leaves or the stems of grass, are eaten by the sheep and reach maturity in about three weeks.

It is probable that infection takes place principally around shade trees where the animals gather during the heat of the day, but infection may take place on the general pasture or even in the fold. Lambs are

Pastures known to be infected should be cultivated, but, at all events the sheep should not be allowed on them. Where it is necessary to allow sheep on pasture where suspicion of infection exists, if possible they should be changed to other ground every two weeks. In this way trouble may be avoided, as it requires at least two weeks for the eggs to hatch, and the scheme tends to prevent the flock feeding over infected areas, and prevents re-infection.

Curative treatment is usually reasonably effective when given before the patients have become too weak, all suspicious cases should be placed in a separate enclosure. The remainder of the flock should be placed on a dry, well-drained pasture in which there are no pools or stagnant water. There are many satisfactory remedies—gasoline, oil of turpentine, sulphate of copper, etc.—all give good results.

Those to be treated should be fasted for about 24 hours, but should be allowed free access to water. If either gasoline or oil of turpentine is to be used (many prefer the former)  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. (a tablespoonful) of it mixed with an equal quantity of raw linseed oil, and this mixed with 4 oz. fresh cow's milk makes a dose for an ordinary-sized lamb, for aged sheep twice this much should be given. The treatment should be repeated for three evenings in succession, allowing food a few hours after giving the medicine. If considered necessary, treatment may be repeated in about 10 days.

If sulphate of copper (blue-stone) be used, a pound should be pulverized and dissolved in a gallon of water. Of this  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 oz. is the dose for lambs, 2 to 3 ozs. for sheep. If necessary repeat the dose in 8 to 10 days.

WHIP.

It is dangerous to use a broom handle or whip stock to loosen a piece of turnip that has become lodged in a cow's throat. Many a good animal has been sacrificed on the altar of ignorance by having her esophagus punctured by using the above-mentioned tools. If an animal is choking and you cannot dislodge the substance with the hand and no probang is available, call in the veterinarian.

### Some Parasites That Attack Sheep.

All sheep-raisers are aware that their flocks are liable to suffer from attacks of parasites of different kinds, some of which operate externally and others internally. Either form causes more or less uneasiness and misery, interfere in a greater or less degree with thriftiness and reproduction, hence interfere materially with the pleasure and profit of the industry.

While a large percentage of those engaged in the enterprise are familiar with the symptoms and treatment of such attacks, there are many who are not, as is evidenced by inquiries received re treatment, both preventive and curative, hence a consideration of some of the common forms of parasites that attack sheep may be of some value.

#### TICKS AND LICE.

Ticks and lice are probably more frequently met with than any other forms, and the symptoms are so easily recognized that there is little difficulty in diagnosing. As they directly attack the skin their presence is suspected in the early stages of an attack by the animals exhibiting uneasiness and irritation by biting and