

which he cannot sell. It does seem strange that horses are so abnormally high and scarce in Britain and so low and plentiful in Canada. The money paid for one horse in the Old Land would almost buy two in Canada, but Canadian horses cannot be sold.

The Tring Park Shire Sale.

Shire breeders in Britain are jubilant over the successful sale recently held at Tring Park when 47 animals of their chosen breed were dispersed, realizing an average price of \$2,746.86. This number of horses represented the entire Shire Stud of Tring Park which for many years was so well known in Britain. The late Lord Rothschild owner of this noted farm was looked upon as one of the foremost breeders of Shire horses England ever had, and the prices were fitting testimony to the esteem in which his efforts were held by English breeders. Although exceptionally high prices were paid the average quoted did not result from them, for every animal offered realized over 140gs. or \$715.40. The highest price paid was \$12,775.00, which bid Mr. Mond put upon Babingley Nulli Secundus. Thirty-two males averaged \$3,513 apiece, and fifteen females \$1,100.52 each. It was indeed a spectacular closing for such a noted stud as that which has been maintained at Tring Park for many years.

LIVE STOCK.

The Yard the Place for the Brood Sow.

Very often the wintering of the brood sow is a problem on the farm, and all too often she is not wintered in the best condition for her own welfare and that of her future litter. Too many sows are kept closely confined in a small pen and are fed a grain ration altogether too heavy for the sow carrying a litter. Again be it said that on the other hand too many are wintered on altogether too scant a grain ration and forced to shift for themselves in an unprotected yard. The most successful brood sows which have come under our observation have been those wintered in the barnyard, with a free run of the yard and with a good-sized straw stack in which to burrow for sleeping comfort. These sows were fed largely on whole mangels thrown out to them with a little dry chop placed once a day in the feed trough in the yard. They were not starved, but were wintered in good thrifty condition, had plenty of exercise, and in the spring produced large litters of uniform, strong pigs. From two sows wintered in this manner \$500 worth of finished pork was sold in one year, and the sows, grades of the Yorkshire breed, were sold for \$50, each carrying their next litters. The biggest danger in keeping sows inside is that they get too little exercise, and, being fed on the same principle as the fattening pigs, get too strong feed for the good of their litters. The best grain for a sow is not the heaviest grain but finely ground oats, and be sure and give a liberal supply of roots. Of course, any grain which may be on hand may be fed in limited quantities. It is well also that the brood sow be kept away from fattening pigs. There is a something about the pen in which numbers of pigs are being fattened which does not seem to conduce to successful pig breeding.

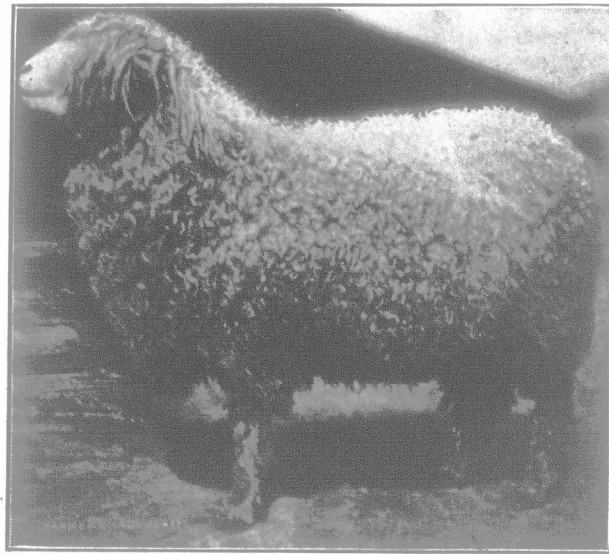
Thicken the Pig Feed.

With the coming of the cold weather certain changes are necessary to the best success in the feeding of pigs. Experienced pig feeders know that too much cold water is not good for the feeding pig in winter. When large quantities of water are taken into the system at a temperature much below that of the animal body a good deal of feed is used up in producing energy enough to warm that water up to body heat. In the feeding of young pigs it is generally believed that to grow them properly they should not be fed too strong grain or too thick a slop mixture. During the summer months they are generally fed a slop of the consistency of gruel, but when the cold weather comes on less water should be added to the chop and where soaking the feed is practiced or where the chop is fed wet it should go into the trough in the form of a thick batter of the consistency of porridge. The pigs will relish this better and as a general thing they will do better on it. We might also here emphasize the importance of starting the pigs on winter feeding, especially those which have had the run of a clover field or have been out on stubble, by giving plenty of mangels or sugar beets, or if these are not on hand, pulped turnips. The roots will serve to keep the pigs' digestive systems in good order during the change of feed and will appreciably lessen the cost of making pork. One of the chief items in cheap summer pork production is grass or clover: roots judiciously fed may be made to largely take the place of this material in the winter.

Comparison of Old Sows and Gilts for Breeding Purposes.

There is a prevailing idea that old sows give larger litters than young sows, that it is more profitable to keep old sows for breeding purposes than gilts. The Nebraska Experimental Station, which has conducted a considerable number of experiments along this line, has some interesting material to hand, and their report on the matter reads as follows:

"The record covers only the period from the time the sow was put into winter quarters, about November 1, until her spring litter had been weaned and the pigs had reached an average weight of 50 pounds.



A Cotswold Ram.

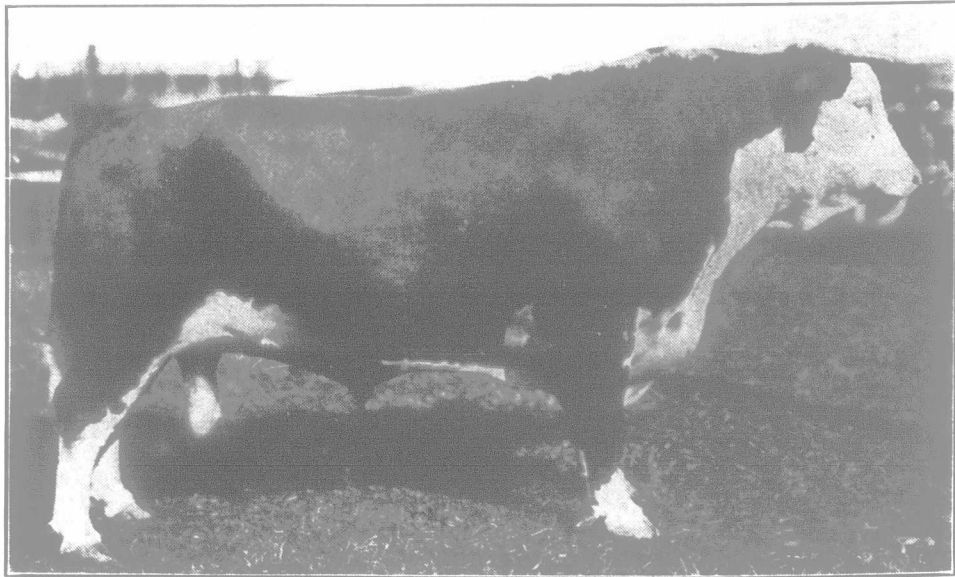
Champion at Toronto for E. F. Park, Burford, Ont.

"All feed eaten by the sow during the time indicated above and all feed eaten by the pigs until their average weight was 50 pounds each is charged to the sow. She is credited with the gain made in her weight between the time she went into winter quarters and the time her pigs reached the 50-pound weight. She is also credited with the total weight of her pigs when their average weight was 50 pounds.

"There is no account taken of any cost except that of feed. Labor, interest on investment and risk are not taken into account. These figures are intended to give the cost of the feed used in producing a 50-pound pig.

PIGS FROM OLD SOWS.

"This is the record of an average of 18 sows per winter for four winters. The sows were carried through the winter on corn and alfalfa. The average gain on the sows from fall until they farrowed in the spring was 125 pounds. They lost about half of this gain while farrowing and suckling the litters, but weighed an average of 62 pounds more when the pigs were weaned than when they went into winter quarters the previous fall. These 62 pounds are credited to the sows at \$5.90 per 100 pounds.



Lord Fairfax.

Champion Hereford bull at the Western Fair, 1915, for L. O. Clifford, Oshawa, Ontario.

"The average cost of the feed per sow from fall until she farrowed was \$6.98. The average cost of the feed eaten by the sow from the time she farrowed until her pigs were weaned, and of the feed eaten by the pigs until their average weight was 50 pounds each was \$10.43. The average cost of all the feed used by the sow and her litter was \$17.41. The value of the 62 pounds gain on the sow reduced this to a net cost of \$13.76. This is the net cost of the feed

used in producing the litter to the average weight of 50 pounds per pig.

"An average of 11.1 pigs was farrowed per sow. The average weight of each pig at birth was 2.4 pounds. When the average weight of the pigs was 50 pounds each, then the average number of pigs per litter was only 6.55. From the date of being farrowed until the 50-pound weight was reached, the pigs gained at the rate of .53 pound each daily and reached the 50-pound weight when 89 days old.

"The average cost of the feed used in producing the 50-pound pig as here calculated is \$2.11.

PIGS FROM YOUNG SOWS.

"A record of an average of 24 young sows for five years follows. The gilts gained an average of 149 pounds each during the winter at a cost of \$7.28 for feed. The cost of the feed eaten by the average sow, from the time she farrowed until her pigs were weaned, and by the pigs, until their average weight was 50 pounds each, was \$8.46; or the cost of all feed for sow and litter from fall until the average pig weighed 50 pounds was \$16.41. The average increase in weight of the sow during the experiment was 101.4 pounds. This at \$5.90 per 100 pounds reduced the cost of feed to a net cost of \$10.43 per sow and litter.

"The average sow farrowed 8.2 pigs weighing 2.31 pounds each at birth. When the average weight of 50 pounds was reached, the number had decreased to 6.2. From the date of being farrowed until the 50-pound weight was reached, the average pig gained at the rate of one-half pound daily and reached the 50-pound weight when 99 days old. According to this record and this method of calculation, the cost of feed used in producing the average 50-pound pig from the young sow was \$1.68."

From these experiments, which have been over a number of years and with a large number of sows, the results indicate, considering feed costs, that a pig up to 50 pounds is cheaper produced from a young sow than an older one, the former being \$1.68 and the latter \$2.11. This is under circumstances where the brood sows received considerable wholesome grain which might have been marketed. However, this year in Canada the feed calculation would not enter in quite so strongly since much unmarketable grain could be supplied, and due to the average differences in the number of pigs littered, the old sows might show to favorable advantage. The results are more or less surprising, since it is contrary to the prevailing belief that the older brood sows are generally more profitable. The present experiment per litter from these sows, as may be noted, were 6.55 for the older sows while for the young sows, 6.2. The number per litter in comparison of the old and young is not as great in these experiments as one would expect, the older sows having only a comparatively slight advantage.

Where Do You Put Your Calves?

The time for stabling the cattle has arrived and where a large stock is kept it sometimes takes considerable re-arrangement of stables in order that all the cattle, from the best cow to the smallest calf, are comfortably housed and

ready to do their best during the winter. Too often it happens that under such conditions of heavy stocking, or we might call it overstocking of the farm, the calves are forced to take what is left when the other cattle are sated. Very often the calves are huddled together in a small, dark box-stall and expected to make rapid growth on a rather scant supply of feed. Better would it be, in many cases, if short rations must go to any of the stock, that some of the older animals get them and the calves get a full feed, and it would also be more advisable if the calves got the best part of the stables. They are at the tender age, and during their first year or year and a half they are either made or ruined as profitable breeding and feeding animals. Sometimes the calves are put in in the fall, and are never allowed out again until spring, and when they do get out from their darkened box they can scarcely see where to go and are very often found to be little bigger than they were in the