

*Other Diseases.*—A type of lameness in pigs, described as foot-rot, is being investigated in the field and at the laboratory. It appears that pigs kept in confinement on concrete are much more susceptible to the disease than pigs that run at pasture.

Losses of pigs because of faulty husbandry rather than of any specific disease occur from time to time.

### *Swine Husbandry*

*Pig-meat Production.*—In spite of changes in operation of a number of dairy factories during 1947 and 1948 which involved the drying of increasing quantities of skimmed milk and buttermilk, the sow population of the Dominion appears to have reached its lowest figure in 1947 and the number of sows one year old and upward on farms at 31st January, 1948, showed an increase of 416 to 68,354. The decline in sow numbers had been continuous over the previous eleven years.

The apparent stabilizing of the sow population indicated a pig-meat production of about the same volume as last year. In all important dairy-farming districts, however, the dairying season has been an outstandingly good one, with the result that food-supplies available for pigs are up by approximately 7·5 per cent. to the end of March as compared with the same period last year.

The number of pigs killed in the year ended 31st March, 1949, compared with the previous year is as follows :—

PIGS SLAUGHTERED, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH (INCLUDING ESTIMATED FARM AND RURAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE KILLINGS)

Year.	Porkers.	Baconers.	Choppers.	Total.
1948 .. ..	198,142	437,296	22,585	658,023
1949 .. ..	189,000	437,332	22,276	648,608

The drop in number slaughtered for the season up to 31st March is represented almost entirely by the lower porker kill. This can be taken as a direct reflection of the feed-supply in the two years, the dry autumn in 1947–48 forcing farmers to finish a larger proportion of their pigs as porkers. It is expected that for the meat year ended 30th September the deficiency will be more than made good.

A summary of the sow population and pig-production to 30th September each year over the past seven years is as follows :—

Year.	Breeding-sows (as at 31st January).	Total Pigs Slaughtered, Year Ended 30th September.	Pigs per Sow.	Slaughtered as—			Total Weight of Pig-meat in Carcass Form. (Tons).
				Porkers, 40–120 lb.	Baconers, 121–200 lb.	Choppers, over 200 lb.	
1942 .. ..	91,338	925,982	10·1	494,126	397,717	34,139	47,987
1943 .. ..	81,882	772,744	9·4	321,049	418,943	32,752	44,320
1944 .. ..	77,300	740,913	9·6	254,126	464,558	22,229	43,251
1945 .. ..	77,200	681,280	8·8	170,852	489,220	21,208	42,378
1946 .. ..	72,000	664,275	9·3	256,821	385,782	21,672	38,437
1947 .. ..	67,938	645,728	9·3	198,631	423,368	23,729	39,491
1948 .. ..	68,354	650,464	9·5	195,903	432,299	22,262	40,384

Because of a good dairying season, particularly in the earlier months, the higher average weight of pigs killed contributed more to the increase in tonnage than did the increase in number of pigs slaughtered, which was only 0·7 per cent.