

# Farmers And Pork Export

**To the Editor of The Courier-Mail**  
**SIR,**—Until recently bacon pigs were required by the British Government up to 160lb dressed weight, and farmers were told by both the State and Commonwealth authorities that unlimited quantities were required.

Then the weight of pigs for export was fixed at 120lb., a decision that was put into effect within 24 hours, causing a loss of approximately £2 a head to farmers who had heavy weight pigs to sell. I submit that in the circumstances the Commonwealth Government should have given the farmer a week or 10 days to market the pigs he was told to produce, and then the Government should have assumed financial responsibility for the difference in value for that period.

The price has fallen from 6d lb. to 4½d. lb. up to 120lb.; yet the selling price, both local and for export, remains the same. I supply a co-operative factory, I have been advised that it cannot say what price or when it can pay for pigs despatched, and it recommends farmers to curtail breeding.

About a fortnight before the collapse of the market I attended a meeting in Kingaroy, where a representa-

... of the ... attended a meeting in Kingaroy, where a representative of the Agricultural Department and one of the bacon factories stressed the urgent need for more pigs, especially the heavyweight type. Letters were also read from works and official bodies for more production.

We realise of course that war conditions alter every day, and that shipping problems are very acute, but the need for foodstuffs is as great as ever, and an authoritative statement would be welcome on what is required for the future.—Yours, &c.,

Kingaroy. "DAIRY FARMER."

## Diminishing Mullet

SIR.—Mullet is diminishing to the detriment of the fishing industry and the food supplies of the people. There is no question about that, and just as little doubt that we ourselves are responsible. During the winter months the mullet migrates northwards, travelling up the coast to spawn in the rivers. Net fishermen await the mullet schools at the entrance to the rivers and creeks, and what fish are not caught are frightened out to sea, to continue their northern migration and perhaps to be eaten by sharks. A few sneak into the rivers and creeks, but because of continuous netting the numbers are becoming smaller each year.

The Noosa River at Tewantin used to be a prolific breeding ground, and Tewantin was famous as a fishing resort. But because of the extermination of the fish by these methods, this centre is fast losing its attractiveness for fishermen. I suggest an inquiry by a small committee of qualified men whose findings should become the basis of an amendment of the Fish and Oyster Act of Queensland. Unless something of the kind is done the fishing industry will be doomed within the next 10 years, perhaps in less time than that.—Yours, &c.,

Tewantin. ARTHUR RONLUND.

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