

## Bampton Fair pony sales lowest ever—but sheep make record

**F**EWER than 300 ponies were sold at Bampton's 700-year-old Fair yesterday, the smallest number ever, but a record was made when nearly 2,500 lambs and breeding ewes were sold during the day.

The decline in the number of ponies has been accentuated in the last two years, and with this year's heavy sheep entry — almost double that of last year — the fair has become what it was over a century ago, mainly a sheep fair.

Farmers have found that ponies are no longer economical for their needs. This year, as well, fewer young ponies have been found on the Moor, and this accounts mainly for the drop of nearly 100 on last year's figures.

Most of the ponies will find their way to riding schools or become children's pets, but a consignment

of 24, the largest number sold to a single buyer, was earmarked as pit ponies. These ponies were bought by Mr. P. Giles, of Wallingford, near Reading.

The top price of £20 was obtained for a Dartmoor sucker, while the highest price for Exmoor suckers was £14 10s.

Lambs sold to £8 7s. and breeding ewes to £9 14s. In addition there were over 210 store cattle for auction, and the top price for steers was £73, with heifers fetching up to £72.

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