

LINCOLN OATS

The Lincoln oats were introduced into Canada last year by The Steele-Briggs-Marcos Seed Co., and have proved so successful on Canadian soil that we feel justified in offering them to our subscribers as something out of the ordinary. Last season was the first time this grand oat was offered to the Canadian public, and though the season was not a favorable one for oats, one and all agree as to its sterling qualities. This is a white oat very early, and so far has proved to be entirely rust proof, standing up better than any other sort. Its thin hull, heavy meat, and soft nib make it a grand feeding oat, as also for grinding for oatmeal. Mr. R. N. Lewis says that it excelled Clydsdale, Black Tartarian, Welcome, and Giant Side oats. Mr. D. A. Tincom reports 38 stools to the grain and 250 kernels to the stalk. These are the facts concerning them:

1. That the Lincoln Oat has produced one-third more than any other variety grown in the same locality.
2. It is white and very early.
3. It has thus far proven itself entirely rust proof.
4. It stands up better than any other sort.
5. It is best for feeding on account of its thin hull, heavy meat, and soft nib.
6. It is best for oatmeal or grinding for the same reasons.

The originator has for several years been working up a stock in order to get a sufficient quantity to offer at a price that would place them within the reach of all.

Our offer is as follows:

To any present subscribers who sends us one new subscriber to THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK JOURNAL at \$1, we will send a half bushel of the Lincoln oats, and also one-half bushel for each additional new subscriber. The oats will be forwarded to you by Mr. John Miller, of Markham. No charge for bags will be made in any case, but in every case the cost of carriage must be paid by the receiver.

The Improved American Oats

We have again made arrangements with Mr. John Miller, of Markham, to offer the Improved American oats as a premium to our subscribers.

These oats have now been well tested by our leading seed grain specialists and experiment stations, and nearly all who have given them a trial have pronounced them as having few equals.

In many instances they have shown remarkable yields, over one hundred bushels to the acre have been reported. As these oats were introduced before the Lincoln, they have become better known, and we have been able to procure them on more reasonable terms. To any present subscriber who sends us one new subscriber to THE LIVE STOCK JOURNAL at one dollar we will send one bushel of the Improved American oats, and also one bushel for each additional new subscriber. They will be forwarded to you by Mr. Miller. No charge will be made for bags, but the cost of carriage must be paid by the receiver.

Send at once for sample copies, order forms, etc., to begin canvassing.

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are placed in the centre compartment, and, perhaps, a few bees added to allow for those that are liable to return to the front, where the entrance formerly was. The remaining bees and best combs are divided between the other two compartments, seeing that all have stores and brood in all stages. I now close the entrances with a bunch of green grass crowded lightly into each entrance. This will allow sufficient air to prevent the bees from being smothered, and yet prevent them from getting out until they become somewhat reconciled to their new quarters; otherwise all the bees which have already had a fly will return to the entrance in the old location. The grass wilts in a short time, allowing the bees to have an entrance without further looking after. What must be guarded against is weak and defective nuclei, through insufficient bees, stores, and brood. The old bees are liable to return to the old stand or entrance, and in that place the least number of bees should be left. Young bees remain better in the new location, and they also remain better in the compartment containing a queen. Unless there are plenty of bees to keep warm and care for the queen cell and young queen, there is likely to be loss or injury. There is no economy in making many nuclei from one hive. This is the case, more especially, early in the season, when the weather may turn cool at any time. The queen, also, should not be placed in a corner of the hive along the top bar, but near the centre of the comb, between the two combs where most of the bees cluster. It requires a good deal of care and experience to rear good queens.

Poultry.

Ontario Poultry Show.

The Ontario poultry show, which was this year held at New Hamburg during the first week of January, was a great success, and goes to show the increased interest that has been taken in poultry-raising in Canada during late years. At the annual meeting held the following officers were elected: President, H. White, Port Hope; first vice-president, Wm. McNeill, London; second vice-president, G. S. Oldrieve, Kingston; treasurer, Geo. G. McCormick, London; secretary, Thos. A. Browne, London; delegates to Industrial Exhibition, J. Dilworth and W. Barber, Toronto; delegates to Western Fair, J. H. Saunders and G. G. McCormick, London; directors, Thos. A. Duff, Toronto; S. W. Clemo, Galt; John Crowe, Guelph; John Cole, Hamilton; W. C. Trew, Lindsay; W. T. Gibbard, Napanee; D. Rice, Whitby; A. Bogue, London; and C. Massie, Port Hope.

Addresses were delivered by Prof. C. C. James, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture for Ontario; Prof. Mills, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph; Messrs. A. G. Gilbert, manager of the poultry department of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and G. G. McCormick, London; while Messrs. C. F. Wagner, J. Dilworth, and Thos. A. Duff, Toronto, and J. Meyers, Kossuth, read very interesting papers. Mr. Duff's paper on "Poultry on the Farm" was very much appreciated.

Poultry Pickings.

By JOHN J. LENTON, Oshawa.

It is well known that hens will lay when males are kept away from them, but whether it is an advantage to discard males has not been made plain. Experiments have been made at the New York Experiment Station

in order to test the matter, some hens being kept with males and others without. The result was that the largest number of eggs was procured from the hens that were not with males. Several similar experiments were also made, and in every case the hens not with males gave the best results. Eggs from such hens will also keep longer than fertile eggs, and the cost of feeding a lot of males is a matter to be considered. Of course, a few experiments are not conclusive, but, so far, the evidence is on the side of keeping no males. Our own experience has been the same as that of the station, and to those who desire to preserve eggs we advise the discarding of the males always.

Clover is the best green food for laying hens, as it is rich in nitrogen and mineral matter. By mineral matter is meant lime, soda, sulphur, iron, etc., which enter largely into the bones of chicks and the shells of eggs. Every egg that is laid contains the elements that compose a chick, and the hens must secure these substances or the egg will be incomplete food. Clover, being bulky, and composed largely of water, is, nevertheless, unexcelled as a necessary adjunct to the ration, if a large proportion of eggs are expected. Second-crop clover, cut when it is tender and the growth small, makes an excellent winter food for poultry, and can be made to serve all the purposes of green food. It may be cured in the ordinary manner, and stored in a convenient place for future use. It is only necessary to cut it fine, scald it, sprinkle bran over it, and feed it to the hens. Fowls do not require green food in the winter season as much as they do something bulky. The constant allowance of grain every day, and of the most concentrated food during the long period from fall to spring, is one of the causes of a lack of eggs at that time. The poultryman who is raising poultry as a business makes no mistake if he provides early for the winter. It is the variety of food that produces the best results and gives a profit. When the hens have bulky food they keep in better health, digest a larger proportion of the food, and are in a condition to lay; whereas, if they are fed on grain only, they become fat, and do not lay as well as desired. Clover is the cheapest food that can be allowed at any season of the year.

While lime may liberate the ammonia of the droppings, yet our advice is to use it. Scatter it over the floor, on the walls, in the yards, on and under the roosts, or wherever it can be used. Let the droppings be a secondary consideration. Lime will keep the poultry house clear of lice, prevent roup and gapes, and give the interior a clean appearance, as well as adding to the light. It is cheap and easily applied, and there is no substance so useful and which costs so little, while the time required for scattering the fine, dry, air-slaked lime is only a few moments on clear days.

Instead of taking eggs to the nearest grocery store, try the experiment of selling them to some private residence. You will have no difficulty in securing more than the regular price if you can satisfy the customer that the eggs are from your own hens. The reason is that it is difficult to secure strictly fresh eggs in winter, and there is always more or less suspicion existing as regards those offered in the regular market, buyers preferring to offer an advance in preference to buying those that may contain a stale egg among the lot.

If there is to be an addition to the revenue, it must be done with the birds that will give a return for the food used. The scrub is not suitable for "hard times." It does not pay

for itself, and is an expense. As the people are passing over the late financial flurry, and getting on a more solid foundation, the best way to recuperate, if the flocks are to assist, is to begin with something that will be serviceable. The scrub fowls will prove unremunerative, and the best "hard-times" poultry are the pure breeds, as they will give more eggs and meat than can be obtained from scrubs.

Killing Geese.

Editor Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal:

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Baker's letter in your last issue, I beg to say a few words. His method of killing the geese may be a good one. I have always had mine killed by cutting with a sharp knife just behind the ear, taking care that the gash is not made too large.

But all poultry should be "dry plucked" for market. It is all very well to take steamed or scalded fowl to the country store, where the merchant takes them in and says nothing for fear of offending his customers; but take them to any market of any size and what will they bring? The fact is they won't have them at any price if fowl are plentiful; if scarce, about half price.

Mr. Baker says he can't manage turkeys. My method is to have the two legs tied firmly together, then hang up on a nail, cross the wings twice, and they are locked, then, with a sharp penknife, make a small incision behind the ear. They are so easily plucked that there is no excuse for any steaming or scalding, except the tips of the wings, which look better all cleaned off. I might say here that I was greatly disappointed, in looking over the report of the Poultry and Pet Stock Association, to see no paper on turkeys, the most profitable (for the farmer), as well as the most delicious of all fowls, and the most difficult to raise. I think fully 50 per cent. of the young ones die under two months, through ignorance and improper care.

Chickens I prefer to sell alive. They are so hard to pluck without tearing that I prefer to let those who are experts at the business do them. They nearly always bring more alive than dead, and the feathers are not worth a great deal.

A friend in the business in Toronto told me that he sold retail, in November last, chickens as low as fifteen cents a pair. Now, if most of them had been sold alive (they seldom go below forty cents) the market would not become so glutted, for those unsold could be taken home and kept a while longer.

Mr. Baker is about right as to the price of down, but I cannot get more than thirty to forty cents, either here or in Toronto, for goose feathers.

Fennell's.

M. A. FENNELL.

Buffalo Markets.

Writing under date of January 17th, Messrs. Kirick Bros., East Buffalo, N.Y., make the following report: The cattle market is irregular. Export cattle selling about the same as the week previous.

Prime to fancy steers brought \$5.25 to \$5.60. Good to choice, \$4.85 to \$5.20. Good, ripe, 1,100 to 1,250 lb. steers, \$4.35 to \$4.65. Good, ripe, 950 to 1,050 lb. steers, \$4.10 to \$4.25. Good fat steers, plain, 1,150 to 1,300 lbs., \$4.15 to \$4.60. Fair to good steers, plain, 1,000 to 1,100 lbs., \$3.60 to \$3.90. Common to fair, \$3.15 to \$3.40.

The market for sheep and lambs continues to show strength, and has turned out as we predicted in our circulars. Our crop report, issued January 3rd gives evidence that the supply was considerably exhausted in the country, and receipts would be lighter, which would necessarily strengthen prices.

Prime, native lambs, not bucky, 80 lbs. and upwards, sold for \$4.90 to \$5.05; good to prime, 70 to 78-lb. lambs, \$4.50 to \$4.80; culls and throw-outs, \$3.00 to \$3.50.

Prime, heavy sheep, all wethers, for export, \$4.00 to \$4.50; heavy ewes for export, \$3.65 to \$4.00; handy butcher sheep, all wethers, 90 to 100 lbs., \$3.25 to \$3.50; good, mixed sheep, \$2.75 to \$3.15; fair to good, \$2.40 to \$2.60; culls, \$1.75 to \$2.25.

There were about 60 cars of hogs on sale to-day, 45 of which were fresh receipts and the balance Yorkers and light stuff held over from yesterday. The market, generally, was \$4.40 to \$4.45 for the heavy grades; mediums, \$4.30 to \$4.35; Yorkers, \$4.15 to \$4.20, mostly \$4.15. Pigs, \$4.15 to \$4.25. Roughs, \$3.50 to \$3.75. Stags, \$3.00 to \$3.25.

Jottings.

NOTICE.—New advertisements, notice of which is desired in the Jottings or Stock Notes columns, must reach us by the 20th of the preceding month. Items for Stock Notes, to secure insertion, must also reach us on the same date.

Wanted.—Situation as farm manager or foreman wanted by energetic and experienced man. Address LIVE STOCK JOURNAL, 20 Bay Street, Toronto.

Tread Powers.—Messrs. M. Moody & Sons, Terrebonne, Que., who are large manufacturers of read powers, advertise them in THE JOURNAL.