

POULTRY.

Fattening Chickens.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Being requested to give my experience with the fattening of chickens, I will try to tell you just how I have done it, and hope it may prove a benefit to many of your readers.

There is no better place than the farm for these operations, because here are to be had all the essentials necessary for successful fattening, namely, chickens, milk, grain; clean, airy surroundings; and last, but by no means least, quietness.

I use the ordinary crates introduced by the Dominion Poultry Stations some years ago. They are made in different sizes. The most useful size is 11 ft. long, 20 in. high and 18 in. wide, divided into 6 compartments. Each compartment holds four or five birds, according to size. The frame is covered with laths, running lengthwise, for top, back and bottom, and horizontally in front, so that the birds can eat with greater comfort from their troughs. The crates are set about one and one-half feet from the ground, and for fattening on a large scale, are arranged with the feeding troughs facing each other for the convenience of the feeder. They should be placed in a cool, dry place, such as an open shed, in the beginning of the season. I fattened a crate of birds, which took a first prize out in the open with only a shelter from the sun. It is very important to have plenty of air and light. As it grows colder one must conduct operations inside some building. I commence fattening about the last week of September.

Any good growthy chickens fatten well, but Rocks and Wyandottes are much preferred because of their uniformity. Some of the large breeds do not fatten smoothly; their bones are always prominent, no matter how fat one may get them. However, a large bird is always appreciated no matter of what breed.

Before placing birds into crates I always dust well with sulphur, which has never failed me in eradicating lice. I prefer birds weighing 4 to 5 lbs., but often use smaller ones. I pay on a scale, the price changing according to weight of birds, from 4 to 5 lbs. being a set price, lighter birds at a cent per pound less.

I feed only twice a day, morning and night, and only as much as they will eat up clean, never allowing any food to stand before them; then clean out their troughs and give them water. They get gravel twice a week. The best food mixture I ever used consisted of 3 parts good oats, 1 part barley and 1 part buckwheat, ground fine and wet with skim milk until it is neither crumbly nor sloppy, but just between. Have the milk always sweet or always sour, else it disagrees with the birds. I feed no other kind of food from first to last, and give them food from the first day they are crated. I sometimes find it necessary to let

some birds have a week or ten days run in the farm-yard after buying them, in order to get their systems in prime condition before confining them to the crates, as much of the success depends on getting good, vigorous stock. I keep them in the crates from two to three weeks, according to how fat they were when put in, and during this time they should gain a pound each. There is no advantage in keeping them crated longer than three weeks. If the birds are not fat then, one has failed on some one or more points, and must try again on a new crateful, as these cannot stand longer confinement in the crates. A pound of gain can be put on for about 10 cents at the present prices of grain, not counting the price of skim milk.

In killing, after having starved until crops are empty, I pull the heads about an inch off the necks without breaking the skin, pluck immediately, and then set them in a natural sitting position on a shelf about 9 or 10 inches wide, with tail against back of shelf and head hanging down in front, placing a brick on the back, which shapes birds in a uniform way. I pack them next morning in boxes, which hold one dozen, laying them with breast up and tails toward the outside of box. Different sizes of boxes are used for different sizes of birds. Always one dozen to a box.

Have never fed more than about 400 at a time, and these were always easily attended to in one hour, night and morning, by one man, aside from the watering at noon and the cleaning of pens.

Huron Co., Ont.

W. MARQUIS.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Expects Good Prices for Winter Apples.

In attempting to forecast the level of values likely to prevail for any crop like apples, the crop prospect is the first factor to consider. In doing this we must not ignore the abundance or scarcity of other fruits capable of substitution for apples in whole or in part. The general average condition of the Canadian apple crop may be described as fair, growth having been good and insects not unusually troublesome. The August fruit crop report rated early apples at 69%, fall apples 65%, and winter apples 61%, the general average for the country being 65. To date of writing, conditions had not materially changed since the issuance of that report. European prospects were below the average, the crop being decidedly short in England and Germany, the two chief apple importing countries. Later advices indicate that the wet weather in Britain will in all likelihood mean a further diminution in the apple crop. Europe, therefore, should furnish a very good market for Canadian apples this fall. In the Prairie Provinces markets should be good, providing the wheat

harvest ends satisfactorily. Upon the general subject of price prospects we quote the opinion of a prominent fruit-grower in a fairly good position to judge:

"Prices depend upon so many conditions that I write with some hesitation. My opinion is that the price for early fruit will be somewhat lower than of late years, and I believe that the price for winter fruit will increase somewhat, and that those who hold winter fruit until March, April and May will find good money in it.

"I believe cold storage will pay this year for holding apples until the March, April and May market. For early and fall fruit cold storage does not appear to be as necessary this year as last. The season is much colder, fruit is not ripening as rapidly, and the season is not likely to be so early; consequently, the keeping qualities of the apples will likely be considerably better this year than last."

Good Prices for Apples.

Johnson Bros., of Forest, Lambton Co., Ont., who except a crop of some 60,000 barrels of good-quality winter varieties of apples this year, and have had travellers in the West selling their fruit for them, have already contracted straight car lots of Spies and Kings, running 75 to 80 per cent. No. 1, at prices well above \$3.00 per barrel, f.o.b., and in some cases running nearer \$4.00 than \$3.00. Assorted cars have been sold up to \$3.00. Messrs. Johnson find the Western demand very good, and their salesmen have been able to make ready sales, though much depends upon how the wheat crop turns out.

That the weather is not the sole cause of so many orchards habitually bearing in alternate years is plainly indicated by a large orchard belonging to a certain correspondent of the Dominion Fruit Division. Though his orchard is said to be practically uniform throughout, half of it bears heavily one year and the other half the next, with scarcely any year a failure. Good orchard methods, especially thinning, diminish the tendency to alternate bearing, securing something of a crop every year.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Newspaper despatches from Ottawa, indicate as had been foreshadowed, that the harvest excursions to the West from the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario have not attracted the desired numbers. The needs and advantages of the East are beginning to tell. By special low excursion rates and relaxed immigration regulations the authorities are hoping to secure temporary help needed for the emergency for the Western States.

TORONTO FAIR REPORT CONCLUDED.

Cattle.

SHORTHORNS.—This old and honorable breed, though less numerously represented than in recent years at Toronto, had 111 entries of individual animals, nearly all of which were present, and brought out in fine condition, making quite as strong a showing in quality as on any former occasion of the kind in the Dominion, and never before were so many of the Provinces represented by any class of live stock at the National Exhibition. A striking feature of the show was the prominent place taken in the prize list by animals owned by breeders in the far Western Provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta being splendidly represented, and capturing a large percentage of the principal prizes, the cattle being in remarkably good condition considering their campaign of the Western summer shows, and their long and trying transportation experience. The class was capably judged by Robert Copland, a noted Scottish breeder of Shorthorns, whose placing of the entries throughout the class was generally considered skilful and commendable.

Exhibitors were John Gardhouse & Sons, Highfield, Ont.; R. W. Caswell, Saskatoon, Sask.; T. E. & H. O. Robson, Ilderton, Ont.; J. H. Melick, Edmonton, Alta.; H. L. Emmert, Oak Bluff, Man.; Mitchell Bros., Burlington, Ont.; Robert Miller, Stouffville, Ont.; James Leask & Sons, Greenbank, Ont.; Kerr & Davidson, Balson, Ont.; A. F. & G. Auld, Eden Mills, Ont.; R. F. Duncan, Carluke, Ont.; W. R. Elliott & Sons, Guelph, Ont.; F. C. Wilmott & Son, Milton, Ont.; George Gier, Waldemar, Ont.; James L. Ross, Erindale, Ont.; Kyle Bros., Ayr, Ont.; Thos. Redmond, Millbrook, Ont.

In the class for aged bulls were a trio that had

probably never been equalled at Toronto, headed by T. E. & H. O. Robson's roan three-year-old, Marcellus (imp.), which was first in his class here last year, coming out this year much heavier, and showing splendid character and quality, heading the list again, closely followed by R. W. Caswell's dark roan three-year-old, Keir Emblem (imp.), a massive, well-fleshed bull, hard to beat. Gardhouse's excellent light-roan five-year-old, home-bred, Archer's First, taking third place and filling it well. An outstanding winner in two-year-old class was Gainford Marquis, a roan, the junior and grand champion here last year, when he was shown by James A. Watt. He is now owned by R. W. Caswell. The Marquis, always as near perfection as Shorthorns are grown, has gone on improving, and is acknowledged to be the most perfect bull of the breed ever shown at Toronto. He has splendid head character, faultless conformation, and the best of flesh, evenly distributed, and was again marked grand champion. Melick was second, with Mutineer, a massive roan, bred by Harry Smith, of Hay, Ont.

The Edmonton herd of J. H. Melick had the winner in the senior yearling class in his typical Pride of Albion, a capital roan, by Shenstone Albino, while Emmert's roan, Missie's Prince, by Prince Imperial, brought out by Manager James Yuil, in fine condition, was a popular second, and Mitchell Bros.' White Bandsman's Choice was a good third. The Western exhibitors came to the front again in the junior yearling class of eight good ones, Caswell being first, with Lavender Marshall, a red son of the famous Whitehall Marshall, Emmert winning second with Choice Goods, a roan son of Huntlywood 3rd, and Robert Miller third with the white Ramsden Sultan, by Superb Sul-

tan. In a class of sixteen senior bull calves, Emmert had the winner in Augusta Star, a handsome and level roan, second being the same exhibitor's white Sitty-ton's Selection. Emmert was also first in junior calves, with Manitoba Chief, Mitchell Bros. having a worthy second in Bandsman's Victory.

The West scored again in aged cow class, Caswell winning first with the red Dale's Gift 2nd, a splendid daughter of the great sire, Avondale, and Melick second with Maxwalton Gloster, the massive daughter of the same sire. Gardhouse & Sons won in the class for cow in milk, with Roan Blossom. Melick led in two-year-old heifers, with Maxwalton Gloster 3rd, by Avondale, Caswell being second, with Merry Maiden, bred by Miller Bros., and sired by His Majesty. In senior yearlings, Emmert was first and second with Princess 4th and Thelma 2nd.

Junior yearlings were a very strong class, the red finally going to the thick, smooth, evenly-fleshed Elmer Leaf Mildred over Spring Valley Buckingham, a grand heifer, bought by Emmert from Kyle Bros. The senior heifer calf class offered a surprise, Caswell's Burnbrae Wimple defeating Melick's Western junior champion, Clover Leaf Dorothy. Both are exceptionally strong calves, but many good judges would have reversed the placing. Burnbrae achieved junior championship, but was defeated for the grand championship by the massive, thick-fleshed, smooth and excellent Shorthorn quality cow, Dale's Gift 2nd.

The steer classes brought out some of the best fat stuff ever seen at the Canadian National. Leask's trio of first premium winners, particularly the one under three years, could scarcely be beaten in any com-