

day. I put them on the lawn for the first week or so and then in the orchard, with neither hen nor goose. My geese sit well, but as the eggs are hatched they are too heavy and the result is they break the eggs. I never have young goslings dying. Sometimes some come out weak and may not live long, but they have a fair chance. Even the youngest of these from 61 eggs was ready for the market by Thanksgiving. I am opposed to changing geese frequently. If you have good geese, don't forget to feed them well, and as long as they are laying, stick to your old geese.

York Co., Ont.

MRS. WM. CRAIB.

The Cotton-Front House.

BY PROF. R. K. BAKER.

The cotton-front poultry house has been called a "cold house." For this reason a good many poultrymen have been afraid to try one. Cold is merely a comparative term. We measure the degree of cold by a thermometer, but the way in which people or animals feel cold or are affected by it, depends on whether or not they are in good health, well fed and warmly clad. It depends also on whether the air is dry or damp, and on whether it is still or in motion. To a healthy man in this country a still day in winter, with the thermometer at 15 below zero is no hardship. The temperature is not considered worth mentioning. Because the air is dry and still, we do not mind the cold. But 15 below zero in New York or Halifax causes a great deal of hardship, many people being badly frozen. The same degree of cold here with a high wind blowing becomes unbearable except for a short period of time unless we can keep exercising.

Compared with a carefully-built, stove-heated poultry house, the cotton front may be termed a cold house, but when compared with an almost air-tight, damp poultry house, or a drafty house, the cotton-front house, if properly built, is not a cold house. When provided with a drop curtain which may be let down at night to protect the birds while on the roost, it is necessary to leave ventilating spaces above and below this curtain to prevent the birds from getting too hot.

The heated house for poultry has never been satisfactory, probably because the temperature has been allowed to vary too much, and little or no ventilation was provided for. No matter how warmly built, the air-tight house will be damp in winter. One man reports having fowls frozen to death in a place built with four ply of lumber and with two dead-air spaces. The writer has used the cotton front, and the glass-and-cotton-front house. We always have been able to get eggs in winter, and have yet to learn of anyone who has used the cotton-front house, going back to the artificially-heated, or the all-glass front or the expensively-built air-tight house.

The poultry house requires more ventilation in proportion than any of the other farm buildings, because practically all of the water which the fowls drink is given off by their lungs and skin directly into the air as watery vapor. Ventilation is required to remove this damp air from the house.

Ventilator shafts on poultry houses have not been satisfactory. They are usually either so small that they become choked with frost in cold weather, or so large that they let off all the warmed air from the house. A fairly large shaft, fitted with a damper might be made to work, if the attendant could arrange to go and regulate the damper every time the temperature or the direction of the wind changed.

Cotton windows have given the best satisfaction at the least cost for material and labor, of any method of ventilation yet tried. The number and size of the cotton windows varies with the type of house and with the locality. In the East one square foot of cotton windows to ten or fifteen square feet of floor space is advised by some writers. We have used one foot of cotton to six of floor space, and in some houses one square foot of cotton to four of floor space, with good results.

FARM BULLETIN.

Hon. Manning W. Doherty Returns From England.

It is recognized, we believe, that the United Kingdom is the chief market for surplus Canadian farm products, and also that Ontario is the banner agricultural Province of the Dominion, so far as volume of production is concerned. It was, therefore, perhaps, only natural that the Honorable Manning W. Doherty, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, should have considered it advisable to pay a visit to the old Country, with a view to getting first-hand knowledge regarding the conditions of this big market for Ontario products, and finding out how best our products could be placed on this market. There was also, of course, the strong necessity for increased agricultural immigration into the rural districts of Ontario and the additional fact that the Minister felt he should have some intimate knowledge of the work being done by the Ontario offices located in the British Isles. On his return from Great Britain, on Thursday, November 25, "The Farmer's Advocate" immediately arranged for an interview, which took place on the following day, and there are set forth herein some of the impressions which the Honorable Mr. Doherty received while in England as to matters of particular concern to Ontario agriculture.

FRUIT MARKETING.

Some little attention was given by the Minister to the question of getting a suitable market in Great Britain for Ontario fruit. Under normal conditions we have a large surplus in excess of home demand, and his year, as everyone knows, a serious situation was treated due to the excessive crop and the high cost of

packages which resulted in a loss of thousands of dollars' worth of fruit, both peaches and apples. The Minister felt that officers of his Department should not advocate increased production or improved cultural methods without first giving some attention to the matter of marketing. Growers naturally feel that it is not worth while producing more fruit when they are frequently unable to dispose of what they have produced to the best advantage. The demand for fruit in England, said the Minister, is tremendous and any excess fruit which Canada can produce can be absorbed by the British market. The difficulty, however, in the opinion of the Minister, is one of getting our fruit in England in good condition and of arranging some channel of trade whereby the costs of distribution may be reduced with benefit to both the grower and the British consumer.

For a quarter of a century, more or less, Ontario has been exporting apples to Great Britain and this Province produces seventy-five per cent. of all the fruit grown in Canada. Similarly, the British consuming public would welcome greater quantities of our excellent Ontario peaches, which we should be able to place on the British market in about ten days after leaving the orchard, as compared with the twenty-six days now required for the shipment of the large quantities of South African fruit which reach Great Britain. It is possible that some further experimental shipments of peaches will be made to the British market next year, and the Minister feels that a success can be made of such shipments. The English and Scottish consumer now pays as high as 20 cents apiece for peaches, and Canada should be able to put peaches on the British market at a lower price. So far as apple marketing was concerned, apples for which the Canadian producer got only five dollars per barrel retailed for as high as 20 cents per pound, or nearly twenty-eight dollars per barrel. These same apples sold wholesale in Liverpool for from \$15 to \$17 per barrel. Mr. Doherty believes that Ontario fruit should be handled co-operatively right to the British consumer, and that our fruit associations in Ontario should pick, pack, grade and ship their fruit co-operatively. Probably some steps will be taken by the Department to further such a co-operative movement among apple growers for the season of 1921. Temporarily, Ontario fruit might be handled by some of the British co-operative societies on a moderate commission of, say, five per cent., which would mean the distribution of Ontario fruit direct to the British consumer at a moderate price.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The Minister interested himself also in the question of a market for our dairy products. Butter, of course, is now rationed in England and is retailing to-day at something over four shillings per pound. The Minister obtained a quotation on one thousand boxes of No. 1 butter from an Ontario creamery and offered this quantity of butter to the Dairy Department of the British Ministry of Food. On account of the exchange situation the offer could not be accepted, although if sterling was at par in Canada an immense quantity of butter could have been sold for more than 60 cents per pound. The Ministry of Food did, however, offer 300 shillings per cwt. c. i. f., which, with exchange at 3.80 is the equivalent of nearly 65 cents per pound. The Minister pointed out, however, that the Ministry of Food has a contract of 65 cents with Denmark, and they have agreed with both New Zealand and Denmark that if any higher price is paid to other countries for butter the price to them will be increased accordingly. New Zealand, of course, offers no difficulty as to exchange, which is a marked advantage at this time as compared with Canada's position. The question of grading dairy products was also discussed, and Mr. Doherty early concluded that the Government would be quite justified in continuing the campaign for the grading of early dairy products, but that for the time being at least, compulsory grading in Ontario would not be expedient.

Some little attention was also paid to the market for Ontario tobacco. Since the war about 65 per cent. of all the tobacco imported into England is manufactured into cigarettes, so that our tobacco growers in order to cater to the British market will be forced to grow cigarette tobacco. Ontario climate and soil, however, is, in the opinion of the Minister, quite suitable for growing any of these flue-cured varieties.

HEAVY IMMIGRATION ASSURED.

As regards the matter of immigration, the Minister is firmly of the opinion that no difficulty will be experienced in getting immigrants, but he feels that the greatest care should be exercised that only farmers and farm laborers should be encouraged to come to Ontario. There is some slacking of industry in Great Britain, with, as a result, a considerable degree of unemployment. Probably from 10,000 to 20,000 farmers and farm laborers will come to Ontario in the spring of 1921, and among these will be many men with capital. The reason for this latter class is that high taxation in England is bringing about the sale of many large estates. In many cases these estates are being broken up and offered to tenants. There may, for instance, be from twenty-five to fifty tenants on a good sized estate, and in some cases these tenants will represent the second, third or fourth generation of the same family which has rented the same farm of say 200 or 300 acres. In some cases these tenants have paid a rental of no more than 3 per cent. on the investment, so that they have always been able to make plenty of money under the tenant system. Now, however, when the land is sold they may be forced to pay up to ninety pounds per acre, or nearly \$300, and thousands will find it of greater advantage to themselves to take what money they have and emigrate to Canada than to make the change from tenant to owner in England.

CANADIAN BACON UNDER A CLOUD.

During his visit in England, also, the Minister investigated two questions that are perhaps federal rather than provincial in nature. They are the matters of the British embargo against Canadian cattle and the condition of our bacon trade with the United Kingdom. In connection with the latter, Mr. Doherty found a very unfortunate condition to exist. To use the Minister's own words, this condition is as follows: "During the past twenty-five years Canadian bacon has established a very enviable reputation in Great Britain. This was brought about in the first place by the Canadian farmers producing the proper type of hog to make first-class Wiltshire bacon so highly desired by the British consumer. As a result of this established reputation Canadian bacon has always met with ready sale in Great Britain up until the last year or two. I now find that the reputation of Canadian bacon has suffered very severely, particularly in the last twelve months. A very large percentage of the consumers now would not have Canadian bacon in their homes. When this first came to my notice you can understand how surprised I was; as a matter of fact, I could not believe it. I went to a retail store and I heard the clerk trying to sell some Canadian bacon to a prospective purchaser, but the lady absolutely refused to buy the Canadian bacon and took Danish bacon instead. I spent several days trying to find out the cause of this situation. I felt that Canada to-day was producing as good bacon as ever she did and I could not understand why this bacon should now be looked upon with such disfavor. After several days investigating the matter I went to the Smithfield market and visited several of the large wholesale bacon dealers, and although I am still unable to put my hand upon the individual or the concern or agency which has created this situation, I am perfectly convinced that quantities of bacon have been going on the British market as Canadian bacon which were not Canadian bacon at all. I am also convinced that immense quantities of Canadian bacon have been held in storage over long and and that this bacon has been retreated and placed on the British market."

Undoubtedly this is a matter which should receive the serious consideration of every Canadian interested in our bacon trade. Our bacon in England at the present time is under price control by the British Ministry of Food. Irish and home-grown bacon have been de-controlled, and as a result Canadian bacon to-day, according to the Minister, is selling in England at about 50 shillings per cwt. less than Irish bacon, whereas the normal difference is from 8 to 10 shillings. Mr. Doherty made a strong protest to the Ministry of Food against the continuance of this price control, and learned to his surprise that some six or eight weeks ago the Canadian packers had met the Minister of Food, in reference to that same matter. At that time, said the Minister, the British officials made the following proposition to the Canadian packers: "If Canadian packers would pay the Canadian farmers 5 cents per pound for their hogs in excess of the top price for live hogs in Chicago, the British Government would be prepared to pay the packers an excess price for their bacon sufficient to take care of this bonus paid to the Canadian farmer." In other words, the British officials assured Mr. Doherty that they are anxious to encourage hog production in Ontario, but they are insistent that any extra price paid by the British consumer shall go to the Ontario producer rather than to the packers.

THE EMBARGO QUESTION.

So far as the matter of the embargo against Canadian cattle is concerned, there is strong opposition in Great Britain which the Minister believes can be overcome by concerted, energetic effort. This embargo has been in existence since 1892, and the Minister is fully aware of the fact that several strong efforts already made, have failed. Already a strong active campaign has been instigated to secure the removal of this embargo, and if Canadian live-stock men will but unite to secure what the Minister believes to be to their advantage, he feels that within a very short time the embargo can be lifted. Opposition to the lifting of the embargo comes from a very small section of the British public. The British farmer, the British consumer, and the British business man are absolutely in favor of lifting it. The opposition comes from the breeders of pure-bred cattle. As an evidence of what value the British consumer would be likely to receive from the entry of Canadian live-cattle, the Minister referred to what he saw at an ordinary sale in the County of Kent, as follows: "Very ordinary steers weighing from one thousand to eleven hundred and fifty pounds were sold at this sale for from twenty-six to twenty-eight cents per pound on the hoof. In connection with this campaign I intend to call together our live stock associations and to have them strengthen our demand for the lifting of the embargo. I also intend to ask the other Provinces to join us. I hope that our united efforts will succeed in solving this question."

Canadian Students in International Judging Competition.

There were three Canadian teams competing in the live stock judging competition this year at the International Live Stock Show, now being held in Chicago. There were twenty-one teams in all, from agricultural colleges in Canada and the United States. The team from the Ontario Agricultural College was thirteenth in the competition, with Macdonald College, Quebec, in eleventh place, and Saskatchewan twelfth. The first-prize team was from Purdue University, Indiana, with Nebraska second and Iowa third. No individual on the Ontario team succeeded in getting into the first ten places.