

sow on the grounds. Wm. Butler & Son, H. George & Son, H. Gregg & Son, and J. E. Butler showed successful exhibits.

The show of dressed poultry was small, but good. It is the intention to have a more successful show next year, and there is some talk of extending the time to two days.

THE ICE CROP.

The time to gather in the ice crop is at hand. The cold weather of the last week, now that the holidays are over, will set many a farmer planning how to fill his ice-house.

In the first place, see that all necessary repairs are made to the ice house, and that it is put into first-class condition. If you haven't got an ice-house, and require ice only occasionally, help your neighbor put in his ice, so that you can have what ice you require. But every farmer requiring ice should have a sufficient supply of ice of his own; it is much more convenient than to have to go to a neighbor's for it. It is possible for a man with a cream separator to get along without ice, but when the hot weather comes he would turn out a much better product if he had it.

An empty silo makes a good ice-house. If only a small quantity of ice is wanted, a little lean-to, built on the north side of the barn or other building, in a place where the sun does not shine on it very long in the day, will keep ice surprisingly well. The side and ends should be boarded high enough to keep out the direct rays of the sun, but not so close to the roof as to prevent a very free circulation of air. There should be a packing of sawdust about eighteen inches in thickness around the outside of the ice and a covering of the same depth or more. Pea straw makes a fairly good substitute for sawdust. If, however, a large quantity of ice is required, it will pay to build a good ice-house. Plans of excellent ice-houses can be had, from which any farmer can select one that will meet his requirements.

Now, having an ice-house, the next thing to do is to lay in a supply of sawdust. Don't wait until you are ready to draw the ice before you think about the sawdust; get it in beforehand.

Examine the ice-tongs and see that everything is ready, have all repairs made and everything in shape in good time.

Insist upon having your blocks of ice cut with true sides and ends, so that they will pack tightly together with as little space between them as possible. Fill all the cracks and spaces, should there be any, with pounded ice. If this is not done the air gets in these places, with the result that there will be a great waste of ice.

NEW WAY OF SECURING ICE.

The following useful hint comes from an exchange: Most people have well water near the house, and can easily have ice made in the following manner: On a very cold day pump up some water and let it stand until it commences to freeze, then take a pailful and wet the bottom and sides of the ice-house thoroughly. A coating of ice will soon form. By repeating this a few times a water-tight tank will be formed, into which water may be

poured, and it will freeze solid in a short time. At night several barrels of water can be poured in, and will be found one solid block in the morning. It will be quite a surprise to see what a large quantity of ice can be made in this way by a person on a very cold day.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FREEMARTINS.

A.W., Springfield—In FARMING for Nov. 30th I notice that W.J.P., Kingston, has a pair of twin calves, one a heifer, the other a bull. He says his neighbors told him that the heifer would not breed. I might say that I had a pair of twin calves, one a heifer, the other a bull, the same as W.J.P. They were purebred Holsteins, calved the 20th April, 1892. I let them run with the cow and suck her.

I had a sale in the fall of that year, Nov. 3rd, and the heifer calf weighed 500 lbs. on the platform scales in the barn, and the bull 600 lbs. I sold the bull at the sale but the buyers were afraid of the heifer, as they thought she would not breed. I kept her a year, sold her to a breeder, and she had a calf when she was two years old. She has had a calf every spring since and is a good cow. I have her mother yet but she has not dropped any more twins. W.J.P. need not be afraid that his heifer will not breed. I know several pairs of twins the same as mine and all of them are breeding.

A.W. is, no doubt, advising to the best of his knowledge, nevertheless we know, and so do a large number of breeders, that many heifers that are twin with a bull will not breed. Why, is not known. Spiegelburg suggests, by way of explanation, that those twin heifers that do breed are true twins, i.e., two organisms developed from one and the same ovum, the one a bull the other a heifer, while those so-called heifers that do not breed are a case where the two organisms have been developed from two separate and distinct ova. The sexual organs of one of these has developed normally, the other abnormally. The one that develops abnormally is called a freemartin, and will not and cannot possibly breed, because the essential organs are wanting although there may be all the outward signs of a perfect animal.

LUMP JAW.

R. McC., Old Bams: There is a hard lump growing in the jaw of one of my steers. I do not know the cause of it. What can I do to cure it?

Ans.—This is very likely a case of "lumpy jaw," which is a growth or swelling caused by a fungus called actinomyces. It usually appears in the region of the head and neck and particularly on the jaw. The lump grows to a large size and will generally discharge a yellowish pus. The usual treatment is to remove the lump either with a knife or by means of caustics when the lump is quite small.

Give iodide of potash, internally; the usual dose is from a drachm to a drachm and a half dissolved in a pint of water to every 300 lbs. live weight of the animal. Give this night and morning until the symptoms of iodism appear; discontinue, give a purgative; then continue again. Better employ a good veterinary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MORE ABOUT THE DECADENCE OF THE FAIR SYSTEM.

REPLY TO MR. EDWARDS.

SIR,—In your issue of the 23rd ult. you were good enough to insert my letter on the "Decadence of the Fair System." In that letter, when advocating holding only three fairs, I omitted the words "in this province." It would, of course, be absurd to hold only three fairs in Canada, and all of them in Ontario.

I am glad to see that Mr. Edwards has also written on this subject, although his views are at variance with mine.

He commences his letter by saying that, if there were only three fairs, purebred stock would soon narrow down into the hands of a very few men, etc. Why? I fail to see.

He then asserts that many of the prize-winning animals which are exhibited at our best exhibitions are useless for breeding purposes. Doubtless some of our noted breeders will ask him to prove his assertion. He further says that these fairs would soon develop into a fat stock show.

Mr. Edwards infers that the judges of purebred stock do not understand their business, and I take it he thinks they judge the cattle not by their good points but by their blemishes. This only applies, though, according to his assertion, to the large "fairs," but the judges at our local "exhibitions" know better, as he assumes a little further on.

It may be an expensive matter to attend fairs at a distance, but I don't think it would cost more to exhibit at three exhibitions than at all the fairs within a radius of 100 miles. Certainly it would not, if there are as many in other parts as there are within a radius of 100 miles of Princeton. Their name is legion in this neighborhood. Prize-money is not the only consideration. We cannot all carry off the red ticket, although I have often known cases in some local shows when there has only been one entry in a certain class, and the exhibitor has had the "great honor" of "winning first prize."

Mr. Edwards only takes up the case of stock; what about poultry, cereals, agricultural implements, etc., etc.?

It may not, perhaps, be practical suddenly to abolish all local fairs, but a step in the right direction would be to have only one good show in each county.

J. E. RICHARDSON.

Princeton, Ont.

SIR,—In your issue of November 23rd, over the signature of J. E. Richardson, I notice an article on "Decadence of the Fair System," with which I, as well as Mr. Edwards, do not agree.

Taking into consideration Mr. Edwards' view of the matter, I would add that I am in favor of township fairs and county fairs for the following reason: A very large majority of exhibitors at both county and township fairs are persons who do not exhibit at the larger fairs, and in some cases the articles exhibited are as good as those that are shown at the larger fairs, a credit to the community and to the persons to which they belong. The young beginner feels more like start-

ing on a smaller scale than to strike out for Toronto or Montreal the first time. A young man beginning has a great deal to learn, and by exhibiting a little, year after year at the smaller places, he gets his eyes opened a little more each time; besides he gains a great deal of experience, which he should have before bringing his stock out to the larger fairs.

I have been exhibiting some for a few years past at county and township fairs, and I have learned much that it would have been impossible to have gained otherwise, unless I had gone along with some one who had been attending large fairs. Besides this, if there were no smaller fairs, how many would make an effort, in all kinds of exhibits, to get to the front?

I think, too, sir, they are a help to the community in keeping up to the times, as it excites an ambition and push in a young man, which in many cases would be lacking.

Now, so far as the public grant is concerned, I think it might better be spent in that way than upon a great many government officials, without which we could get along very well.

H. B. CHISHOLM.

Wallbridge (Hastings Co.)

EXHIBITION DATES.

SIR,—I was somewhat amused lately to see a letter on fall fair dates for holding the large fairs. I speak from the standpoint of an exhibitor. I, for one, hold that it is a mistaken action of the Toronto Fair Board to ask the exhibitors to remain with live stock so long on exhibition. The fair comes so early in the season that it means unnecessary expense for the exhibitor, and it certainly does the exhibition no good financially.

EXHIBITOR.

Thedford, Ont.

MUSTARD WITH RAPE.

SIR,—Although there has been so much written on rape culture during the last five or ten years, I have been surprised that nothing has been said about mustard until just recently. Having had considerable experience in growing both rape and mustard in England and Canada, I cannot quite agree with Mr. Rawlings in his method of sowing. He speaks of sowing half an acre in each field. I think the better plan is to sow it with the rape in the proportion of one pound of mustard to ten pounds of rape. You will have about as much rape and the mustard extra, for it grows much faster and taller, reaching from a foot to eighteen inches above the rape. Another advantage is in pasturing, because when sown in this way the sheep will take a little mustard with the rape. Even after the leaves are gone they will nibble at the stalk, which is equally as good to prevent bloating and kidney troubles. In England, where it is so wet, it is not safe to pasture the rape alone.

RICHARD HONEY.

Brickley, Ont.

Ontario Poultry Association. The twenty-fourth annual exhibition of this association will be held in London from Jan. 10th to 15th, 1898. Besides the unusually large premium list, special prizes to the amount of \$700 are offered. Prizes are also offered for the best essays on subjects pertaining to the poultry industry.