

growers and general farmer cannot afford to stand aloof and say, "The development of the beekeeping industry is of no interest to us; let the child grow up if it has strength enough, but in any case it can have neither interest, fostering care, shelter or help from us." Such a course displays neither good judgment, wisdom, justice, or British fair play.

POULTRY.

PERTINENT POULTRY NOTES.

Better sell off those two-year-old hens as soon as they stop laying, or before. Fatten them and you will get a good price for them.

It is attention to little things that makes for success in the poultry business. One of these little things is to rinse out all drinking vessels before putting fresh water into them. Filth is a sure breeder of disease, and disease means disaster, and disaster is what you are not looking for; so take warning and get busy.

It is seldom advisable to try to raise deformed or sickly chicks. The extra care they require had better be given to the rest of the flock. It will pay better. Weed out the runts and cripples. They only eat good feed, and will die later on; so get out that hatchet and get busy. It seems hard to give the little chicks the go-by in this manner, but it's business.

Are you holding your own with the lice, or are the lice getting the best of you? A good plan is to provide a dust-bath; this will give the chicks and older fowls a chance to rid themselves of their unwelcome guests. But all chicks should be examined once a week, and, if any lice are found, grease with lard the top of head, the wings, and around the vent. The hen should be dusted with insect powder.

If your old stock has to be kept confined in a small yard all summer, don't forget to feed plenty of green feed. Lettuce makes an ideal green feed for fowls. Better plant a little patch for summer use. The chicks would like it, too. Cabbages and mangels should also be planted for fall and winter feed. Plant some now.

When the hen is through sitting, burn all the old nesting material, disinfect the nest box, and give it a coat of liquid lice-killer to make a good job of it, and then put in fresh straw.

The chicks want some shade during the hot summer days. Have they any? If not, supply a shady spot for them. Use them like you use yourself. They deserve it, and will repay you.

What about those young ducks? You don't want to keep them more than eight or nine weeks. Feed them well, supply lots of water to drink, and a shady spot to roost under, and they will surely grow.

How are the turkeys doing? Let them have free range when big enough to follow the old hen. Provide a good safe coop for them to roost in at night. A good plan is to place all the coops in a yard enclosed with fine-mesh chicken netting. No danger of vermin then. Better be safe than sorry.

FARMER JOHN.

VENTILATING POULTRY HOUSE.

Farm Poultry asks how to ventilate a poultry house 12 x 60 ft., with 7½-ft. front and 5-ft. back. It has six windows in the front, and two muslin windows 18 x 24 inches, with the muslin on both sides, about six inches apart. The house is single-boarded, with a good roofing paper on the outside, and good roofing put on to the studding on the inside. The reply is as follows:

For the summer, take out all sash, and if windows are so placed that they must have something to prevent birds going through them, cover with two-inch mesh poultry netting. The amount of ventilation secured through the 18 x 24-in. windows would be insufficient, even with these windows wide open most of the time; with muslin doubled, the quantity of air going through them is insignificant. In the fall, when it becomes so cold that some protection is needed for windows, put in muslin for half of the other windows, either half the windows or half of each window, using only one thickness of muslin. Do not close windows with glass unless you find it necessary. By this I do not mean unless you are afraid it is going to be necessary. It will probably not be necessary, and in cases like this I think you may, considering others' experience, leave out your glass, unless you get into trouble without it.

Enclosed find \$1.50, my subscription to your valuable paper. I would not like to do without it. I find the knowledge given in the Veterinary Department, as well as on all that pertains to farming, of inestimable benefit, and my wife very much enjoys the Home Magazine Department, especially the Cooking and Quiet Hour Departments. Belhaven, Ont.

H. A. WINCH.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

FRUIT TARIFF FATTENS EXPRESS COMPANIES.

A British Columbia fruit-growing reader of "The Farmer's Advocate," at Lytton, calls attention to one of the handicaps under which Western fruit-growers labor in attempting to supply the prairie region with fruit. A table of comparative express charges on fruit over the same distances, but respectively north and south of the International Boundary, reveals the following data:

Express Rates on Fruit	Miles.	Canadian.	American Rate, Same Distance.
from Lytton to:			
Kamloops	94	\$1 30	\$0 85
Vancouver	156	1 60	85
Revelstoke	225	2 15	1 23
Field	355	2 40	1 40
Calgary	487	2 55	1 40
Medicine Hat	667	2 55	1 50
Edmonton	678	2 55	1 50
Regina	969	2 55	1 80

A comparison of these notes will show that, in many cases, the British Columbia fruit-grower pays nearly one hundred per cent. more than the American grower. Truly, the workings of a protective tariff are devious. Who would have thought that the tariff against American fruit would fatten the express companies?



P. E. Island Flock of Geese.

JUNE PRUNING OF ORCHARDS.

If the orchard pruning has been so far neglected, June is the time to attend to it. Some growers deliberately defer until this season. Summer pruning encourages the formation of fruit buds, but it should not be severe, as the removal of any considerable amount of leaf area tends to check the vigor of the tree. Pruning, by the removal of buds, may be practiced at any season of the year, writes Prof. H. L. Hutt, in his excellent bulletin on apple culture. The thumb and finger may be used for the removal of sprouts and buds during the summer. A pair of small pruning shears will remove all twigs less than half an inch in diameter. For larger limbs, a sharp, fine-toothed saw is needed. Make all cuts as smooth as possible, and close to the main stem. When a large limb has to be removed, it may be advisable to cut twice, the first some inches out, and the second to shorten the stub. A common mistake is the leaving of long stubs, which cannot heal over until rot begins. Where it is necessary to remove large limbs, the wounds should be covered with grafting wax or thick lead paint, to prevent the entrance of spores which cause decay.

AN IMPORTANT SPRAYING.

In commercial fruit-culture, spraying should be performed as a matter of course. While there are some years in which the results may not be so marked as in others, yet, on the whole, spraying is a highly profitable precaution against insect and fungous enemies. Especially important is that application made just after the blossoms have fallen, while the apples are still borne erect on their stems. A coat of poisoned Bordeaux mixture on the calyx or blossom end will do more than can be accomplished by any other one spraying to insure against codling moth, and is also of especial value in combating scab.

Plant corn, plant more corn, plant still more corn.

CULTIVATION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR RAIN.

Keep the cultivator going now in the fruit plantation. In the orchard or vineyard, the disk and spike-tooth harrows may be used alternately to excellent advantage. Among bush fruits, the single-horse spring-tooth is very serviceable, while, for pulverizing a soil not too full of large weeds and grass, the diamond-pointed strawberry cultivator is unexcelled. It is not well to cultivate very deeply, as this largely precludes the roots of the trees, vines or bushes from drawing upon the fertility in the rich upper soil which constitutes the disturbed layer, but it is of prime importance that no hard crust be allowed to form on the surface. A loose soil mulch, about two or two and a half inches deep, becomes, in effect, a blanket, protecting the soil moisture beneath from the evaporating influences of sun and warm air above. It also serves to filter a supply of air down into the soil, where oxygen is necessary for the chemical and bacterial processes by which plant food is elaborated. With a supply of moisture and air thus insured, the soil becomes well-nigh independent of early summer rains, and a fairly good crop of fruit, excepting strawberries, may be produced without a drop of rain for a month or more. The one essential is that cultivation be early and frequent. Cultivate as soon after each rain as the earth will work up friable and loose. The looser and drier the soil mulch,

the more effective it will be. It is not well, however, to defer the cultivation too long, else an excessive loss of moisture will occur before it takes place. For the moment the mulch is moistened and run together by a rain, it loses its mulching properties and becomes a means of drawing subsoil moisture right up to the surface by the principle of capillary attraction; and, of course, as fast as the moisture is drawn to the surface, it is evaporated. For example, a rolled field will be moist in the following morning than a harrowed one, but two weeks later the rolled field

will be pumped out for inches in depth, while all except the upper inch or two of the harrowed field will be quite mellow and moist. In a dry time, it is better to cultivate as soon as the soil will work up nicely, and then repeat in two or three days, so as to insure a more effective mulch. This applies to the cornfield and the garden, as well as to the orchard and bush fruits.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

SPRING STALLION SHOWS—FRUIT PROSPECTS AND PRICES—GREEN-CHEESE QUESTION.

The Superintendent of Agricultural Societies reports splendid success with the stallion shows this season. Seventy were held, and the work done by the expert judges sent out has, with one exception, been very favorably reported upon by the societies. The attendance and interest in the shows was good. Farmers are more keenly alive to the value of the horse business, and are showing more care in the selection of breeding stock.

Though the season is late, fruit prospects could not well be better. In the Niagara section, the bloom on the peach trees gives evidence of an abundant crop. Apples show a full bloom where out. The fine, dry weather of the past few days has helped the fruit crop immensely. Strawberries, though later even than in 1907, will, from present prospects, give a good account of themselves.

Last season's apple business is ending up somewhat disastrously for the holders of stock. As a rule, the grower fared well, and also the buyer, who got rid of his stocks early. But the fellow who held on, thinking to make a big haul this spring, has got badly left. A few of the co-operative societies have suffered. Some held over their Ben Davis stock for the spring trade, when this long-keeping apple is usually in best demand. The season has, however, proven an exceptional one, and money has been lost on nearly all fruit held over.

The financial stringency is believed to be largely responsible for this condition of affairs in the apple trade. Last year's crop, both in Canada and the United States, was not a large one. The fruit was bought up at high prices last fall, so high, in fact, that the best