

The Search for the Passenger Pigeon.

NO AWARDS WON AS YET.

The passenger pigeon has not yet been found, and the awards offered have not been won. Considerable interest was aroused in this bird in early spring by the announcement that an award of \$1,000 would be paid "for the first information, exclusive and confidential, of the location of a nesting pair or colony of wild or passenger pigeon, anywhere in North America: when properly confirmed, and if found by confirming party with parent birds and eggs or young undisturbed."

All summer long letters were received from all portions of Canada, to the effect that the long-lost pigeon had been found. In some cases there seemed no doubt the writers were mistaking some other bird for the passenger pigeon. In others, however, the descriptions suggested the passenger pigeon, and further inquiries were made. In order to save unnecessary expense in connection with the confirming of the find, it seemed wise to ask that the finder send \$5 as an evidence of good faith. If, after investigation, the birds were found to be the true wild or passenger pigeon, the money would be refunded, and the awards given.

The small guarantee demanded produced in most cases a calming effect. The fact that no deposits were sent in showed clearly that the informants were not absolutely certain in their own minds that the birds they had seen were the true wild pigeons.

The birds most frequently mistaken for the wild pigeon were the Mourning Dove, the Band-tail Pigeon of British Columbia, and Cuckoos. The Mourning Dove, however, is about 4 inches shorter, and both sexes have black spots on the ears, and brownish backs. Its nest is usually less than 10 feet from the ground, while that of the wild pigeon is usually above that height.

The Band-tailed Pigeon of British Columbia has a square tail, and is more stocky than the wild pigeon. Cuckoos do not resemble the wild pigeon, while their nests are very frail and shabby, they are built at low elevations, and the three or four eggs are blue.

The Passenger Pigeon is 16 inches long from bill to end of tail; it is of slender build, and has a long graduated tail, i.e., the central tail-feathers are about twice the length of the outer ones. The male is blue-gray above and on the head, and ruddy beneath; the female is dull-colored, inclining to brownish. The Passenger pigeons nest during April or May, making rude, scanty platforms of twigs, through which the eggs can usually be seen; nests are usually from ten to thirty feet above ground, and are apt to be found in any woodland. They lay usually one or sometimes two elliptical eggs, measuring 1.5 by 1 inch.

It is hoped that the search will be renewed the coming year. The preceding details are here given to enable the pigeon to be more readily recognized.

W. LOCHHEAD.

Macdonald College, Oct. 8th, 1910.

U. S. Crop Conditions.

The month of September was favorable for crops in general, taking the United States as a whole, an improvement during the months of about 1.0 per cent. being shown, whereas there is an average decline in September of 0.8 per cent. Aggregate crop conditions in the United States on October 1st (or at time of harvest) were about 1.8 per cent. higher than on corresponding date a year ago, and 0.4 per cent. lower than the average condition on October 1st (or at time of harvest) of the past ten years. The area under cultivation is about 3.2 per cent. more than last year. Crops that have already been estimated quantitatively are as follows:

Crops.	YIELD PER ACRE.		
	1910	1909	10-yr. av.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat	14.2	15.8	14.1
Oats	31.9	30.3	29.5
Barley	22.4	24.3	25.7
Rye	16.2	16.1	16.0
Hay (tons)	1.34	1.42	1.44
	PRODUCTION.		
	1910.	1909.	
	Bushels.	Bushels.	
Wheat	691,769,000	737,189,000	
Oats	1,096,396,000	1,007,353,000	
Barley	158,138,000	170,284,000	
Rye	32,088,000	32,239,000	
Hay (tons)	60,116,000	64,938,000	

Stock Sales Advertised.

Oct. 29—John Ferguson, Camlachie, Ont.; Ayrshires.
Nov. 1—Wm. Higginson, Inkerman, Ont.; Holsteins.
Nov. 2—John Senn & Sons, York, Ont.; Shorthorns.
Nov. 2—Mrs. Thos. Davidson, Spring Valley, Ont.; Holsteins.
Nov. 11—Lyman C. Smith; Holsteins, at Glanford, Ont.

International Exposition Judges.

As an exhibition, the Chicago National is quite in a class by itself in its scope and magnitude, and, as a consequence, from year to year increasingly interests progressive and practical stockmen. The list of judges who this year are to pass upon the principal classes of live stock at this show is as follows:

CATTLE.

Shorthorns (Breeding Classes)—C. E. Marvin, Payne's Depot, Ky.; T. E. Robson, London, Ont.; E. M. Hall, Carthage, Mo.

Shorthorns (Fat Classes)—J. E. Robbins, Horace, Ind.; John R. Tomson, Dover, Kas.

Aberdeen-Angus (Breeding and Fat Classes)—Stanley R. Pierce, Creston, Ill.

Herefords (Breeding Classes)—S. W. Anderson, Blaker Mills, W. Va.

Herefords (Fat Classes)—J. A. Shade, Kingsley, Iowa; Robert H. Hazlett, El Dorado, Kas.

Galloways (Breeding and Fat Classes)—Prof. R. J. Kinzer, Manhattan, Kas.

Red Polled (Breeding and Fat Classes)—Prof. C. F. Curtiss, Ames, Ia.

Polled Durham (Breeding and Fat Classes)—T. J. Wornall, Liberty, Mo.

Grades and Cross-breeds and Championships.—Richard G. Carden, Fishmoyn, Templemore Co., Tipperary, Ireland.

SHEEP.

Shropshires (Breeding and Fat Classes)—J. C. Duncan, Lewiston, N. Y.; L. Kammerer (alternate), Brodhead, Wis.

Hampshires.—P. W. Artz, Osborne, Ohio.

Southdowns.—H. Noel Gibson, Millbrook, N. Y.; J. C. Duncan (alternate), Lewiston, N. Y.

Oxford Downs.—Prof. E. L. Shaw, Dept. of Agriculture, Wash.

Lincolns.—Prof. E. L. Shaw, Dept. of Agriculture, Washington.

Cotswolds.—J. Hal. Woodford, Paris, Ky.

Continental Dorsets.—Robert Miller, Stouffville, Ont.

Cheviots.—F. E. Dawley, Fayetteville, N. Y.

Leicesters.—J. M. Gardhouse, Weston, Ont.

Grades, Cross-breeds and Champions.—David McKay, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

SWINE.

Berkshires (Breeding Classes)—S. C. Hollingsworth, Shreveport, La. Fat Classes—Prof. R. S. Shaw, Lansing, Mich.

Tamworths.—Frank Thornber, Carthage, Ill.

Yorkshires.—Prof. R. S. Shaw, Lansing, Mich.

Grades and Cross-breeds—Prof. D. A. Gaumnitz, St. Anthony Park, Minn.

Champion Swine.—Prof. W. L. Carlyle, Moscow, Idaho.

HORSES.

Percherons.—John DeLancy, Northfield, Minn.; Wm. Bell, Wooster, Ohio; Joseph Watson, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Clydesdales.—Prof. W. L. Carlyle, Moscow, Idaho; Andrew McFarlane, Polo, Ill.; Prof. E. A. Trowbridge, Columbia, Missouri.

Shires.—A. L. Wilson, Creston, Iowa; Joseph Watson, Lincoln, Nebraska; O. B. Siger, Fisher, Ill.

Belgians.—Ely Sprunger, Decatur, Ind.; Robert Graham, Claremont, Ont.; Prof. W. L. Carlyle, Moscow, Idaho.

Draft Horses in Harness.—Prof. C. F. Curtiss, Ames, Ia.

JUDGES FOR STUDENTS' JUDGING CONTEST.

Horses.—Chas. Coleman, Wayne, Ill.; James Z. McWay, Janesville, Wis.; Prof. W. B. Richards, Agricultural College, N. D.

Cattle.—O. E. Bradfute, Xenia, Ohio; Prof. W. A. Cocker, State College, Pa.; Leslie Smith, St. Cloud, Minn.

Sheep.—David McKay, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; H. Noel Gibson, Millbrook, N. Y.; Prof. W. D. Faville, Laramie, Wyo.

Swine.—Prof. H. G. Fuller, Madison, Wis.; Ed. Klever, Bloomington, Ohio; C. R. Doty, Charleston, Ill.

Regarding Horse Power.

In the issue of October 13th there was announced in the Horse Department a twenty-dollar prize competition for the best treatises upon the subject, "The Cost of Horse Power." Do not lose sight of this competition; if you have forgotten it, look up the announcement. The important feature is not that you should stand first in the competition, but that you should study this question and contribute to the general fund of knowledge upon the subject to the best of your ability. Get out your writing-tablet, your ink-pot, and your horse accounts, and let us hear from you.

Technical Education Commission.

The wide-awake public generally, and the progressive manufacturers, tradespeople, laborers and farmers particularly, have been following with interest, and as carefully as they have been able, through the newspapers, the progress of the work of inquiry carried on by the Technical Education Commission, appointed early last summer by the Dominion Government. Recently, their visit to London afforded the staff of "The Farmer's Advocate" a convenient opportunity to observe at first hand the spirit in which the people receive the Commissioners, the nature of evidence received, and the attitude of the people toward their educational system. An attempt will not be made to cover the evidence brought forth at these sessions, but, as an indication of the nature of the information gleaned throughout various parts of Ontario and the other Provinces, the main facts emphasized by the citizens of London and contiguous territory are worthy of consideration.

The heartiest kind of co-operation on the part of the people interviewed was manifested. Business men, manufacturers, farmers, teachers, printers, moulders, carpenters, bricklayers and plasterers all appeared before the Commission to give expressions to their judgment upon our present educational system, and regarding technical education, and a pleasing frankness was manifest.

There was a concurrence of opinion running through the evidence of all parties. These pointed out that the present system of education, while giving training in reading, writing and arithmetic, yet does not train the mind as it might, and fails to develop the hand, the eye, the ear, and, in short, the body, while a system allied to and including nature study, domestic science, manual and technical training, would be fully as cultural, and develop the mind to a greater degree, while also developing the body functions. The manufacturers pointed out the lack of available competent labor, and the tendency of boys to drift, rather than enter apprenticeships. Printers, moulders, carpenters and all the laboring men joined with the employers in testifying to the advantage which would arise from the establishment of trade or technical schools which would, while educating the children mentally, train them physically, give them a use of their hands, sharpen their judgments, develop their ability, and discover their natural aptitudes.

By farmers it was shown that our educational system in no way relates itself to the practices of rural life; that the studies of the present system should be more closely related to the environment; and the course should be lengthened to keep the children in the schools a couple of years longer, thus affording the opportunity for the introduction of additional studies, and making room for practical work. It seemed to be the consensus of opinion of teachers and all who appeared before the Commission that the introduction of sewing, cooking, and allied domestic science studies for the girls, and of manual training and shop work, for the boys, with properly related nature study for all, should take place in the public schools, following closely upon the place where kindergarten work stops, and that it should be continued through the Public and High School courses.

One of the regrettable pieces of testimony, from the rural standpoint, was that enthusiastic teachers who are attempting to introduce these subjects into country schools are finding much opposition. May we never be able to find another instance of such short-sightedness. The communities should co-operate to the greatest extent, and hold up the hands of teachers in such undertakings.

Coming Events.

Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, Nov. 15-19.
International Horse Show, Chicago, Nov. 22-26.
International Live-stock Exposition, Chicago, Nov. 26th to December 3rd.
Smithfield Fat-stock Show, London, Eng., December 5-9.
Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph, Dec. 5-9.
Maritime Winter Fair, Amherst, N. S., Dec. 5-8.
Toronto Fat-stock Show, Union Stock-yards, Dec. 12-13.
Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show, Ottawa, Jan. 16-20, 1911.

No Equal on the Continent.

I esteem "The Farmer's Advocate" very highly. The fine grade of paper on which it is printed, and the many fine pictures, make it a work of art. But the quantity and quality of the reading material from week to week, the practical suggestions and discussions which it contains, makes it a very valuable and indispensable journal to the agriculturist. I think it has no equal on the continent. Wishing you long-continued success.

A. J. LACEY.

Northumberland Co., Ont.