

ter, 81.32. Apparently these prices were made and manipulated by the buyers. While the prices of cheese may have been legitimate, it is plain that the prices of butter were not legitimate, but were based on the price of cheese, and seeing that Canada did not make enough butter for its home consumption, and that large quantities were regularly imported from New Zealand and some from Europe, and none at all exported, it is plain that a deeply-laid scheme was planned by the purchasing interests to keep down the price of butter,—to discourage the Canadian farmer from going out of the cheese business in order to go into butter-making. The same forces, which endeavored to keep the price of milk for butter-making on a level with milk for cheese-making are working in Eastern Ontario. In my county of Carleton, milk for cheese-making was scarcely as high for the last three years as it has been in Prince Edward Island, for the price in 1912 was 102.7 cents in P. E. I., while the factories in the County of Carleton did not realize quite this figure. The prices in Eastern Ontario were one or two cents lower than in P. E. I.

I think farmers of Prince Edward Island and Ontario have now been long enough furnishing one of the most nutritive food products in existence, cheese, for the Englishman at a price much below the cost of production. Canadians should let New Zealand take a spell at this work if they choose to work for nothing. Think of our farmers here furnishing milk in 1900 for 60 cents per cwt. to make cheese to feed the low-paid Englishman, but considering the prices of cattle feeds, and also the present prices of by-products of the dairy, as pork, \$1.00 per cwt., prices in 1914 is not really as good a price for milk as 60 cents was in 1900, 14 years ago.

If milk was worth 60 cents 14 years ago, it should be worth at least \$1.20 to-day, and there would probably only be the same profits for the milk producer, at this price, that there were in 1900.

Selling milk to a cheese factory at \$1.00 per cwt. is throwing it away. Assuming that only \$1.00 could be realized in making butter instead of cheese, have we not the residual skim milk, worth anywhere from 25 to 40 cents per cwt., say, 33 cents per cwt.? If we only get a dollar a cwt. at the creamery we have the residual 33 cents, which raises the value to \$1.33. First-class bacon cannot be raised successfully without skim milk, and first-class bacon hogs have been selling in Ottawa all this spring for \$14.00 per cwt.

P. E. I.

J. A. MACDONALD.

National Dairy Show Sets Dates.

The Executive of the National Dairy Show, held annually in Chicago have decided upon October 22nd to October 31st, as the period in which they will hold their show in 1914. It is the purpose to make this show the annual round-up of the herds that have shown in the various circuits of the country and have judges of national and international reputation pass upon them and send the cattle to their home farms for the season in such accredited form as will establish forever a national roll of merit for the winners.

In previous years Canadian breeders have exhibited at this show with considerable success, and it is pleasing indeed to Canadian visitors to see such fine specimens of the dairy breeds in competition with their American neighbors. It is not too early now for Canadians to begin to fit their herds for exhibition at this annual event.

POULTRY.

Where Forest, Field and Stream are Utilized for Better Poultry.

Everyone has read the story of the children in the wood, but few of us have heard any tales about chickens in the wood, and yet there is such a story to be told and it is based on fact. It is no fairy tale, and more than that the chickens are not wild chickens but are thoroughly domesticated, and while the roosters crow just as do the roosters in the farmyard the hens are laying real eggs in real old-fashioned, every-day straw nests and proclaiming their industrious proclivities just as do the farmyard biddies around our own back doors. If you want to see a woods swarming with laying hens and proud strutting roosters go to Norfolk county, find the little village of St. Williams and the rest is easy, for you can almost hear the crowing and the cackling which emanates from the woods one-half mile straight eastward as you stand at the four corners of the village and wonder which pathway leads to the Norfolk Specialty Farms where poultry is the main specialty, and where seventy-four acres of soil, some once wet and boggy, some formerly shifting sand and some forest almost primeval is now literally swarming with poultry, chiefly hens but with some ducks and turkeys. They do things on a large scale in

Norfolk county, and the poultry business is not allowed to lag behind. This farm is admirably situated for poultry farming. The wet places have been underdrained, and where a few years ago water stood in June there now stands one of the most promising crops of oats it has been our privilege to see this year. The lighter land has been planted to fruit—apples, peaches and black currants, and all around even in the woods are placed permanent hen-houses, colony houses and coops. It is a chicken ranch stocked chiefly with bred-to-lay Barred Plymouth Rocks, single-combed White Leghorns and single-combed Rhode Island Reds. The hen that lays is the hen that pays, and these hens do both. Twenty-five hundred layers roam about seeking insects which they may devour, and incidentally taking a spear of grass here and there. Besides what they pick they are now being fed corn, wheat and rolled oats in a mixture from hoppers. Diagonally across the farm runs a small stream from which most of the poultry may obtain water, and in which the large flock of Pekin ducks spend a great part of the time. The location is suitable.

Hens make their homes in some forty-three colony houses which are scattered through the woods, around the buildings, and many of which will soon be set on either side of the small stream, and the young chickens will have the run of the corn which is planted adjacent to the creek. Chickens do well in corn. It provides shade and protects from hawks and crows. In the large woods at the west side of the farm the majority of the laying hens make their abode. At first Leghorns were placed in the woods but they soon became wild, and consequently were removed to pens nearer the house and barn, and the houses in the woods were filled with bred-to-lay Barred Rocks of a quiet disposition. These hens were admirably suited to their new conditions, and made themselves right at home. During the hot summer weather, from which these heavy hens often suffer and become lazy, the hens of the wood may be seen busily turning over the fallen leaves and leaf mould and helping themselves to all the forms of life found thereunder. The woods is quite thick and is

forth live chicks. In the 1,500-egg machine no hatch has been put through which did not bring forth at least 1,000 chicks. Several smaller machines are run with equally good if not better success. And withal there has been very little loss from white diarrhoea or other chicken ailments. Free range and proper feeding must have done much to keep the birds healthy. The whole thing is poultry under natural conditions.

Besides the hens a large flock of Pekin ducks are kept, and eggs from these have been in such demand that few have been retained for hatching so far this season.

A flock of some twenty-five bronze turkey hens are also kept with the necessary male birds. Eggs from these have been sold as fast as produced. It is a big plant, but is not growing fast enough to supply the demand made upon it. Over 5,000 chicks sold, over 60,000 eggs shipped for hatching, and the process being pushed day after day makes the superintendent of The Norfolk Specialty Farms, E. F. Montgomery, a very busy man, but he is busy at a business he likes and understands, and success must follow. Everyone is a worker on this place and the busy business of producing eggs goes merrily on day after day, while the oats grow rapidly in the front field, and the corn fairly jumps ahead on the back field with a young orchard making almost a phenomenal growth just back of the barns, and in the midst of all this some ten colonies of bees are ready to swarm into more colonies to fertilize the fruit blossoms when the trees reach bearing age. Highly specialized agriculture is an interesting and profitable business, and poultry, as the leading specialty, is one which requires skill and steady application.

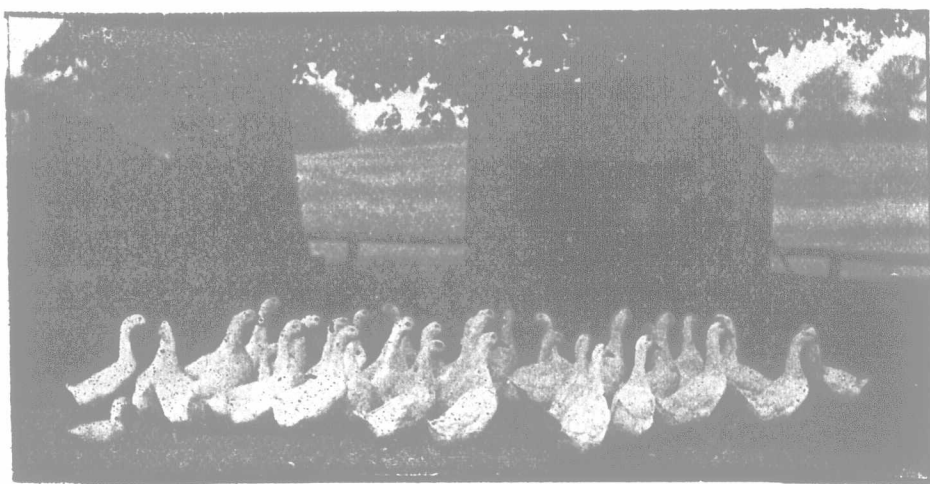
HORTICULTURE.

Gooseberries One of the Money-makers.

While the production of some kinds of fruit, especially those requiring least labor is seemingly on a par with the demand there are other lines that are lagging behind and do not meet the request of the immediate consumers or that of the jam and canning factories. These are the products that return fair profits, and since they equalize the labor over the bearing season when fruits are coming on, there appears little reason why berries now much sought after should not occupy a part of the plantation. Gooseberries are coming to the front as money-makers, and a few growers report profits in the vicinity of \$110 per acre after deducting the initial costs, taxes, rent of land, cost of growing and marketing. This is a fair remuneration considering all the costs and overhead charges have been paid. Gooseberries, of course, are not outstanding as profit-makers, but they are one of a group that are now being used more than in the past.

Gooseberries are not so particular about the character of the soil upon which they grow as are many other fruits. One thing, however, they do wish and that is a cool soil which supplies a large amount of moisture. They are shallow-rooted growers and usually a sandy-loam soil with a heavy subsoil about one foot from the surface will give best results. They require an abundance of moisture, but the soil in which they grow must not contain superfluous water. Stagnant water on soggy land will preclude the growth of most any kind of fruit. Northern slopes are often desirable and although most crops require an abundance of sunlight, the gooseberries must be protected from the direct rays else scalding and mildew will be prevalent and injurious. This can be prevented to a certain extent through systematic pruning, but large growers advocate the planting of peaches or other tree fruits in conjunction with them and this practice, besides protecting the gooseberries from injuries common to them, adds profits to the acres.

Gooseberries start to grow quite early in the spring and if the setting be done in the fall considerable growth will ensue in the early spring and time also may be saved. The row system is commonly used in commercial plantations and the plants are set four feet apart in rows six feet apart. This requires about 1,800 plants per



Pekin Ducks.

Breeding flock on the Norfolk Specialty Farms.

cool and shady. In it are placed colony houses some six feet by eight feet, six feet high in front and four feet at the back, others are eight feet by ten feet. Besides these we noticed several permanent pens some twenty feet square, four feet high front and back and seven feet high in the center, with the entire front wire screen and some the same style only twice as long. These hold 100 and 200 hens respectively. It is almost surprising how these hens take to life in the woods. Theirs seems to be one continual picnic, but their summer home is also their winter quarters, and while happy and healthy they are busy turning out the eggs which make them as good as their name "bred-to-lay." During last winter the hens on the farm averaged from fall to spring over twenty per cent. egg production daily, or, in other words, eggs were got from twenty per cent. of the 2,500 hens every day during this time. This is a record not often equalled when it is considered that so many hens are being kept. The woods seems to be a good place for eggs.

A good trade is done in day-old chicks, upwards of 5,000 having been shipped previous to our call last week, and of that number only two reported did not reach their destination alive and ready to go forward and make money for their new owners. The chicks seem lively and alert, and there is such a demand, not only for the chicks, but for eggs for hatching that it is altogether impossible to keep it satisfied. Eggs for hatching are shipped in thousands.

Speaking of mating and fertility there is a good point for breeders to be learned from this farm. With free range twenty-five females are mated with each male and fertility runs from seventy to ninety-four per cent., while over two-thirds of the eggs bring