

with the foot (Figure 3). Otherwise he will not allow the vine to waste strength in such long canes, but pinch the ends at a height of about two feet from the ground, and produce a system of fruiting laterals, such as are shown in Figure 4. These may in turn be pinched at the ends if they reach out too far.

The Shaffer and the Columbia are crosses which have the habit of growth of the blackcap, and therefore need similar pruning.

Dominion Conference of Fruit-growers in March.

Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, has announced that the expected Dominion Conference of Fruit-growers will be called to meet in Ottawa, March the 20th. About forty delegates are expected, in addition to representatives from allied industries. This will be one of the most important fruit meetings ever held in the Dominion, and will probably attract a great many prominent fruit-growers and dealers in addition to the delegates.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

That Man Webster, Says

that an "advocate" is "one who pleads the cause of another." In other words, he is one who intercedes for his client when in difficulty, and gives him valuable advice upon all matters of vital importance to his business.

We are all aware that there are numerous kinds of advisers in this world—good, bad and indifferent—and they are pleading for clients engaged in every imaginable occupation. So long as the interceding or advice brings about the desired result the client is satisfied, and has no wish to change the source of his advice; but just as soon as his adviser fails to bring a case to a successful issue, then he begins to look for someone to whom he can better trust his interests.

When we are told of a great business firm who have retained the services of the same adviser year after year, we can invariably conclude that they have received correct advice, and have implicit confidence in the man from whom they got it. The rapid strides they have made in the business world, is evidence enough that they are on the right track.

Do you know that "The Farmer's Advocate" has helped to put thousands of progressive farmers on the right track to success? Well, it has, and they are not slow to admit it.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has been "pleading the cause" of agriculturists for the last 40 years, with such success that to-day it is the recognized authority from one end of the country to the other on all matters of a farming nature.

How long has this great industry been taking advice from this paper? Forty years.

How many clients are receiving advice? Fifty thousand, and the number is rapidly increasing.

Are they satisfied, did you ask? Well, you ought to read some of the nice things they tell us. It's not modesty, but the lack of space, that prevents us from publishing all of the many hundreds of letters received from satisfied subscribers.

How many of your friends are you going to help on the road to success this year? We can plead the cause of a million just as easy as of one, so let's see how many new subscribers you can send us in the next month. We give excellent premiums in return for your work. Look them up, make your choice, then "get busy."

Nova Scotia Apple Exports.

According to reports, Nova Scotia's season's shipments of apples from Halifax to Old Country markets amounted to 800,000 barrels up to February 12th. It was estimated there were 25,000 barrels still to be shipped, which would make a total of 325,000, or 50,000 barrels fewer than last year. The falling off is due to crop shortage, demand in the Old Country being as good as last year, while, according to Dominion Fruit Inspector G. H. Vroom, prices were one-third better. Varieties commanding the higher figures are Kings, Golden Russets, Blenheim Pippins and Baldwins, the average net to the grower or shipper being \$2.50 per barrel. Cox Orange Pippins are said to have sold as high as \$10.00 a barrel, but there were only a few barrels of that variety exported. Besides exports to Britain, shipments of boxed fruit were made this year to Mexico, Havre and South Africa. Mr. Vroom estimates local or home market sales at 75,000 barrels, at \$1.50 a barrel, so that last year's crop should net fully \$1,000,000 to the shippers. The acreage in orchards in Nova Scotia is being considerably increased, and a full crop next year should mean 700,000 barrels.

Amendment to the Agriculture and Arts Act.

By an amendment expected to be made at the present session of the Ontario Legislature, the distribution of the sum of over \$80,000, spent yearly in assisting the local fairs of Ontario, will be somewhat affected. By the proposed legislation the distinction between district and township fairs will disappear, all being placed on an equal footing so far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned. The old geographical division into ridings will give way to division according to counties, and each society will receive Government assistance according to sworn returns by the secretaries, showing the amount of money actually paid as prizes for strictly agricultural exhibits, some special provision being made for New Ontario and other sparsely-settled districts. It is understood that the Act will also give the Department authority to determine the localities in which fairs receiving Provincial assistance are to be held. The exercise of this prerogative will prevent the crowding of exhibitions, and doubtless result in many of the smaller ones, without suitable buildings and equipment, going out of existence. Finally, it is understood that the present law prohibiting horse-racing will be modified, with a view to eliminating the betting that occasionally takes place at the "speed contest" held in lieu of horse races, which run as such would be illegal, according to the existing law.



S. Miles Chipman, Nictaux, N. S.

President Nova Scotia Farmers' Association.

Regulating Railway Rates.

The United States House of Representatives has passed, by a vote of 346 to 7, the Hepburn Railway Rate Bill, which we presume has yet to run the gauntlet of the Senate. The measure is intended to give effect to the recommendations of President Roosevelt. It gives the Interstate Commerce Commission (a tribunal corresponding to our Canadian Railway Commission) authority, when a rate has been complained of as unreasonable by a shipper, to investigate that rate, state whether or not it is unreasonable, and if found to be unreasonable, to name a rate which is to be just and reasonable and fairly remunerative, which is to be the maximum rate to be charged. This rate so fixed is to go into effect 30 days after it is announced by the commission, subject during that time to be set aside or suspended by the commission or by the courts. After it has gone into effect it is to remain the rate for three years. During this time, the opinion has been expressed by those who have participated in the debate, the rate may also be reviewed by the courts, and if found to be in conflict either with the terms of the act or with the constitution, by being confiscatory, can be set aside by the court.

Another important feature is the definition of the words "railroad" and "transportation" in a manner to include all auxiliary instrumentalities of the common carrier, and to bring them within the control of the commission. This power to name a reasonable rate, and the inclusion of the auxiliaries within the jurisdiction of the commission, are said to be the new features. All other provisions are modifications of existing law. They include publicity of railroad methods, which is to be aided by prescribing a system of bookkeeping and enlarging the commission to seven members, and increasing salaries of members to \$10,000 a year.

Experience with Rape.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I wish to inform your readers of the benefit and the results we have found in growing rape for a number of years, as the weed problem is one that all farmers have to contend with, and we find the cultivation of the land for rape, if properly carried out, will clear the ground of weeds and grass. In preparing the land for rape, we plow deep in the fall and harrow. In the spring, as early as possible, the land is cultivated, worked to a fine tilth, which helps to hold the moisture and starts the weeds to grow, when, about the middle of June, we apply the manure—about 13 to 15 loads per acre, plowing as light as possible. The land is then worked with a disk or cultivator till it is in a fine state of cultivation. Use of the roller will save a lot of harrowing. To get the best results, we do not sow the rape till the 15th or 20th of July. We harrow the land once a week, or cultivate, if necessary, and in doing so we destroy all weeds and have an unlimited supply of moisture, which is the life of the rape plant right from the start. The seed is sown broadcast. There is no other pasture which will make bigger gains in the same time. For fat cattle, it is better to let them have a run on rough grass. For finishing grass cattle, it is second to nothing. We have had steers gain 150 pounds in six weeks pasturing on rape. We do not plow rape land for crop the following year, as the surface is clear of weeds. By cultivating in the spring before the ground gets hard, we are always sure of a good crop and a clean field.

Wellington Co., Ont.

J. A. ROSS.

Approves Portable Fencing.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the early days of farming in Ontario, the common rail fence was considered an absolute necessity. Wood was plentiful and land cheap, but now conditions are reversed. If a man has 100 acres of good land, he should endeavor to make every square foot of that land as productive as possible. A rail fence, besides taking up a wide strip of fertile land, affords a harboring-place for weeds and undergrowth. The weed seeds become scattered over the fields, and the undergrowth affords a winter protection for insects and vermin. It is a common custom to pile stones in the fence corners; these also afford a protection for insects, besides giving a farm a shiftless and untidy appearance.

I claim that permanent fences are not a necessity to the modern farmer in Ontario. There are many forms of movable fences manufactured which may be placed around pasture fields, and in other places where fences are necessary, in a comparatively short time. The damage and loss which is caused every year by cattle breaking through rotten rail fences on many farms in the country is more than sufficient to pay for 50 or 60 rods of temporary wire fence. In this way much useful land which is being wasted might be brought under cultivation, and one of the great sources of loss caused by the distribution of weed seeds and injurious insects might be removed.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

W. C. OWEN.

A Poultrymen's Institute at Guelph.

The Poultry Institute, held at Guelph, Ont., on February 6th, 7th and 8th, was attended by over 60 enthusiasts, chief amongst whom were F. C. Elford, Chief, Poultry Division, Ottawa; S. H. Baldwin, Toronto; M. Hunter, Roxbury, Mass.; C. Nix, Chester City, Penns., and Professor Rice, of the Poultry Division, Cornell University.

Mr. Hunter is an advocate of dry feeding. He stated that poor health, low egg yield, and such ailments as sour crop and bowel trouble were due to feeding mash. The best argument for dry feeding is that the fowls eat it slowly, taking water and grit with the feed. Oats are the best body-builder of all the grains. The dry mash advocated by this speaker is 200 lbs. of wheat bran, 100 lbs. each of corn meal, wheat middlings, gluten meal, linseed meal and beef scraps. Ground buckwheat may be used in place of corn meal. Beef scraps should be sifted for young chicks. Red top and timothy are best grasses for chicken runs.

In an address on incubators, Mr. Nix observed that crippling of chicks was due to too much heat in incubators, or to lack of vitality in laying stock. Incubators should be located in a low, well-ventilated cellar. In using new machines, operators should be particularly careful to see that there is an even distribution of heat. White diarrhoea in ducklings comes from non-absorption of yolk, caused by retarded development. Eggs that come from hens on range will keep much better than eggs from hens confined. In hatching, 65% is considered a very good average.

Mr. Hunter, in speaking on capons, broilers and soft roasters, defined the latter as:

Squab broilers	1 to 1 lb.
Broilers	1½ to 2 lbs.
Soft roasters	3½ lbs. up.

A cross of Barred Rocks and Brahmas make the best roasters. As for preparing them, crating is the better method of fattening. One man can manage more birds.