

the Crystal Palace, at London. This fruit received a great deal of praise, and dealers from Covent Garden, commenced to make inquiries, looking for shipments to that market. The following year, a collection was sent to the London Horticultural Society, which brought out several medals, and so much interest was taken in the matter that in March following, the Nova Scotia Fruit-growers' Association and International Show Society was formed, and for many years the only exhibitions of fruit in the Province were held by it, and selections were sent to foreign expositions, pomologists and horticultural societies. As a consequence, the society has, perhaps, the largest collection of gold, silver, gilt silver and bronze medals of any kindred society in the Dominion.

Somewhere about 1853 the Government of Nova Scotia commenced to build a railroad from Halifax to Truro, with a branch line to Windsor. As soon as this road was opened, a new impetus was given to fruit-growing in the eastern part of the County of King's. Small schooners would load fruit at Wolfville, Starr's Point, Port Williams, Canard, Canning, Kingsport, and other points on the tidal rivers of Minas Basin, then dropping out on the ebb-tide, sail up the Avon River to Windsor on the next flood, and transfer their cargoes to the cars for Halifax.

Transportation in this way at once created an advance in the method of packing and packages. Emptied flour barrels were used when procurable, and cooperages were started making barrels for the trade, but soon trouble commenced; many of the barrels were made quite small, and were complained of in the markets.

A few years later, through the efforts of the Fruit-growers' Association, a bill was passed in the Nova Scotia Legislature defining the size of a legal barrel, giving length of stave, diameter of head and bilge, based on the measurement of the American flour barrel, and supposed to hold three bushels, or 96 quarts, and the maker must put his name and address on the side of each barrel, making him accountable for the legal size.

This law was in force several years before Confederation, and was found to work well, and gave a great deal better satisfaction than the present law, which states the smallest size the growers can use, but the dealer may use as big a barrel as his conscience will admit, or the railroads and steamships carry without a kick, but he does not pay the grower for the increased quantity. This matter was well threshed out at the fruit convention in Ottawa, in March, 1906, and we hoped for an amended law, making a standard barrel of 96 quarts, or 3 bushels, for the whole Dominion. The vote on this subject was practically unanimous by the delegates, but as yet nothing has been done. Why?

But, as Kipling says, "This is another story."

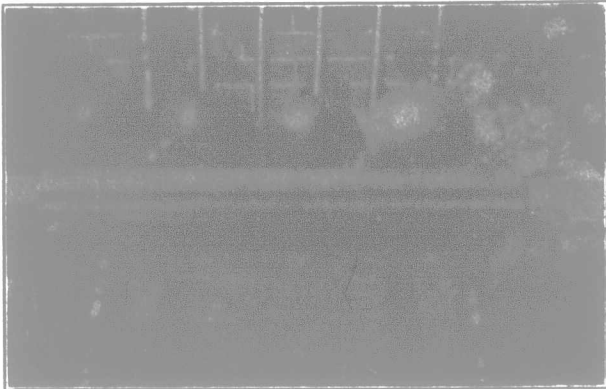
Short Course in Fruit-growing.

Ontario is experiencing a great revival of interest in fruit-growing. No other branch of agriculture offers so large a financial return at the present time, and it is because of this fact that large numbers of neglected orchards are being cleaned up, fertilized, pruned and sprayed, and treated after the manner of "The Farmer's Advocate" demonstration orchard. Such splendid profits are being realized that wide-awake men are setting out new plantations of the best varieties, in the firm belief that they will return a high percentage of profit on the capital invested. These men have carefully looked into the situation, and any who do likewise will most certainly come to the same conclusion. Ontario possesses, beyond all question, unrivalled possibilities as a fruit-producing Province. The climate and soil are unequalled on this continent. Markets have never been fully supplied with strictly high-grade fruit, and are demanding larger quantities each year. To those who are looking for a more profitable line, we earnestly recommend a study of the fruit situation. The best-informed and most expert fruit men in the Province will be assembled at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, for the special course in fruit-growing, January 25th to February 4th, 1910. There is money in growing fruit, and this free short course is worth many dollars to any fruit-grower. For particulars, write J. W. Crow, Department of Horticulture, or President Creelman, O. A. C., Guelph. Applications this year are brisk.

Further prosecutions by Dominion Fruit Inspectors for illegal marking and packing of apples have resulted in the following convictions: J. P. Dunn, Streetsville, Ont.; J. A. & E. Brown, Port Hope, Ont.; W. J. Henders, Port Perry, Ont.; Albert Brent, Port Perry, Ont.; C. F. Chase, Frankford, Ont.; Phillips & White, Frankford, Ont.; Phillips & White, Frankford, Ont.; R. J. Graham, Belleville, Ont.; Thos. Brain, Oakville, Ont.; E. P. Ainsworth, Brighton, Ont.; Royal Fruit Co., Edmonton, Alta. The fines in these cases ranged from \$10 to \$50.

Apples in Muskoka.

W. H. Cross, of Gravenhurst, in the Muskoka District of Ontario, sends us a photograph of four Wealthy apples grown in his orchard this year, averaging 3½ inches in diameter. The



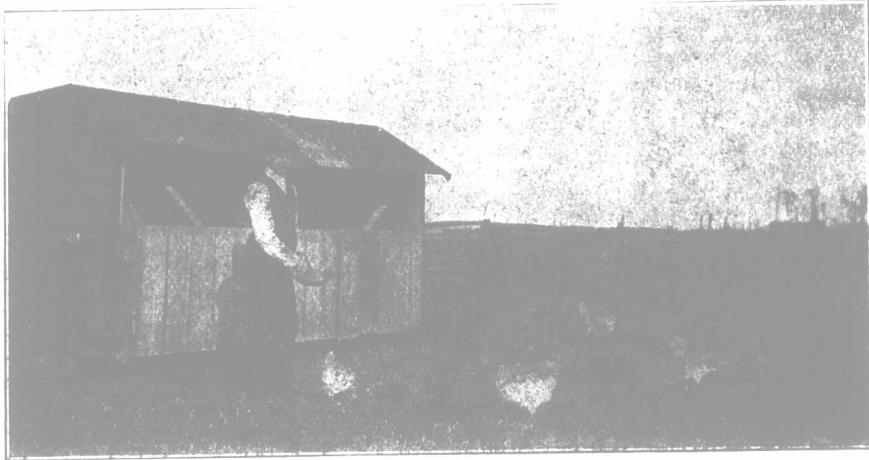
Fourteen Inches of Apples.

Wealthy, he says, does well in the neighborhood of Gravenhurst, which is 45 degrees north, as do also many other varieties of good appearance, flavor and keeping qualities.

POULTRY.

A Successful Colony House.

If modern poultry experience especially emphasizes any one thing, it is the advantage of a system of chicken-rearing that will provide fresh ground for the birds to range over. The accompanying illustration shows the colony house (used also in winter) belonging to one of our enthusiastic young poultry-readers, A. A. Dixon, of Middlesex Co., Ont., who became interested in the chick-



Portable Colony House.

en business through reading the correspondence contributed by J. R. Henry, since deceased, we are sorry to relate. After following these articles for a couple of years, putting into practice the methods of care and feeding advocated, Mr. Dixon ventured to invest in one or two settings of eggs offered by Mr. Henry in the advertising columns. Results proved extremely satisfactory; so much so that Mr. Dixon tells us he would have been money ahead if he had bought all his eggs at \$1.50 per setting, providing they turned out as well as those he did get

To return to the subject of housing, Mr. Dixon has been experimenting with the open-front colony house, size 7½ x 10 feet, constructed out of packing cases, and roofed with a prepared felt. The window in the roof has proven successful, giving sunlight all day, no glass having yet been broken. The open front is protected by poultry netting, with ordinary flour sacking, that may be let down when desired. Up till the end of November, when interviewed, the owner said he had not used the sacking yet this season. He believes in the fresh-air method, and gets eggs, too. Last winter, chickens housed here averaged 113 eggs in six months. The house is closed at night to keep out prowlers. Many people fear hawks, but Mr. Dixon says that, although the house has been within 20 rods from the bush, there have been only two losses from hawks in two years.

A Daily Egg Record.

Bookkeeping and daily records are an important factor contributing to success in any branch of business. In farming, it is not always easy to keep strict accounts, but the dairyman and the poultrykeeper can do it, with comparative ease. Especially with poultry it is easy to keep such accounts, because of the definiteness of the daily yield, and its readily computed cash value. There are, of course, many unprofitable flocks of poultry, because the conditions that make for profit are not observed. On the other hand, it is a safe guess that many a farmer would be astonished if he knew exactly how much his chickens cost to feed, how much worth of eggs he sold and used, and how much of a balance really remained to the credit of the flock. We commend account-keeping as a means of doing justice to the hen, and as a means of stimulating interest and improvement.

While the keeping of a capital and a cash account will show whether Biddy is paying her way or not, we strongly advise going further, and keeping a daily egg record. It may be done with scarcely any trouble, by tacking or hanging up in the kitchen a piece of cardboard, ruled out as indicated by the enclosed

diagram, with a column of blank blocks for each day of the seven, and then setting down each evening the number of eggs gathered that day. On a wide margin to the right room is provided for recording the disposal of eggs from time to time, whether sales or home consumption. At the end of the year this card contains a great deal of data interesting for reference, such as the date when the hens commenced laying, total per month, prices realized, number of dozen used at home, etc. It is also very stimulating to glance over the record from day

to day, observing how the production is keeping up or increasing, responding to this or that new feed or favorable condition provided. There is nothing more conducive to the intelligent and watchful care of any class of stock than these daily barometers such as egg-records and individual milk records afford. We are not talking now of trap-nesting, which is perhaps hardly advisable for the average farmer, in view of the trouble it entails; but, on the strength of our own experience, we strongly advise the use of such egg-record cards as illustrated herewith. Start on New Year's Day.

Egg Account.

January									
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Amount Sold		
			1	4	1	4	Jan 10	Sare Mrs. X. 4	
							" 11	1/2 Dozen	15
4	3	3	4	3	6	4	" 13	Sold 1/2 doz.	
							" 18	Sold 2 dozen	60
3	4	5	5	4	6	4	" 20	" 1 "	30
3	4	5	5	6	4	7			
4						106			
February									
	7	6	6	5	5	6			
6	8	9	3	5	9	8			