

Pure water should be given first thing in the morning; it should be slightly warmed. The hens often want a drink before eating, and icy water is not good. For lime and grit, a box of old plaster with a plentiful supply of broken glassware or crockery is much relished.

Under such a system of feeding, in the middle of last winter I have averaged 20 eggs per day from a pen of 27 pullets for two months, and have gathered from 30 to 40 per day from a pen of 60 year-old hens. The houses were so cold that in severe weather pieces of carpeting were fastened over the roosts and down around the dropping boards to keep the combs from freezing. The fowls were seldom let out of these two pens, which were only about half as large as poultry writers insist upon; but they were cleaned every day, and the fowls were free from vermin. They were veritable gluttons, and I stuffed them enough to make a theoretical poultryman's hair stand on end; but they paid me over and over again for their food, and were admired by everyone who saw them. I keep an accurate account of all expenditure and returns, and can substantiate every assertion made. I should like to hear from others on this subject, as it is one of much interest to the farming community.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Fruit Growers in Session.

The thirty-sixth annual and winter meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association opened at Woodstock on Wednesday morning, December 11, and continued till Friday at noon of the 13th. In some respects this was the most important meeting yet held by the Association. The presence, for two days, of the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Dryden, and the significant addresses delivered by him; and the presence also of President Mills, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and Prof. Saunders, of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Ottawa, all bore testimony to the growing importance of the fruit industry and the work that the Association is doing. Another marked feature of the meeting was the increased interest that had been awakened in the county of Oxford in fruit and floral culture during the past twelve years. This was referred to by several of the speakers, who remembered the meeting held by the Association, in Woodstock, just twelve years ago, when only a small company attended, compared with the crowded and lively sessions of the present meeting. From the character of the addresses delivered and the papers read, the report of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association for 1895 will be one of the most valuable yet published. It will be impossible to give anything but a very brief notice of those papers in our present report, but we may summarize some of the most important of them in future issues of the ADVOCATE.

After President Pettit's few opening remarks, the first paper given was one on green fruits, by Mr. A. M. Smith, of St. Catharines. Mr. Smith deprecated sending to the markets any kind of fruit in a green and unstable condition. But so long as every grower was anxious to get first into the market with his fruit, this evil, Mr. Smith thought, would continue. Mr. A. McNeill, of Windsor, suggested co-operative selling as a remedy, which he said was done in some districts of the United States. In a paper on apple culture, Mr. Hersee, of Woodstock, strongly recommended the application of potash manures and the ploughing in of clover.

Mr. H. Jones, of Maitland, gave a very interesting and valuable paper on the character of some of our leading varieties of apples, and among a handsome exhibit of many varieties grown by himself on the St. Lawrence River he showed one peculiar to that district, and much in demand there, known as the Scarlet Pippin. Mr. Jones' paper dealt also with a new apple-tree pest, known as the Cigar-shaped Case-bearer, described in the report of 1894, which is working its way westward. After describing the ravages of this pest, Mr. Jones warned the Western growers to be prepared for it.

Mr. W. Boulter, of Picton, in a paper on shipping fruit to British Columbia, gave it as his opinion, after considerable experience in that Pacific Coast Province, that Ontario growers would never find a strong competitor in the B. C. apple in the markets of the Northwest. Mr. Boulter is a large shipper, both east and west, and he declares that, notwithstanding all we hear about the Nova Scotia and the British Columbia apple, he always finds a ready market for No. 1 Ontario-grown fruit in both the Eastern Provinces and Western Territories. A superior fall apple they can produce in B. C., but he goes so far as to affirm that it will never be able to mature a good winter or long-keeping apple.

A very valuable paper (on Wednesday afternoon) was given by Mr. R. B. Thornton, of Woodstock, on "How to Make Our Fruit Exhibits Educative." This paper would need to be given in full to give a correct idea of its force and value. Too many exhibitors at our fall fairs show their fruit purely for the prize it may win, instead of what they and their neighbors may learn from such exhibitions. He believed that one competent judge should be engaged to remain throughout the exhibition to explain to the public all about the fruit shown. The Agricultural Department, he thought, might send a judge to each county show. During the discussion on this paper Mr. McNeill, of Windsor, said he thought all fruit-tree agents should be licensed, on showing proper qualification, as they are in some of the United States.

Many good points were brought out on the unfruitfulness of orchards, by Prof. Craig, of Ottawa, in a paper on the blossoming period. As some varieties of apple trees are not sufficiently self-fertilizing, it is always better in planting to have alternate rows of varieties blossoming about the same time. The blossoming season of the same variety, the Professor showed, varied at least twelve days between Windsor and Ottawa. A local grower said he had an orchard of Kings planted alternately with Baldwins that bear heavily every year, and Mr. Boulter testified that he had 400 thrifty Golden Russet trees planted in a block that had never borne except on one side where Ben Davis were planted near, and another side near by a row of Maiden's Blush. Mr. Caston recommended the Baxter as a fertilizer for the Northern Spy. A local grower thought that no large orchardist should be without bees, no matter how well he had his varieties mixed.

Mr. C. E. Beman, of Newcastle, an extensive pear grower, said in a paper on pear culture, that growing and cutting close for mulch in the pear orchard had been with him a never-failing preventive from blight. He had tried continuous cultivation, and always had blight on the ground worked, while that seeded with clover and mulched was entirely free from blight. Prof. Craig, two years ago, sent out enquiries regarding this point, and learned that less blight affected pear orchards in sod than in those cultivated. There is less juice in the tissue of the trees growing in sod than in those standing in cultivated ground. Mr. Huggard, of Whitby, said he used plenty of ashes about the trees and never had blight.

At Wednesday evening's meeting, at which Hon. Mr. Dryden presided, President Mills, of Guelph, and Prof. Saunders, of Ottawa, both complimented the Association, and spoke of the important and excellent work they were doing in all the departments of fruit growing. In a lengthy paper Prof. Saunders described the work carried on at the several experimental stations under charge of the Federal Government. He admitted that every effort to grow apple trees at the experimental stations in Manitoba and Northwest Territories had failed, though they had met with encouraging success in B. C. Of all the experiments in Manitoba and the Northwest, the only living results are some trees obtained from crossing the Duchess with a variety of crab. In B. C., he said, they had their orchard trees planted from an elevation of 250 to 1,050 feet, and the higher-up fruit had always been larger, better, and finer than that produced lower down. The closing part of the Professor's address was an eloquent appeal for the development of the nobler instincts and finer sensibilities by the cultivation of all that is beautiful and ennobling in nature. The close student of the Bible will observe that the beautiful and ornamental is mentioned before the useful and practical. What God has seen well to create, man might well turn to his joy and comfort.

The first business of Thursday was opening the question drawer, and to the question, "What would you plant in an apple orchard of 200 trees?" Mr. Dempsey answered: 20 Duchess, 20 Wealthy, 20 Ontario, 20 Gravenstein, and the balance in Ben Davis and Stark. A very instructive paper was given by Mr. J. C. Harris, of Ingersoll, on spraying, in which he gave his experiments during the season past and the results. Mr. Harris gave six sprayings during the season, and the application just before the opening of the buds, and the June application, just after the blossom had dropped, he believed were the most important and effective. Mr. A. H. Pettit followed with an account of his spraying experiments during the season under the Department of Agriculture. He began on April 24 taking a circuit of the Province, and gave six applications. The results, Mr. Pettit claimed, were easily seen at all the points touched, in a healthy and vigorous foliage, clean and perfect fruit, increase in size, and larger quantity. He believed the early summer frosts had quite an effect in destroying fungi, and therefore the effect of the spraying was not so marked as it would otherwise have been. Mr. Pettit strongly recommended using Paris green with every application of Bordeaux mixture, as the lime will help to stick the poison to the foliage and hold it there for a greater length of time. Prof. Craig gave the correct mixture as 4 lbs. of cop. sulph. to 4 lbs. of lime and 4 ozs. of Paris green to a barrel of water.

Here Mr. Dryden congratulated the Association upon the energy it was displaying, reminding them that the Government aid received was conditional, not merely that the members might help each other, but that the masses might be educated. The fruit growers' business naturally divided itself into two parts: first, the knowledge necessary to the best production; and second, placing the results of their labors on the market in the best possible condition. It was necessary to grow varieties suited to different localities, and to this end the experimental fruit stations, the establishment of which he had recommended, should do good service, as should also the practical instructions upon the subject of spraying, for want of which he was satisfied thousands of dollars were being lost to the country. Eternal vigilance was the price of superior fruit. Packages suited to the market must be used, and the packing must be honest. Dr. Franklin's maxim would still be found true—"Honesty is the best policy." Dishonest fruit packing was suicidal, and those who undertake to deceive our best customers and spoil our best market should be punished as the

action deserves. With regard to transportation facilities, or the commercial aspect of the case, he believed that promises had been made, upon the fulfilment of which the Association should insist. What has been done for Australia should be done for Canada. If these things were attended to, as he believed they would be, there need be no fear but that Canada, as far as fruit was concerned, would hold a first place in the industrial race of the nations.

Secretary Woolverton gave a practical paper on packing and shipping fruit; and Prof. Craig, speaking of the trial shipments in cold storage, explained that the boxes of fruit were so hot when they reached Montreal that they melted the ice in the storage apartments before the fruit could be well cooled through. But other trials will be made next season, he said, and he feels quite confident that our fruit can be yet placed in the British market in good condition. Mr. Pettit thought we suffered greatly from having our fruit sold in the British market by auction. He believed every grower should have ample time to pack his own fruit, and suggested some aid by the Government in getting our apples, as well as our cheese, a sale in the foreign market as their merits deserve.

Mr. Shuttleworth, of Bow Park Farm, Brantford, a shipper of long experience to the British market, continued the subject of fruit shipping in an instructive address, on Friday morning. Mr. Shuttleworth said the first thing to know was what the market wanted, and then supply them with that thing. The Ben Davis apple, he said, was not good enough to rot, and that was why it kept so long. The apple with quality will, in the long run, beat the show apple. The Englishmen like the Greening, and are tired nibbling at the Ben Davis. The Denmark apple was a strong competitor, though not as good as the Canadian, but it was better done up and laid down in the market in better condition. He believed the barrel the most convenient package, but the fruit should be better packed and honestly rated No. 1 or 2, and a penalty imposed for every misrepresentation discovered. Handlers could be made to handle more carefully in transportation if watched and reported. His firm had secured a great improvement in that respect by vigilance and constant appealing to transportation companies. Mr. Shuttleworth thought that France, Spain, and Belgium would always beat us in the British market with pears; Jersey Island in tomatoes, and Lisbon and the Cape in grapes. California, in fact, will not be able long to compete with those countries and districts named, as they were nearer at hand and had special transportation facilities granted them. In reply to a question, Mr. Shuttleworth repeated his belief that the Greening apple would hold its place in the British market long after the show apple, including the Ben Davis, had fallen into disfavor.

The Thursday evening meeting was largely given up to papers on floriculture, including house plants, outdoor bulbs, etc. Mr. G. R. Pattullo gave a paper on public and private parks, in which he strongly advocated those resorts for every town and village, where the poor as well as the rich could go and enjoy the beauties of nature, and the pure air laden with the perfumes of flowers. The American visitors, Mr. L. B. Rice, of Port Huron, and Mr. J. D. Watkins, of Manchester, Michigan, both spoke in connection with this subject. The latter is the owner of a private park on his 800-acre farm, to which he brings, at his own expense, several times during the summer, all the poor children from the city, and treats them to peaches and other fruits. He considers that he gets full value for the cost in seeing the children eat and enjoy themselves.

The election of officers for 1896 resulted as follows:—President, M. Pettit (re-elected); Vice-President, W. E. Willington (re-elected); Directors: Division No. 1, W. S. Turner, Cornwall; No. 2, R. B. Whyte, Ottawa; No. 3, Geo. Nichols, Cataraqui; No. 4, W. Boulter, Picton; No. 5, Thos. Beal, Lindsay; No. 6, R. A. Haggart, Whitby; No. 7, W. M. Orr, Stony Creek; No. 8, A. M. Smith, St. Catharines; No. 9, J. S. Scarff, Woodstock; No. 10, J. Stewart, Benmiller; No. 11, T. H. Race, Mitchell; No. 12, Alex. McNeill, Windsor; No. 13, C. G. Caston, Craighurst. Auditors: A. H. Pettit, Grimsby, and Geo. Fisher, Burlington.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Veterinary.

ITCHY LEGS—SIDERONES.

DAVID HILL, Staffa, Ont.:—"I have several Clydesdale horses that have itchy legs. I cannot see anything to cause this condition. The legs from the knees down appear to be above natural heat. They are continually pounding the floor, and have been troubled for two years. What is the cause and what will cure it? 2. What are siderones on horses? Are they injurious to the animal for work? 3. What is the cause for cows chewing bones; seems to be worst in autumn?"

[It was caused in the first instance by washing the legs in water and not properly drying them. As this breed of horses is particularly prone to this complaint, leading on to chronic grease, it is then a very troublesome affection. The disease is often the result of indigestion. In this case give daily, in the animal's food, one ounce of sulphate of soda and twenty grains of powdered nux vomica, until the bowels are in good condition. As a wash for the legs, use one dram of bicarbonate of soda, two drams of carbolic acid, one ounce of glycerine, and

one qu
or uni
due to
foot, a
heavy
way to
sound
cause
often
3. T
indige
Place
salt an
medici
and tw
half dr
doubt

R.
pleased
ADVOC
give or
to any

[W]
dicates
tion.
ture, a
from a
for cra
plant t
to give
protect
vigor.
for cr
bushes
Then t
coating
various
as any
sand o
in row
three r
marks,
rows, a
tool, pl
from th
should
below,
rapidly
and wi
imports
to a si
March
Farmer
Wm. S
Agricul
to a wo
publish

A. M.
have a
Do you
for beef
barley c
[We
half of
rather i
peas, m
good ra
two pa
should
the best
except f

R. W.
your re
various
which i
[This
Points"
issue.
corresp

SUBS
paper w
cow, an
cure."
[Law
suitable
office, p

C. G.
please s
quantity
feed de
and decr
[Such
corn en
hold mor
a cubic f
on silag
premium
hundred

A let
N. Y., a
Western
now has
Music H
Program
rates are