

POULTRY

Kill Ailing Poultry Promptly.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have just read, with a good deal of interest, the article in the issue of Oct. 10 on Avian Tuberculosis. Fortunately this disease has not appeared in our part of Alberta. I have had no experience with the malady; but a quotation from the article just mentioned and one from the article in the issue of Sept. 26. Suggestions from an Expert Poultryman, if carefully compared should give forceful pointers to any one troubled by Avian Tuberculosis or any other contagion common to poultry. These are the quotations:

"Toward the latter stages of the disease there is nearly always a persistent diarrhoea and the evacuations are accompanied by a discharge of white or yellowish viscid matter. . . This matter was carefully examined and in each case the tubercle bacilli were found in countless numbers. . . thus accounting for the rapid transmission of the germs from fowl to fowl."

The other quotation, remember, is from an expert poultryman:

"If we discover any fowl suffering from an ailment it is isolated, and if no response is made for the better, after a couple of days, by a change of diet, its head is chopped off and burned, hen, head and all."

There would be little spread of disease and much time and money saved if all fowls were killed at once upon discovery of symptoms which make the presence of contagious disease certain. It is in the advanced stages of disease that germs are passed from fowl to fowl. The bulletin quoted above states that the affected fowl often has an abnormal appetite. It is producing nothing, eats much and almost invariably dies. While its useless existence is prolonged it is not only an expense instead of a profit to its owner, but is rendering other fowls useless which might otherwise be profitable.

Crossfield, Alta.

W. J. THOMAS.

FIELD NOTES

An Endorsation of One of the Beef Commission

"The appointment by the Alberta Department of Agriculture of Mr. Alex. Middleton, of Coleridge, as representative for Alberta on the Beef Commission is a move which can be highly commended. Mr. Middleton has been in the stock business in the West for some twenty years, and gained his experience as a stockman among the breeders of Scotland. He is a plain gentleman, who understands the stock business, and whose integrity is unquestionable. He will no doubt serve the province with ability, and in a creditable manner"—*Medicine Hat News*.



HUNTERS AT PROPER LAKE, ALTA.

A Mechanical Test for Wheat.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The company that I represent here uses one of these machines, the only one that has been made, and this was made by ourselves here. We find it very advantageous and satisfactory we believe to both the buyer and the seller of wheat. We have been buying our wheat strictly on test for several years, not only from the farmers but from the shippers. The wheat, of course, is graded in the sense that all wheat must be absolutely sound and free from foreign grains. If the wheat is unsound deductions are made for quality, but the first thing we find out is the actual test weight of the wheat.

The Aspirator cleans the wheat perfectly, and it is unnecessary to send a car of wheat over a mill separator, as an average sample of wheat taken from the car and run through the Aspirator gives the result much quicker and more satisfactory than running a car of wheat over an ordinary mill separator.

Wheat of the same test originally before going over the Aspirator shows quite a difference in value after being cleaned, but in buying wheat we make an arbitrary difference between tests, unless the shipper desires his wheat recleaned, in which case we send him a statement showing the percentage of clean wheat and offals, and we give him so much for his clean wheat and so much for his screenings or offals, making no charge for cleaning, as that part is done in the office through the sample.

The arbitrary difference that we make between tests is based on over one thousand tests made on the Aspirator and is a general average, and on the basis of this general average we put out our bids to the shippers and make the price to the farmers here. I believe this is the only proper and correct method for buying wheat or for selling wheat. The heavier the wheat the more the farmer and shipper receives for same.

Buying wheat on grade such as No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 is not, nor will it ever be satisfactory, for the reason that wheat that is No. 2 in one market is not No. 2 in another. Some markets say 58 pounds or better is No. 2, some say 59 pounds or better is No. 2. We all know that there is quite a difference in value between 58, 62 or 63 pound wheat, but still the shipper does not receive any more for wheat that he sells for No. 2 than tests 63 pounds than he receives for wheat that tests 58 pounds or 59 pounds as the case may be. Of course if he sells on this basis he also buys his wheat from the farmer on this basis.

Although I am unable to furnish you with one of these Aspirators I would be glad at any time to give you any information that is in my power in reference to wheat grading.

D. ANDERSON.

[NOTE.—A description of this machine and the way it worked was given in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE some time ago. Mr. F. J. Collyer, well known to many of our readers, thought that this machine might

afford a solution to many of the difficulties incident to the grading of wheat. At the present time such a machine is not on the market, but it might be possible for the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba and Saskatchewan to combine and send a man down to see the machine so that they might have the information to give at their conventions, or they might possibly arrange with the maker and get him to appear at their convention with a model of his machine and have him explain its workings. It may be stated that he did so before a convention of millers a year or so ago.

The Beef Commission.

The commission consists of four members representing Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, the following being its members:

Manitoba—J. W. Scallion, Virden.

Saskatchewan—G. W. Quick, Maple Creek.

Alberta—A. Middleton, Coleridge.

British Columbia—F. M. Logan, Victoria, B. C.

The commission, which is the direct outcome of the initiative of Hon. Mr. Finlay, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta, is appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the selling, buying and killing of cattle and sheep, and may be said to have been brought about by the existing great discrepancy between the price paid to the stock grower for live beasts and that charged to the retail buyer for dressed meat, and it may therefore be said to be of vital interest to all classes of the community.

That an investigation upon the lines to be followed by the inquiry is urgently needed is shown by the fact that whereas at the present time stock raisers are being paid from 2½ to 3½ cents per pound for their cattle, the consumer is obliged to pay anything from 12 to 18 cents. It is felt that in both cases an injustice is being done. The stockman is not getting value for his produce, while the consumer is being bled. It will be the business of the commission to endeavor to ascertain the causes of this state of affairs and if possible to suggest a remedy.

Its first sittings for the purpose of taking evidence will probably be held in Manitoba, working westward to British Columbia. The latter province is chiefly interested in the question from the commissioner's standpoint, it suffering, perhaps, even more than either of the other three western provinces from the squeeze of the packer.

[NOTE.—Objection might be made to the personnel of the commission, on the grounds that some at least have no experience or expert knowledge of the cattle industry. Mr. Scallion is well known as a grain-grower of integrity but we do not believe has ever claimed any particular knowledge of the cattle business; the Saskatchewan and Alberta representatives have had, we understand, some experience in producing and marketing cattle, while the B. C. representative is secretary of the Dairyman's Association and the Live Stock Associations of British Columbia. We believe in making the selections the live stock and growers associations should have been consulted, and that some reliable persons should have been selected to represent the consumers and also the retail butcher who is forced to buy from the big men, the abattoir owners or as our American friends term them, the packers. The question is a big one and should have been made a Dominion matter and all parts of Canada represented on the commission, as the matter of transportation must necessarily come in to the question and also distant markets.]

Permit Qualified Teachers Only to Teach

It is remarkable that those clauses in the British North American Act affecting the powers of the Provincial Government to compel uniform qualification of teachers were not interpreted by the courts years ago. Ever since Confederation many children of Roman Catholic parentage have been instructed by Christian Brothers and "religious" of other orders, whose teaching-abilities probably were not to the standard set by the Education Department. Certainly it cannot be denied that the average Separate school is not as good as the average Public school. This puts Roman Catholic children at a disadvantage in life. Moreover, the Separate school supporters have not been getting full value for their taxes. Now that the Privy Council has settled the question of jurisdiction, it is to be hoped that the Provincial Government will apply the law immediately, giving all those holding permits opportunity to pass a qualifying examination, and refusing to grant permits to future applicants. There is only one sane argument the Government can follow: that it is for the best interests of all the children of the Province, Protestant or Catholic, to have teachers thoroughly qualified, both scholastically and professionally, for their work in life; that the Province has power to create such a condition; and that immediate action should be taken to that end. The welfare of the children is of more importance than the welfare of Christian Brothers, or other religious orders, whose members are not qualified in accordance with Provincial regulations.—*The News*.

Horticulture and Forestry

Winter Protection and Late Growth.

Conversation with one of the leading nurserymen of this province discloses the fact that the season has been a most auspicious one for new growth of fruit trees and bushes, such having matured and can therefore be expected to survive the winter well. From another source we learn in the case of strawberries, that no matter how mild the winter, they should be given good protection. Do not apply the protection until the ground is frozen hard enough to hold up a team of horses, but when it does this, cover strawberries at once if it is in November, December or in any other month before May. A few days of below zero weather without protection may injure the plants enough to ruin the next seasons crop.

The best material for covering strawberries is slough hay, but where not available use straw; where clean straw can be had it is just as good material to cover with as can be used, but when full of foul seed, especially grass seed, and it is used on a new bed it has often spoiled the bed so that it had to be plowed up.

Trees naturally grow where there is moisture in the fall leaves fall from the branches because they are not needed there any longer but are needed to protect the roots and retain the moisture in the soil; you always find a little rise around the base of trees and most of the leaf mold will be between the trees. The raise around the trees keeps the water away from the stem and also keeps the ground frozen and mice or worms are not attracted to winter there.

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There is a danger that those in whose interests the grain commission was created will lose sight of the real issues at stake in the recital of minor advantages that might have been avoided by taking the proper precaution and by having recourse to remedies already provided.