

### Booming the Hen in Alberta.

The work of the poultry-fattening stations in Alberta is progressing favorably. The groups gathered around the hen-pens at the fall fairs, all eager to see, to learn and to know, prove the awakening of the people. The supply of chickens at the fattening stations is unexpectedly large. It all goes to show that the Government did the wise thing when a forward movement in the poultry business was inaugurated.

### Nest Boxes for Hens.

In regard to nest boxes, I might say that we have not an up-to-date henhouse, and our nests are built along the wall in form of shelves which are divided into nests, in three rows, about 18 in. by 14 in. by 14 in. each; but if we had more room we would set the nests out from the wall and have the hens go in at the back of the nests, and have a lid on the front of the nests. This would darken the nests, and a hen likes a dark place to lay in. J. M. C. Middlesex, Ont.

## APIARY.

### Warm Water for Bees.

"No doubt," writes J. L. Byer, in the Canadian Bee Journal, "nearly every beekeeper has noticed how bees seem to like to sip up water from pools near manure piles. A great many have explained the matter by assuming that the bees were attracted by the salty quality of such water. Some recent experiments in Europe, recorded in the 'American Beekeeper,' by Adrian Getaz, would seem to prove rather that the bees were attracted to such water by the higher temperature of these pools. In the experiments in question the temperature of the pools near the manure piles was 70°, while that of other sources of supply was only 57°. Although the bees were carrying freely from the first-named source, yet when a trough of pure water, heated by an alcohol lamp to 80°, was placed near the pool the bees left the impure water, and in the course of a couple of days were working entirely on the water with temperature of 80°."

## GARDEN & ORCHARD.

### Bumper Year and Great Prospects for Fruit-growers.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

With regard to the newspaper reports of irretrievable damage to the fruit orchards in the Niagara District, they were highly exaggerated. I am not able to state from personal observation what damage there may have been at St. Catharines, Niagara Falls or Fonthill, but I can speak positively in regard to the district from Hamilton east to Beamsville, a distance of twenty-two miles. In this district there was no snow, and no damage—not 5 cents' worth of damage in all this district. What appears to have fallen as snow in some other parts, fell as rain in this district.

In regard to frosts, one article referred to speaks of one-quarter of the grape crop having been damaged by frosts. Possibly this may have been the case in St. Catharines, or in other parts of the district, but there was no damage to the grape crop here. I have on my own place still (Oct. 20th) some five acres of beautiful Niagaras, and the leaves are as green upon them as they were in September. Not a pound of grapes was damaged by frosts, as far as I know, in all this district, previously referred to.

In regard to the season's fruit business, it has been one of the most successful we have ever had. The crops have been, on the whole, excellent, with the exception of plums, and the prices have been unusually good, grapes, particularly, bringing wholesale as high as 18c. per six-quart basket, and the average throughout the season has been about 16c. When you consider that one of these baskets only holds a little over six pounds of grapes, after deducting four cents for the basket and cover, you have 12c. for 6 pounds of grapes, or \$40 per ton; and when you realize that an acre of grapes realizes on an average of 2½ tons, you will see that the grape-growers have had a banner year this season, receiving, in many cases, enough for their crop of grapes to pay for the land on which the vineyard stands. These who were fortunate enough—and there were a considerable number in this section—made very handsome profits.

The peach crop was a good one, and most growers netted from one to five hundred dollars per acre for their crop of peaches. Tomatoes were a heavy crop, four to five bushels per acre being no uncommon yield, which, at 25c. per bushel, went a long way to pay for the land on which they grew. The heavy crops of tomatoes were usually grown from land worth \$200 or more per acre, while excellent crops of grapes can be grown on land worth \$100 per acre.

The apple crop, which is fast becoming a thing of the past in this district, was light, and exceedingly wormy. Personally, I have this year proved practically what I have long advocated theoretically, namely, that the codling moth, the scourge of the apple-growers, could be entirely eradicated in two years in the Province of Ontario by concerted action. The life-history of the codling moth is a simple one, and so well known that it has always been marvellous to me that apple-growers could not see how easy it would be to destroy thoroughly all the codling moths in the country, which would mean an increase in the output of apples of from 25 to 50 per cent., and in this district this year it would mean an increase of 75 per cent., as fully 75 per cent. of the apples have been affected by its ravages. In many orchards not more than one or two barrels, at the outside, in ten, could be got absolutely free from worms. On the contrary, my own apples are yielding more than 75 per cent. absolutely free from worms, as a result, entirely, of bandaging for the last 5 years. I feel perfectly sure that if my neighbors, whose orchards are adjoining mine, had also bandaged their trees for the last two years, I should not have had one wormy apple in my orchard. Any fruit-grower can keep the moths down in his orchard by bandaging, but he cannot entirely eradicate them when his neighbors are breeding moths by the million, as the codling moth will, it is said, fly half a mile in a day.

The expansion in railroad-building and in railroad traffic has been so great of late years that at this season of the year we are continually short of cars. I think the service this year has been the worst I ever saw; in regard to delays, also. At the present time it is next to impossible to get a car for any purpose, and I know that shippers here have often waited two or three weeks for a car to ship grapes in during the past season. We could do an enormous business in Manitoba and the Northwest, in shipping by refrigerator freight such goods as pears, tomatoes and grapes, if we could get a reasonably prompt service, but when it takes thirteen days for a car to go from Winona to Saskatoon, and eight to eleven days to Winnipeg—and these have been the ordinary rates of travel during the past season for refrigerator cars—one cannot expect to do a very large business, because the stuff is bound to arrive in a more or less spoiled condition, especially if, as is often the case, the ice bunkers are allowed to become partially empty. We hope to have a better service when the C. P. R. line is completed from Peterboro to Sudbury. The traffic is so great, and keeps increasing so yearly, that the railroad companies seem to be unable to cope with it. There is a brilliant prospect ahead for the fruit-growers of Ontario, also vegetable-growers, if we could in some way or other solve the labor question.

There is a demand for twice the strawberries that are grown at the present time, at highly lucrative prices, but growers hesitate to plant for fear they will be unable to get the crop picked. The same remarks apply to other crops which require a great deal of labor. Canning factories are dependent on foreign labor to a large extent, and, even with such help, are continually running short-handed. If fruit-growers could solve the labor question, they could make a mint of money during the next ten years. My suggestion is to build plenty of small houses, and get in from Europe families that have been reared in the country and are accustomed to agricultural work. There are millions of these in Europe who would be immensely improved in their condition in making this change—excellent workmen, steady, industrious and faithful—but there is scarcely an empty house in Ontario, and there are far too few tenement houses in the country and in the country villages. It would seem to me a good policy for a number of farmers to collect together and build a cluster of houses, and send an agent to Europe and bring out families for these houses. Something of this sort has got to be done or Ontario will not reap much advantage out of the prosperity of the country and the magnificent markets in the Northwest for such products as they cannot successfully grow there.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

E. D. SMITH.

### Ontario Vegetables will be Scarce.

The vegetable crops are about all harvested and stored. The weather for this purpose, in most sections, has been ideal. Frosts early in October cut off the tender vegetables before their usual time, but a general summary of the situation during the past season, as reported by crop correspondents from the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association, shows that the crops have been fairly good, and prices about the average. Onions, however, particularly those grown on light soil, failed poorly. Dry weather during the latter part of the season prevented all crops from attaining good size.

The potato crop is only medium; in some districts there are not enough on hand to supply the market. They have not been stored in large quantities, and this makes it possible that they

will bring a good price. Root crops have been fair to good, except turnips, which are slightly under average. Onions, being scarce, will be in great demand, and prices will advance. There has been a poor crop of winter cabbage; it will be scarce, and good prices will rule. Cauliflower are practically a failure both in crop and quality. Brussels sprouts also are scarce. The celery crop is variable; in Leamington district it is excellent, in Niagara Falls district it is poor. On a whole, the crop is fair, but winter stock will not be over abundant; prices should be firm.

Squash and citrons have yielded heavily and are plentiful. Salsify is a good crop; spinach a fair crop and good quality.

The prospects of winter vegetables grown under glass are good. Many new forcing houses have been built this fall, and the old houses will be run to their full capacity, particularly in growing lettuce. Were it not for the probable scarcity of stored vegetables this winter, this increase in the forcing-houses would be an indication of an over supply. It is probable, however, that the demand will be sufficient to handle all that will be grown.

## THE FARM BULLETIN.

### Regulating Denatured Alcohol.

Regulations controlling the making of denatured alcohol, its handling and uses, have been issued by J. W. Yerkes, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D. C. These regulations will render effective the law passed by Congress, to take effect January 1st next, and provide for the withdrawal from bond, tax free, of domestic alcohol when it is rendered unfit for beverage or liquid medicinal usage by the admixture of suitable denaturing materials. The tax now amounts to about \$2 per wine gallon on alcohol at 180 degrees proof, and the denatured article, after January 1st, will be free from that tax.

### TWO CLASSES OF DENATURED ALCOHOL.

There will be two classes of denatured alcohol: First, that styled "completely denatured," which will pass into general use for general consumption, and can be purchased at stores without limiting regulations as against the private consumer; and, second, "especially denatured," in which the material demanded by the needs of manufacturing interests will be regarded. This especially denatured alcohol will be kept under strict surveillance and Governmental supervision.

For the completely denatured article, ten parts of wood or ethyl alcohol and one-half part of benzene will be added to 100 parts of ethyl alcohol.

The denaturing process will be accomplished on the distillery premises where the alcohol is produced, in special bonded warehouses, designated and used alone for denaturing purposes, and for the storage of denaturing materials. The buildings and the operation itself will be under closest Governmental inspection.

While the price of the completely denatured product cannot now be definitely stated, it is believed it will not be more than 35c. a gallon. The price of the specially denatured alcohol will, naturally, vary according to the cost of the denaturing ingredients selected to meet the necessities of the manufacturing industries. These special formulas will only be used where it is made perfectly apparent to the Department that the industrial interests involved cannot use completely denatured alcohol by reason of the presence of wood alcohol or benzene. In that case some other denaturing agent or agents, which will accomplish the purpose of destroying, as far as possible, the potable or beverage qualities of the alcohol, and at the same time adapt the denatured article to the special ends desired, will be determined upon.

The adoption of this legislation will require some extension of the force of the internal revenue bureau, especially for field work. It will also add very largely to the work of the chemical division of that bureau.

### Immigrants from England.

"The Farmer's Advocate" was the other day favored with a call from Mr. Benjamin G. King, of Norwich, England, who has been making a tour of Canada, to post himself regarding the country as a field for emigration from England. During the last two or three years Mr. King has been instrumental in inducing several hundred persons to come to Canada, and has practically had no complaints from them, as they find themselves in every way advantaged by the change. Probably one-half of those coming out were married, but many men left their wives and families behind until they could earn enough money to bring them out. Mr. King states that large numbers would gladly leave the Old Land for Canada, but at the small wages which they receive it is almost impossible for them to save up to the extent even of the low requisite, £8 or £9. In Norfolk, which is a good, typical agricultural district, wages for farm laborers range from 12s. to 13s. per week, and out of this the laborer must keep and clothe himself. About three-fifths of those he has induced to come out have been farm laborers, and the vast majority of all sent out certify to their intention to go upon the land when they arrive in Canada. Mr.

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