

Demonstration Flocks Located.

Arrangements have been completed for the establishment of eight illustration sheep flocks at representative points in Ontario by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, co-operating with the Ontario Sheep-breeders' Association. The location and particulars of the flocks selected for the purpose are as follows: At Brown's Corners, near Agincourt, York Co., a flock maintained by Wm. Little will be mated with a Southdown ram, with a view to marketing of early lambs. At Windermere, Muskoka, a mixed flock of Shropshires and Oxford Downs, on the farm of Wm. Aiken, will be bred to a Dorset ram. John Pritchard, of Redgrave, on the line between Huron and Wellington, has a flock of grade Leicesters that will be bred to an Oxford Down. Edward Johns, Fairfield East, Leeds Co., will cross a Cotswold ram on Leicester ewes. Donald Ross, of Woodville, Victoria Co., will breed a flock of grade Leicesters to a male of that breed. At Duntroon, in Simcoe Co., John McKee will mate a Shropshire ram with grade Leicesters. A Hampshire ram will be used by Wm. Crichton, of Paris, Brant Co.; while Marshall Dickie, of Hyde Park, Middlesex Co., will mate a Lincoln sire with grade ewes of that breed.

Account will be kept of the proceeds from these flocks and the results published, while farmers living in the respective neighborhoods of these illustration stations are cordially invited to visit them, note the progress of the experiment, and ask questions. Besides demonstrating the profits of sheep husbandry, it is hoped to impress a number of specific points, such as the importance of farmers crossing their ewes with pure-bred rams, the advantage of docking the lambs and castrating male ones intended for market, then keeping these lambs (except in those special instances where catering to an early or summer lamb trade) until, say, March, instead of crowding the lamb crop on the market in the fall. With a little more care expended on the lambs and flock generally, it is believed, with the best of reason, that very profitable returns may be realized from Canadian flock husbandry, with marked advantage in the way of money profits and cleaner farms. Watch the results.

Cold Storage of Fruit.

The possibility of lengthening the season for Iowa fruit, by using cold storage, led the authorities of the Experiment Station of the Iowa State College at Ames to conduct a series of experiments in the cold storage of apples. It was clearly demonstrated that it was possible to keep many varieties of fall apples till late winter or early spring if handled carefully and stored quickly. Two conclusions arrived at are worthy of note by fruit-growers everywhere. First, that immature and partly-colored fruit did not have as good keeping qualities as hard, ripe, highly-colored fruit; second, that the sooner fruit is put in storage after it has been picked, the better its condition will be when opened up, and the longer it will last after removal. This effect was more noticeable when the weather was warm during the delay between picking and storing than later when it was cooler.

South Perth.

The season from June to the end of September was almost ideal for getting work done. The heavy rains of the spring were succeeded by rather dry weather, resulting in the drying up of the pastures, and, in some cases, the water supply. It seems also to have had a bad effect on the corn crop, especially where it wasn't well scuffled and hoed; yet there is a great deal in different varieties. Anyway it is a crop which is growing in favor in this locality, where dairying is so largely practiced. Silos are becoming more numerous as the dairyman sees that they are necessary for taking care of large quantities of bulky, succulent fodder, although it is not much in favor as a milk producer, especially if the corn is not well eared and thoroughly matured. Protein is necessary to produce milk, but the high price of cereals and hay in winter, and scarcity of grass in summer, have the effect of reducing the milk yield. The dry weather has also affected the oat crop, it being light in yield of grain and straw and low in test. Hay was also rather light; peas and barley fair; wheat good; though there is a comparatively small acreage of these grown now, especially peas. The drouth is affecting all kinds of crops, excepting, perhaps, potatoes and tomatoes. Alfalfa is being grown experimentally, and while it is not difficult to start, it seems to be a hard crop to winter.

The rural-mail delivery is in operation on some of the mail routes, and while it was eagerly adopted by those fortunate enough to be favored with it, it is something like what the country boy thought of the city butter—very good, what there was of it. And the benefit is rather grudgingly bestowed. The carrier is paid by the box, and it seems not only must every family own a box, but also every property owner, though he may board with a family who have a box. The boxes cost the patrons \$3 per box, and appear to be the peculiar prey of mischief-makers, several having been put out of commission for awhile.

J. H. BURNS.

Poultry Specials.

The success of the poultry department of the Winter Fair has, no doubt, been due considerably to the large list of special prizes that is each year arranged to supplement the regular prize-list. Last year the special prizes consisted of cash, silver cups, medals and goods, with a value of over \$1,500.00. The specials are distributed so that all varieties have an opportunity of competing, but competition is open only to those exhibitors who make a donation to the special prize fund. It is optional for each exhibitor to give whatever amount he wishes, if his contribution is received by the Secretary, A. P. Westervelt, Toronto, before October 15th. After that date the amount must be at least \$2 in cash. All intending exhibitors should arrange for their contribution before the 15th inst., so that it can be included in the list for the coming show, which will be published and ready for distribution about the 10th of November.

Chinese Pork Diseased.

A large number of carcasses of Chinese hogs recently imported into England, inspected up to date, October 7th, were by the sanitary commission of the City of London found to be infected with tuberculosis. This remarkable outcome of the inspection has occurred in spite of the fact that the carcasses were labeled at the port of shipment in China, "medically examined and certified to be free from disease." The first shipment of 5,000 hogs was brought from China in a refrigerating ship. They arrived on August 7th, and sold well in the wholesale market. Although they were offered by the retail butchers at 25 per cent. below the prices charged for other imported hogs, they did not find favor with the public, who displayed great prejudice against them. The butchers were then obliged to raise the prices of American and European pork in order to dispose of their pork. The packers of pork were of the opinion that it was of no use to try the cheaper pork from China.

Healthy Immigration.

During the twelve fiscal years, since 1906, the total immigration to Canada has been 1,366,650, of whom 540,621 came from the United Kingdom, 425,412 from the United States, and 400,617 from other countries. The amended regulations, restricting the immigration to Canada last year of persons assisted by charitable organizations, and encouraging the immigration of agriculturists, have greatly reduced the undesirable elements. Nearly half the total male immigration last year was classed as farmers and farm laborers. The 60,000 Americans who came during the twelve months of the last fiscal year, brought with them, according to the report of inspector White, an average capital of \$1,000 in cash, stock, or effects.

The Michaelmas term of the Ontario Veterinary College has opened with bright prospects of success.

The United States Department of Agriculture's crop report gives the average condition of apples on October 1st as 43.9%, against 44.5 on September 1st; 48.4 on October 1st, 1908, and 54.1, the ten-year average condition on October 1st.

Death of Hon. W. T. Pipes.

Hon. William T. Pipes, Attorney-General for Nova Scotia, died in Boston on October 7th from apoplexy. About six weeks ago Mr. Pipes left Halifax for Regina, to attend the Dominion Forestry Association, of which he was one of the Vice-Presidents. He was then appointed a member of the committee for the conservation of natural resources of the Dominion. During the last year or so Mr. Pipes has given much time and thought to the reforesting of the barren lands of Nova Scotia, and early in June he had visited Toronto and engaged the services of Dr. Fernow and other experts to make a survey in the Province of its forest lands.

The same disease of oats that prevailed in Ontario and westward two years ago was quite serious in the Maritime Provinces this season. John Dearness, who spent his holidays there, saw several specimens submitted, with request for information. He says that the sickly reddish leaf observed is not due to any fungous disease, though a species of fungus establishes itself on the diseased leaf surface. The trouble is caused by climatic conditions, a period of rapid growth, followed by cold, backward weather, being sufficient to bring it about.

Beans in the U. S. market for cash hand-picked, in cotton bags, are about \$2, and a duty of 45c. a bushel is levied when entering the United States, so there is no outlet into that country. There have been large sales of beans recently for October and November shipment from Halifax to Calgary, and it looks as if most of the jobbers have secured their first supplies at very reasonable prices, and are now holding off to buy for less money."

GOSSIP.

RAM SALES.

Failing, after repeated efforts, to secure from the authorities at Washington an assurance that the quarantine restrictions on Canadian sheep would at an early date be withdrawn, the Veterinary Director-General and Live-stock Commissioner, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Ottawa, with commendable enterprise, is undertaking to develop the home trade for good rams. To this end arrangements are under way for the holding of a number of sales of pure-bred rams in mutton-raising districts in which the grade ram has been the chief sire used. Owners of good flocks are co-operating with the Department of Agriculture in this work by contributing the stock to be disposed of, the Department, through the Live-stock Branch, advertising and conducting

the sales and paying the freight charges on the sheep to the points at which the auctions are to take place.

Sales are to be held in Eastern Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia. The Ontario points selected are Renfrew, Eganville and Killaloe, all in the County of Renfrew. Then three sales will take place on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, viz., at Shawville, Campbell's Bay, and Chapeau. At these points only rams will be distributed, but farther east, in Quebec, both rams and ewes will be sold. These points are St. Hyacinthe, Lennoxville, St. Gregoire, L'Assomption, Berthierville, Howick Junction, and Lacolle.

The Live-stock Commissioner at Ottawa has full information concerning these offerings, which should be taken advantage of by every sheep-raiser within reasonable reach. See advertisement on another page.

TRADE TOPIC.

CHILDREN'S READY-MADE DRESSES.—Ready-made dresses for children are a boon to the mother of a large family. "Duchess" clothing for the little ones is inexpensive and stylish. See advertisement elsewhere in this issue, or write for details to Dunlap Manufacturing Co., Montreal, P. Q.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

- 1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.
- 2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.
- 3rd.—In Veterinary questions the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.
- 4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

BEAN CROP AND PRICES.

How is the bean crop this year in the Chatham district? What is the market price per bushel likely to be this fall?

A. E. P.

Ans.—The Canada Flour Mills Co., Ltd., of Chatham, advise us that the bean crop of Ontario this year is estimated 20 per cent. more than last year. "Harvest" weather was very favorable, and beans were saved in excellent condition. They will likely thresh and clean up so as not to pick over 1 to 2 pounds to the bushel, three-pound beans will be very scarce. The price today, October 8th, to farmers, for about one- or two-pound pickers, as they bring them in, is \$1.50 to \$1.60, and when cleaned and

put in bags, to pick not over two-pound pickers, the price would be \$1.70. Owing to the large increase in the population of Canada, and the bean becoming so popular a food, it will take nearly all of our beans to supply seeding and the demand in Canada. Price here would not permit exporting beans to the United States and paying 45c. per bushel duty, as it makes them too high for the American market. If foreign beans are as plentiful as they were last year, likely some will be shipped into this country. In this case, the price will be lower."

J. B. Stringer & Co., Chatham, write under date Oct. 9th: "In the last week or ten days we have had some lots of beans delivered us from this section of the county, and find them very nice, about 1-pound pickers. These we find are yielding about 18 bushels to the acre, and are paying the farmer \$1.60 for that quality, which is one grade below hand-picked. We think, with liberal receipts, the price will drop fully 10c. per bushel before the month is out. Indeed, now, we hear of \$1.50 being the going price for same quality of beans at points east of Ridgeway, where we learn the quality is very similar, and where there has been a more liberal delivery by the farmers. As we have only our home market, expect the outlet will not be sufficient to prevent accumulation. This course of things usually brings lower