

Poultry Short Course.

The short course at the Ontario Agricultural College, in progress for several weeks, is easily the best of those which have so far been given free for the benefit of the farmers of the Province. Lasting for four weeks, it gives those in attendance the training of the best talent of Canada. Though this year the attendance is only 22, and very much smaller than that at the live-stock course, the same care has been taken to secure competent men to carry on the special work.

Mr. Baldwin, of Toronto, on artificial incubation; Mr. Cosh, of London, on mating and breeding; Mr. W. Bell, of Angus, on turkey-raising; have given lectures. Mr. Cosh has also conducted classes in judging. Mr. Hare, Chief of the Dominion Poultry Division, Ottawa, has taken charge of the whole course, in the absence of Mr. Graham, who has been ill for a week. Mr. R. N. Crane, of Athens, has had charge of the practical work during the course. Mr. McNeill, of London, gives a lecture on breeding and mating, and takes the class in judging this week. The illness of Mr. Graham is generally regretted, as his knowledge of poultry is well appreciated.

Raise Your Own Fresh Eggs.

The Canadian Poultry Review for December, 1903, contains the following:

"Lord Aylmer, Ottawa, is probably the one Canadian who is extensively breeding that French utility breed, the Faverolle. He now has quite a nice flock, and intends sending across the water for some first-class additional specimens."

We are pleased to notice that it is becoming the fashion in the East for the society people to raise their own eggs and poultry, and further indulge their taste in the beautiful in nature, provide a healthful pastime, and relaxation from the worries and cares of their various avocations.

For the above, and other reasons, a similar course could be adopted by many people in "society" and out of "society," to the benefit of pocket, health and intellect. Suppose YOU try it!"

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

The Storage of Apples.

The high prices now prevailing in the British market for apples of good quality shows the advantage of storing a quantity of the apple crop to be repacked and shipped during the winter. While this plan involves extra expense, it spreads the marketing of the crop over a longer period, and in this way helps to maintain prices; whereas, if all were placed on the market at the time of harvesting the crop the result would be glutted markets and low prices. And this is a strong reason why the greater part of the crop should consist of varieties that have good keeping and shipping qualities. In any scheme for the successful carrying out of co-operative shipping and marketing, the question of adequate winter storage would have to be considered. The building for such a purpose would require to be large enough for the purpose, but not necessarily expensive. A basement of stone or concrete, and the upper story made warm by walls of lumber and building paper with air spaces between, and dry sawdust over the ceiling a foot or so of depth. Provision would have to be made for slightly raising the temperature during severe cold waves. The building would have to be located on a railway, and if possible, a siding at the door for convenient loading of cars. In some years the advance in prices would go far towards defraying the cost of the building. It would be a great advantage if in connection with or contiguous to the building there were an evaporator to work up the culls left from the repacking, and it would be a decided advantage if a far larger percentage were worked up in this way, and only the prime stuff shipped to foreign markets.

The season for handling the apple crop is so short there is an advantage in the saving of time in favor of the storage system, as fruit that is to be stored can be handled more rapidly; there is not the necessity for close culling and grading as in the case of that intended for immediate sale. That can be done when there is more time after the fruit has been secured from frost in the store-house, where it is to be repacked. The barrels need not be nailed or pressed very tightly, only sufficient to keep it tight until placed in storage. In repacking, the fruit is likely to be graded and packed better than it would be in the orchard during the hurried season of the apple harvest. Then the late fall or early winter varieties can be marketed first, and the long-keeping varieties kept back until well on in the winter or early spring, thus realizing better prices than if all were dumped on the market at once.

The advantages of this system may be summed up as follows: The farmer in view the necessarily short season for marketing the more rapid handling and marketing of the crop; better grading and packing; and most important of all, the

placing of each variety on the market at its proper season; the prevention of glutted markets, and securing better prices all round. The advantages of the storage system is so obvious that it must necessarily be considered in any system of co-operative marketing of the product of our orchards.

Canadian Apples Best.

The Glasgow Herald of January 5th has an interesting article on the "Fruit Imports in 1903." In reference to apples, the following statement is made: "The apple trade was unique, 1903 being a bumper year for this fruit. The total weight was 4,550,000 cwt., valued at £2,820,000. In ten years the imports have been nearly doubled, 1903 even surpassing 1896, which was the most prolific season of recent years. The imports in 1903, against 1896, are 3,000,000 bushels. We got the largest parcels from the United States and Canada. These places send us more than 2,500,000 cwt. annually. "Of course, the Canadian apples are much superior to those of the U. S." The careful surveillance of the Dominion Fruit Inspectors has, evidently, done much to prevent our export apple trade from being ruined by a few unscrupulous dealers, a consummation which seemed probable some three or four years ago. W. A. CLEMONS.

The Trees Grew Rapidly.

The large avenue trees portrayed on next page were planted in 1899. They were slightly larger than whip-stocks at that time, writes S. A. Bedford. All were nursery-grown from seed. The evergreen spruce in the same avenue were obtained from low land in the sand hills south-west of Carberry, and planted in 1891. The land has been kept thoroughly cultivated, and the maples pruned from time to time as needed. So far, only one maple has died, and since the first two years of planting only two spruce have died. The spruce were obtained from strong soil on the edges of sloughs, and a block of soil was brought with each tree.

The spruce were planted about six inches deeper than they were growing naturally. This gives firmness to the tree, and prevents the roots from shaking free of the soil. They have not been watered since they were planted.

The maples have been subject to slight attacks from the green aphids, and the spruce, on two separate occasions, were attacked somewhat similarly by a red spider, but it was not found necessary to spray to any great extent. One or two trees were treated just for an experiment.

We think that the best remedy for either of these two attacks is to keep the trees in full vigor.

IMPORTANT.—Please take notice to the date of the address label on your paper. We do not send receipt unless specially requested. Changing of the date on label serves as your receipt. After remitting be sure and observe as to whether your label has been changed. If not, advise us, giving full particulars as to date and how money was sent.

EVENTS OF THE WORLD.

Henceforth, consumption will be treated as a very infectious disease in Victoria, Australia. Patients will all be sent to isolated hospitals.

Word was received at Quebec last week that Mr. Hubbard, of the exploring party sent out by "Outing," has died of starvation in the wilds of Labrador.

From the latest measurements by Curie, the discoverer of radium, it is estimated that the energy of fifteen pounds of the substance, fully utilized, would run a one-horse-power engine many centuries.

A little war is going on in Uruguay, S. A., where a rebellion has broken out against the Government. Three battles have been fought, all of which were won by the Government. The total loss amounted to 500 killed and wounded.

Hall Caine, the noted novelist, author of The Manxman, The Deemster, The Bondsman, The Christian, and the Eternal City, is quite broken down in health, and will, in all probability, be able to write no more. He has gone to Switzerland to try the mineral baths at St. Moritz.

The town of Oalesund, Norway, with a population of 11,000, has been completely destroyed by fire, most of the inhabitants losing everything they owned. Thousands were compelled to spend twenty-four hours in the open fields, without food, and exposed to a bitterly cold rain-storm.

A monster octopus which lodged in the intake pipe of the Treadwell gold mines, on Douglas Island, Alaska, stopped the operation of the mines recently. When the octopus was extricated, the Indians had a great feast on the beach. They look on the devil-fish as an epicurean dish of high order.

Dr. F. B. Turck, of Chicago, has invented an appliance by which the whole of the inside of the human stomach and other internal organs may be seen and examined for disease. The apparatus consists of a system of tubes, lenses, and an electric lamp. The tube is to be inserted somewhat in the same way as that of an ordinary stomach-pump.

Col. Lynch, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for high treason at the time of the Boer War, has been released, after spending just one year in prison. He has been given full liberty, but will not be permitted to sit in Parliament again, or hold any position of trust. The King, it is said, on account of the friendly reception which met him in Ireland, favored Col. Lynch's release.

As a result of Dr. G. R. Parkin's recent tour of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, where he has been distributing the Cecil Rhodes scholarships, seventy-five students will attend the University at Oxford, England, next year. The total number who will receive scholarships will be one hundred and seventy-five, taken from the above colonies, Canada, Germany and the United States.

According to the latest despatches from Thibet, the British force has been met by a deputation, consisting of a general from Lhasa and a number of lamas, who offered terms upon which the British were requested to retire. Col. Younghusband refused to consider these terms, and was given to understand that his further advance will be opposed. The lamas are threatening to appeal to Russia.

A terrific explosion in the Harwick Mine of the Allegheny Coal Co., near Pittsburg, Pa., occurred on January 25th. The death list is supposed to amount to nearly 200. None have been extricated, at the time of writing, except one unconscious man. Mr. Selwyn Taylor, the first to descend the shaft in an attempt to reach the imprisoned miners, was also overcome by poisonous gas, and is dead.

A petition signed by 45,100 white voters in the Transvaal, or about seventy per cent. of the white residents, has been presented to the Legislature, requesting the passage of a law which shall provide for the importation of Asiatic laborers into the Colony. The Government has intimated to the Premiers of New Zealand and Australia, who objected to the step, that, under the circumstances, the importation of Chinese workmen is considered quite justifiable.

An agricultural experiment station, the first of its kind in Mexico, is to be established in the near future, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The undertaking will be carried out by the Ubero Plantation Co., which is composed principally of Boston capitalists, and the first expenditure will be the sum of \$7,000, which will be utilized in the erection of buildings. In return for this, the Government will make an appropriation of \$10,000 annually for the maintenance of the institution for the first five years. During this time the station will be under complete control of the Americans, but at the expiration of the period it will be turned over to the Mexican Government. This step promises to be one of great importance to Mexico.

Scarcely any new developments have occurred in the Russo-Japanese situation. The hopes of peace, however, which were high last week, have sunk again to the lowest ebb, and the general attitude now is simply that of waiting. The Russians have not yet made any response to Japan's last note, which was despatched so as to reach the Russian Cabinet on January 16th, and was prepared by the Government with such secrecy that even the people of Japan do not know the exact nature of its demands. This long postponement, which is looked upon as a manoeuvre to gain time, is making the Japanese extremely uneasy. In the meantime, however, they can do little except forward the construction of the railway between Fusan and Seoul. A despatch from Warsaw states that arrangements have been made for calling out 86,000 more Russian reserves from the south of Russia, if required. Recent despatches also state that the Koreans are beginning to show sympathy toward Russia and hostility toward Japan.

Some Valuable Potatoes.

Some potatoes of extraordinary value have been received by Mr. A. Gowler, of Richmond Hill, from Mr. Jos. Wilson, editor of the Spalding (England) Free Press. There were only four tubers in the collection, but they represented considerable money, and comprised varieties of the new English potatoes, said to be rot-proof. One was a specimen of the "Northern Star," worth £2,240 (\$11,200) a ton, while the others, representing the new King Edward, Sir John Llewellyn and Evergood varieties, were almost as valuable. Mr. Gowler tried to secure a sample of the famous "El-dorado," which sold in Great Britain at \$800 a pound, but did not succeed. He will probably present these valuable tubers to the Ontario Agricultural Department for experimental farm purposes.