

than a farmers' country. There is comparatively no large extent of land which can be cultivated. There are no mosquitoes round here, and but few rattlesnakes. There are no poisonous snakes in the lower country. The farmers here thresh their grain by driving horses over it, and many of them do not milk any cattle until after harvest, as they have no fences, timber being very scarce in some parts. The kind of timber is mostly pine, cotton wood, and juniper. Cedar grows higher up and lower down the country. It is very hot here in summer. The lake is 23 miles long and one wide, and is about 1,000 feet above the level of the sea. The bunch grass plays out after being fed down by cattle, and sage brush takes its place. Cattle will eat sage brush sooner than starve. However, I will write again and shall, no doubt, be able to give you a fuller account.

Kamloops Lake, B. C., July 25, 1877.

Prince Albert Settlement.

As our readers are aware, the North and South Saskatchewan run in a north-easterly direction for about 120 miles before they unite. The channels are almost parallel, and with an average distance of 20 to 25 miles apart. The land between the rivers appears to be all good, many parts fertile. Along the south side of the south branch the land also is good, and to the east of Prince Albert in the neighbourhood of Fort la Corne, north of the north branch, the land is fertile, but here there is a good deal of timber. The land around Sturgeon Lake is especially spoken of, and there appears to be good timber in the neighbourhood and abundance of good water. Between the river and along to the south the prairie is rolling. Grasshoppers were never known to settle between the rivers, and consequently the settlers at Prince Albert know nothing of the disappointments of the Manitoba farmer. Along the north branch, on the north side, there is abundance of timber, spruce, poplar, and juniper especially; the islands in the Saskatchewan are also covered with wood, and this constitutes the present source of the lumber for the settlement.

To return to Prince Albert: this settlement extends for about 30 miles along the Saskatchewan, the farms fronting on the river, and extending back two miles. The settlers are principally from Manitoba, but there are several also from Ontario and Britain. Quite a number of young men have taken up claims, and are improving them. The settlement has increased rapidly, especially within the last two years, and now numbers about 500 souls. A good deal of land has been broken up, and the people are beginning to farm more extensively. Last year 9,000 bushels of grain were threshed in the settlement. There was also a large root crop gathered. Wheat sells at \$2 per bushel; barley, \$1.50; oats, \$1.50; potatoes, \$1.25; and butter 37c. The Government half-breeds and H. B. Company readily purchase all that the people can spare, and the supply will not be equal to the demand for years. Several of the people commenced stock-raising on a large scale, and the facilities for this branch of industry are of no ordinary kind, inasmuch as there is abundance of hay and pasture.

The Grasshopper.

The Ohio Farmer says the Grasshopper Commission appointed by the U. S. Government has been successful in getting hold of some dollars "that might have been gobbled up by professional railway thieves and dirty party politicians. There is a crumb of satisfaction in knowing that \$25,000 of treasury money has been expended in the supposed interest of the farmer. In this way the grasshoppers have jumped the claims of the politicians if they have not squatted on the dominions of the farmer." But there is an additional crumb of satisfaction: While the scientist has been writing his prescriptions and figuring out his basis for predictions, the suffering farmers have gone to work and invented ways and processes by which depredations have been lessened and the force of future raids, if they occur, may be considerably broken. They have burned them, plowed them under, tarred them, hunted their eggs, and in various ways waged a relentless and successful warfare upon them. Besides, nature stepped in and lent, in the aid of parasites, unfavorable weather, climatic influences, &c., so that, except in scattered localities, the damage from them has been slight.

Poultry Yard.

Handling Fowls at Our Shows.

We noticed in the English papers lately many and serious complaints made regarding the rough handling of exhibition birds forwarded by their owners to the care of the managers and employees at sundry shows, where choice specimens have been so disfigured in their plumage as to be subsequently "disqualified" by the judges when the premium awards are being determined on.

Generally speaking, it is evident that this has unfortunately been occasioned through rude and careless management on the part of those who take the birds from the hampers or traveling-coops to place them in the show-room cages. But sometimes it is quite as clear the injury is purposely done, to the disgrace of the man who would thus attempt to destroy what might otherwise prove a successful competitor in a certain favorite class.

In this country we are not informed that this objectionable and unworthy trick is very frequently resorted to; yet we know of more than one instance where the ornamental feathers of fine fowls have, through some means, been torn out, crushed or broken, after leaving the ambitious exhibitor's hands and reaching the show-room in good condition.

A case in point occurred a year ago at a leading exhibition (and the occurrence is still fresh in the minds of some of our fanciers), where a fine Light Brahma cockerel, very nicely "pointed" and plumed, was in perfect shape when sent to the fair. After the first day the judges made their decisions, and this bird—deemed by his owner and all who saw him very nearly perfect—was passed upon and "disqualified" on account of having "a wry tail."

The man who bred him was astonished at this decision, and at once entered a written protest against this injustice or error. The judges re-examined the fowl, in company with the owner and another committee specially appointed for the purpose, and the original decision was adhered to. The cockerel was taken out, placed upon the floor, carefully scrutinized, and his beautiful clear black tail was a little one-sided.

Upon a final closer examination, the owner discovered—and exposed this dastardly trick to the committee on the spot—that five of this cock's long tail-feathers had been broken short off, close up to the skin, during the night previous, by somebody! It could not have been accidentally done, because the stout shafts were each squarely broken within half an inch of the cock's flesh. This bent half of the tail a little upon one side, and the fine bird was pronounced wry-tailed, and ignored in consequence.

Of course the owner did this mischief. But his fowl was spoiled; and every breeder in the hall who saw the injury was satisfied why this poor winner had been thus crippled.

The utmost care should be taken to avoid this sort of injury to fowls by all who have occasion to handle them. It is precious poor encouragement to amateurs who spend a whole year upon a choice trio or two of show-fowls, who got them at last into the exhibition-room in good shape, to be beaten after this fashion; though, to the credit of those who have charge of the thousands of specimens contributed to our shows in America be it said, this kind of injustice is not of frequent occurrence.

Soft and Mislaid Eggs.

What will prevent hens from laying soft-shelled eggs, when they have access to plaster and lime? What can be done by me to prevent my hens from dropping eggs around on the ground wherever they happen to be; sometimes when within six or eight feet of their nests, and at night while on the roost? I would like to get a cure for gape-worms. My hens are fed shrunken wheat, cracked corn and oats mixed together, with a change to cooked meal every day. They are kept shut up through the day, but have a run in the grass every morning, and plenty of fresh water. The surface of the yard is covered with sand three inches deep. They lay every day, but two or three eggs are lost every day by being soft-shelled, or dropped from the roost. I notice it most in the Light Brahmas. I give them liver, onions and red pepper once a week. Is it anything in the food? They are well and healthy otherwise. What is the best food for laying hens?—E. K. M., Albany.

It is hard to say what the cause of your trouble

may be. If possible, feed buckwheat instead of corn, and give wheat middlings wet with boiling water and slightly salted, instead of the corn-meal. Bake oyster or clam shells half an hour, and keep some, well pounded up, where they can get them at any time. Give them liver or other refuse animal food oftener than once a week.—Poultry World.

The Indebtedness of the United States

"T. S." in the Western Farm Journal, in referring to the indebtedness of the United States, treats it as a farmer's question, as they have so much to do in the election of legislators, and it is they who have eventually to bear the burden of taxation. The indebtedness of the country he sums up as follows:—

National debt.....	\$1,220,000,000
States.....	375,000,000
Municipal.....	1,000,000,000
Railroad.....	2,300,000,000
Banks' Loans and Discounts.....	1,000,000,000
Insurance Co's Loans and Discounts.....	500,000,000
Total.....	\$7,395,000,000

A total of nearly seven and a half billions, not including that of private debts, book accounts, etc., and all this drawing a heavy interest. Now, compare the increase of taxation for the last quarter of a century: In 1850, with a population of 23,000,000 the U. S. tax per capita amounted to \$1.72. State, county, city and township \$1.82. In 1860, with a population of 31,000,000 the tax was \$1.91. State, county, city and township, \$2.99. In 1870, with 38,000,000, the tax was \$11.67 per head, whilst State, county, city and township was \$7.42, or an aggregate of \$18.91 per head for every man, woman and child in the nation. But at no period has taxation increased so rapidly as within the last seven years, so that at present we must be paying as high as \$25 per head. Let us now compare our taxation per capita with the monarchies of Europe.

Great Britain.....	Population.....	Tax P Head.....
France.....	31,000,000	\$ 9 00
German Empire.....	36,000,000	11 40
Austria.....	41,000,000	9 34
	36,000,000	7 22

To this have the vaunted advantages of the great Republic come!

Annual Fair List for 1877.

PROVINCIAL.		
PROVINCE.	WHERE HELD.	DATE.
Ontario	London	Sept. 24 to 28
Quebec	Quebec	Sept. 17 to 21
Nova Scotia	Kentville	Oct. 1 to 5
Prince Edward Island	Georgetown	Sept. 27
LOCAL.		
Great Central Fair	Hamilton	Oct. 2 to 5
The Central	Guelph	Oct. 2 to 5
Central Fair	Kingston	Sept. 19, 20 and 21
The Central Fair	Ottawa	Sept. 11, 12 and 13
DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.		
Eastern Dairymen's Cheese Exhibition	Belleville	Oct. 3 and 4
Western Dairymen's Cheese Exhibition	Stratford	Sept. 18, 19 and 20
AMERICAN STATE FAIRS.		
Am. Institute,	New York City,	Sept. 12 to Nov. 12
Am. Pomological,	Baltimore, Md.,	Sept. 12 to 14
California,	Sacramento,	Sept. 17 to 22
Central Ohio,	Mechanicsburg,	Sept. 5 to 7
Central Ohio,	Orville,	Oct. 10 to 13
Chicago Exposition,	Chicago,	Aug. 29 to Oct. 13
Connecticut, (no fair).		
Fremont, Nebraska,	Fremont,	Oct. 3 to 5
Georgia,	Atlanta,	Oct. 15 to 29
Industrial Exposition,	Kansas City, Mo.,	Sept. 17 to 22
Indiana,	Indianapolis,	Sept. 24 to 29
Illinois,	Freeport,	Sept. 17 to 22
Iowa,	Cedar Rapids,	Sept. 17 to 21
Kansas, (no fair).		
Kansas City, Mo.,	Kansas City,	Sept. 17 to 22
Kentucky (north),	Florence,	Aug. 28 to 31
Maine Pomological Ex.,	Waterville,	Sept. 25 to 28
Maine Dairymen's Ex.,	Orono,	Sept. 18 to 29
Michigan,	Jackson,	Sept. 17 to 21
Minnesota,	Minneapolis,	Sept. 3 to 8
Missouri,	St. Louis,	Oct. 1 to 6
N. E. Indiana,	Waterloo,	Oct. 2 to 5
Nebraska,	Lincoln,	Sept. 24 to 28
Nevada,	Reno,	Oct. 15 to 20
New York,	Rochester,	Sept. 17 to —
New England,	Portland, Me.,	Sept. 3 to 7
New Jersey,	Waverly,	Sept. 17 to 22
North Carolina,	Raleigh,	Oct. 16 to —
Ohio,	Columbus,	Sept. 10 to 14
Oregon,	Salem,	Oct. 8 to 13
Pennsylvania,	Erie,	Sept. 24 to 28
Southern Ohio,	Dayton,	Sept. 24 to 28
Texas,	Austin,	Oct. 9 to 13
Virginia,	Richmond,	Oct. 30 to Nov. 2
Wisconsin,	Janesville,	Sept. 19 to 14