

## POULTRY.

## Possibilities in Egg Production.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of June 8th, under the above heading, it is pointed out that 140 eggs per year for a single hen is no mean record, and is greatly above the average obtained.

According to the reports of the Poultry Manager, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, the average of all their pure breeds for the year 1901-02 is barely over 60, and the year 1902-03 is only 70½ eggs per hen.

I thought the performance of a hen of mine might be of interest to your many readers. She is a Barred Rock—good shape, tidy and compact, but not perfect color; was hatched in May, 1903, and I have no record of her work up to Sept. 19th, 1904, when she was 16 months old. From that date an accurate account has been kept, and she has produced 177 eggs to date (June 26th), and now is laying well and in the pink of condition. During this time she has never offered to sit. When starting to lay she was partially moulted, but production seemed to stop moulting. In March she quit laying for 19 days and cast the rest of her old coat, but before the new one had made much progress she began supplying eggs again, and continued producing both eggs and feathers in good order. She has nearly three months of the year to spare yet, and I consider her a good one. The gratifying part of it is that she did best laying when eggs were the best price. Here is the record: September, 11; October, 26; November, 21; December, 20; January, 20; February, 20; March, 8; April, 19; May, 14; June, to date, 18; and, upon consulting memo re prices obtained when these eggs were produced, I find their value to be \$3.65 (Hamilton market prices for corresponding dates).

Her care has not been the best, and the housing almost the worst conceivable—drafty, and with scarcely any sun.

These facts, well considered, prove to me that the possibilities of the hen are very much in excess of anything ordinarily conceived of by the farming community up to the present time. There is no doubt but breeding from such individuals as the above and keeping careful records, will produce the desired class of fowl, and the man who devotes attention to looking after these essentials will achieve a greater feat than he who succeeds in producing exact markings, regardless of the usefulness of the specimen outside of the show-pen.

J. R. HENRY.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

## Canadian.

Another oil well, flowing at the rate of 500 barrels per day, has been struck near Leamington, Ont.

A promising discovery of copper and silver has been made in Awenge township, Ont., ten miles from the Soo.

The socialist element in Toronto, which disapproved of the Boer war, is raising a strenuous objection to having Lord Roberts open the Toronto Exhibition.

Discoveries of oil have been reported from New Ontario, and an exploring party will be sent out by the Temiskaming Railway Commission to look for it along the Abitibi River.

The Provincial Government of Nova Scotia has been reorganized. Hon. Arthur Drysdale, Commissioner of Works and Mines, has been appointed as Attorney-General, in place of Attorney-General Longley, who retired on being appointed to the Supreme Court Bench; and Hon. W. T. Pipes has been made head of the Works and Mines Department. Both Mr. Drysdale and Mr. Pipes are lawyers, and are regarded as exceedingly able for the positions which they are to fill.

## British and Foreign.

Serious fighting, in which the rebel Marengo has been reported victorious, has again occurred in German Southwest Africa.

The drum has been banished from the French militia, on the ground that it is a serious incumbrance in marching, and that it causes confusion in detecting signal calls. By its banishment 10,000 drummers will be added to the fighting force of the French army.

Paderewski, the pianist, has been paid \$7,000 by the N. Y. Central Railway for injuries sustained by him in an accident near Syracuse, and which have prevented him from fulfilling engagements which would have netted him in the neighborhood of half a million dollars.

The Russian revolutionary spirit has spread to part of the Black Sea fleet, where, on the battleship Kniaz Potemkin, the sailors mutinied, and threw the captain and most of the officers overboard. A naval battle may be expected.

The Danish cadet-training schooner Georg-Stage, was run down near Copenhagen recently by the British steamer Ancona. The schooner sank in two minutes, and of the 129 cadets on board, 72 were drowned. The Ancona has been placed under embargo at Copenhagen until an investigation has been made.

The peace delegates in connection with the Russo-Japanese war are to meet in Washington in August. Russia has already selected two representatives, M. Muraviev, former Minister of Justice, and Baron Rosen, the newly-appointed ambassador at Washington. Japan's delegates to the conference will be Baron Komura, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Takahira, the Japanese Minister to the United States. In addition to these, there will be army and navy officers, and officials from Tokio and St. Petersburg. Negotiations regarding an armistice are in progress, but no announcement has been made as yet.

The anarchist outbreak in Poland seems to have reached a crisis. During the past week riots, in which over 1,200 lives were lost, occurred in almost every part, most seriously in Warsaw and Lodz, where barricades were raised by the strikers, and veritable battles took place between the workmen and the Cossacks. Both of these cities have been placed under martial law. Among other demands the strikers ask for better pay, 8-hour working days, and 82 half-holidays in the year, whereas they already have 30 holidays. Serious disturbances have also been reported from Odessa and other points, and the red revolutionary flag is fluttering everywhere.

The Moroccan affair still hangs fire. In answer to Germany's demand for an international conference, France has despatched a note to the German Government, stating that, in connection with Morocco, her Government entered into certain engagements towards other nations which were final and irrevocable, hence beyond revision by any conference. Accordingly, France will not agree to a conference without a preliminary agreement as to the matters to be discussed. Germany, on the other hand, will hear of no arrangement which will limit the scope of the conference. So far the negotiations, carried on principally between the French ambassador at Berlin and Chancellor Von Buelow, though firm, have been amicable in tone. A rather novel development is the foment which has arisen in the German papers, asserting that Great Britain is urging France on, in the hope of stirring up a Franco-German war, an event which would, in effect, break the power of Britain's two most powerful political rivals in Europe. In consequence, the attitude of Germany towards England has seldom been more resentful than at present, and it is hinted that the German Emperor has already caused the Sultan of Turkey to be sounded as to whether he will be willing to send troops against Egypt in event of an Anglo-German war. In Russia public feeling is especially bitter against Germany, since the Kaiser is everywhere looked upon as having encouraged the war with Japan merely in order that his own hands might be more free. The most hopeful feature in the situation lies in Germany's fear of giving England a similar advantage, and it is now generally thought that the Kaiser will be willing to grant the French many concessions rather than give chance for any such possibility. England's intentions towards France, however, are of a different nature, and it is evident that, in this respect, Germany's suspicions are unfounded. England can afford to be warlike on occasion, but her natural sentiment favors peace, and the greatest of her ministers is deemed to be he who can, by delicacy of diplomacy, engineer her through a difficult situation so as to obtain it.

## THE FARM BULLETIN

The licenses of several milkmen in the vicinity of Brantford, Ont., have been suspended, because of the discovery of formaldehyde in the milk.

According to Mr. E. W. Day, in the Globe, ninety per cent. of the immigrants pouring into Alberta, N.-W. T., are Americans. They are said to be the very best class of settlers.

At the third annual open-air horse show in Queen's Park, Toronto, on Dominion Day, there were 400 entries and over 600 horses in the parade, the procession being about two miles long. Attendance was large, and the show a pronounced success in every way.

## The Provincial Farm at Compton, P. Q., to be Sold.

The Quebec Government has decided to sell at public auction, on or about July 1st, the 160 acres of land and appurtenances thereof, comprising the Provincial Model Farm at Compton. This property, acquired in 1893 at a cost of \$11,000, has cost the Province up to date about \$75,000, with no return whatever, except that the dairy, erected at an expense of \$7,000, has been very successful, butter made here carrying off the prizes at different fairs and provincial exhibitions. As an agricultural college the institution has been a complete failure, being nothing more or less than an asylum for younger sons across the sea, and the annual net cost to the Province was about \$5,000.

## Seed-growers' Field Meeting.

The Seed-growers' field meetings, now in progress throughout the various clover-growing sections of Ontario and Quebec, are, according to reports, meeting with decided success, and have been productive of much interest. It is, perhaps, quite safe to say that the greatest clover-growing section in Canada is found through the counties of Victoria, Ontario, Hastings, Northumberland and Prince Edward, and it is of the meetings held in these districts, therefore, that those interested will be most anxious to learn. As a delegate for this particular section, I have much pleasure and no hesitation in saying that the future awaiting the clover-seed growing industry is by no means so dark as many seemed to think it would be should the new Seed Bill become law. It is presumably safe to say that it is the superabundance of one particular weed which is particularly troublesome, rather than a number of different kinds, that keeps much of the alsike and red clover seed from grading up to the requirements of the Bill. In Victoria County, for instance, the presence of night-flowering catchfly in the alsike fields, together with the fact, of course, that this has been harvested with the crop, has been accountable for the low grading of much of this valuable clover. The seed of catchfly bears a very close resemblance in size to the seed of alsike, which renders it practically impossible to thoroughly separate the two. The only practical way of securing clean seed when such plants are found in the field is to remove them before they go to seed, or, at least, before harvesting the crop. This is one of the important points brought out in connection with the meetings, and one which, if carried out, will well repay the grower for his trouble.

The clover-seed midge has been found in large numbers, working in the heads of the red clover plants, and has aroused the curiosity and created considerable alarm on the part of those who heretofore "have seen, yet noticed not." Many weeds and seeds have been brought out to these meetings for identification, and information respecting practical methods of eradicating and combating them has been given.

In the light of present conditions it is quite obvious that much greater care will necessarily be required on the part of the growers themselves to "clean their fields," which method is in many cases vastly easier and safer to follow than to attempt to separate foul seeds from the seeds of clovers of similar size when found together in a mixture.

The practical nature of these meetings is readily apparent, and, judging from the interest shown and the discussions which have taken place, there is every reason to hope that the good effects will be widespread.

L. H. NEWMAN.

## Temiskaming District.

After a somewhat wet and cold spring, the present weather comes as a great boon. Many here were unable to seed as soon as they wished, owing to the cold dampness, but those who are late seeding have the very opposite to complain of, for it is so hot and dry that seeds and plants have hard work to strike at all.

Present prospects, however, are good, and the main crops of the district—oats and hay—give promise of good yields. Red clover is coming into bloom, and alsike is already in full flower. Large red clover seems to be more popular here than any other, with alsike a good second. Swedes are showing well so far, as also are potatoes.

These are practically the only crops grown in bulk, though I have seen a very fair sample of fall wheat, now in ear, this week. The owner of the wheat has also half an acre of fine-looking field peas. The latter should, I think, do very well in this district. I believe, also, that wheat will be grown here of first-rate quality when the settlers have time to attend to it. At present it is more experimental than depended upon. Fruit is conspicuous by its absence in most parts of the district, though some of the older settlers who have cleared enough are trying it on a small scale. I have seen a few beds of strawberries this spring, which looked promising. Small bush fruits should do very well up here, for in a wild state they are plentiful and prolific; but up to the present they are only seen cultivated as a small addition to the kitchen garden. There will be, or even now is, a good opening for a man who can successfully grow small fruits, and run a market garden for vegetables. Pure-bred poultry are being gone into more extensively this year, and incubators are becoming common. This is a good market locally for eggs, and in the winter for table birds. At present the demand is filled by wholesalers in old Ontario, but in a few years the local supply will probably catch up and capture the home market. Dairying is not much touched yet, the average settler simply keeping a cow or two to supply home needs, and perhaps a neighbor or two.

We expect to get good meetings to hear two of the professors from the Agricultural College this month. All the settlers near enough to the selected centers will be in attendance, and we expect to hear something good.

Much satisfaction is expressed over the announcement made by Hon. Frank Cochrane last month, viz., that land in future would be free, instead of 50 cents per acre as hitherto, but it is a pity the "actual residence" clause is not more strictly enforced. We might rid ourselves of a few speculators if it were. Patience may one day bring its reward!

June 24th, 1905. G. W. W.