

Apiary.

Manitoba Honey Excels.

In the Canadian Bee Journal for November, Mr. G. A. Deadman, who has been for a number of years selling Eastern honey in the West, writes of Manitoba honey in no very complimentary tone. He says: "I expect, however, that while they produce clover honey as good as in Ontario, yet more or less of it will not be as good, being more or less of a mixture," and: "Of course these Westerners are quite proud to be able to produce their own honey, and even if it is not quite as good, it would still have the preference with many; besides, there is a good deal in what one is educated to, as to what one considers best."

In the last clause there seems just a faint hint of a whine—which is surely not justified by the amount of honey produced in Manitoba at the present time. Is it an indication that the time is about past when it was sufficient to label a can of something "Clover Honey" and ship it West to get rid of it at a paying price? There is undoubtedly much truth in what Mr. D. says as to education, but how does this come about: When Manitoba honey began to look for a market, all the educating had been done by Eastern shippers (most of it is yet, for that matter), and yet, although only the summer before last a certain gentleman from Ontario left a sample of his honey at the door of almost every customer I have in Winnipeg, he did not succeed in making one sale. I will leave Mr. D. to figure that out for himself. My belief, however, is that had he offered closed packages labelled "Best Clover Honey," he would have done much better. This educating business has produced a wonderful number of people who believe that to class as best, or even as good, honey must have been produced from clover, yet comparatively few who are aware that a can of clover honey may, and often—oh, so often!—does have (whatever mixture may be in the can) all the clover on the label.

Being rather unskilled in methods of catering to markets, producers of honey in this Province have so far paid little attention to the classifying of their goods. No one, however, would be foolish enough to claim that all his honey is first-class. Such a thing would be ridiculous here, as it would be anywhere else. But we do believe that the percentage of really poor honey produced in Manitoba is extremely small. We get some clover honey, which is as good as clover honey can be anywhere. In some localities thistle honey predominates, and this, probably, not even Mr. D. himself could distinguish from clover honey. Basswood also exists in places, and golden-rod is universal. Why should not our honey be as good as that of Ontario, where these plants are also the source of supply?

But at the risk of being called wild names, I will make, in closing, the claim that here in Manitoba we get a honey that is out of sight better than clover honey. I do not know what plant produces it. It may be "more or less of a mixture," but when the secret is discovered and it becomes a staple—if it can be got in large enough quantities—the producers will not label it "Best Clover," but most likely "Best on Earth," and set their own price upon it.

J. J. GUNN.

Beekeepers will Organize.

We are in receipt of the following circular letter from Melvin Bartlett, Secretary Western Horticultural Society, which we publish for the benefit of our readers who are interested in beekeeping:

At a recent meeting of gentlemen interested in beekeeping, it was decided to organize a "Manitoba Beekeepers' Association," and a meeting will accordingly be held in the office of the Live Stock Associations, 48 Merchants Bank building, Winnipeg, on the 24th of February, at 3 p.m., for that purpose.

The committee in charge of the arrangements is as follows: S. A. Bedford, Supt. Experimental Farm, Brandon; J. J. Gunn, Honor. Man.; James Duncan, Rosseau, Man., and Melvin Bartlett.

Arrangements have been made for reduced railway rates for the occasion. Persons attending the meeting will purchase ordinary tickets to Winnipeg, and secure standard certificates from the ticket agent at starting point. These will be signed by the Secretary of the Association, and will entitle those who become members to free return ticket from Winnipeg.

With the object of securing the co-operation of every one interested in bees and beekeeping, the committee invite your consideration of their proposal.

This meeting is open to all who are interested enough to attend. There will be a short programme of interesting addresses after the business of organization is concluded.

The committee in charge wish to secure a complete list of the beekeepers of Manitoba and the Territories, and our readers are requested to forward lists of their friends who are engaged in beekeeping to "The Beekeepers' Association, Box 488, Winnipeg."

Poultry.

Poultry House Described.

The accompanying diagram shows the floor plan of the poultry-house of J. Wakefield, Neepawa. The building is frame, 54 feet long by 16 wide; 7 feet high at the back, and 8 at the front. For the frame, scantling 2x4 inches are used, and on the outside, siding and shiplap are put on with tar paper between. Lath and a coat of rough plaster on the inside complete the walls. The roof is supported by 2x4 inch rafters, and consists of one fold of shiplap covered with felt roofing,



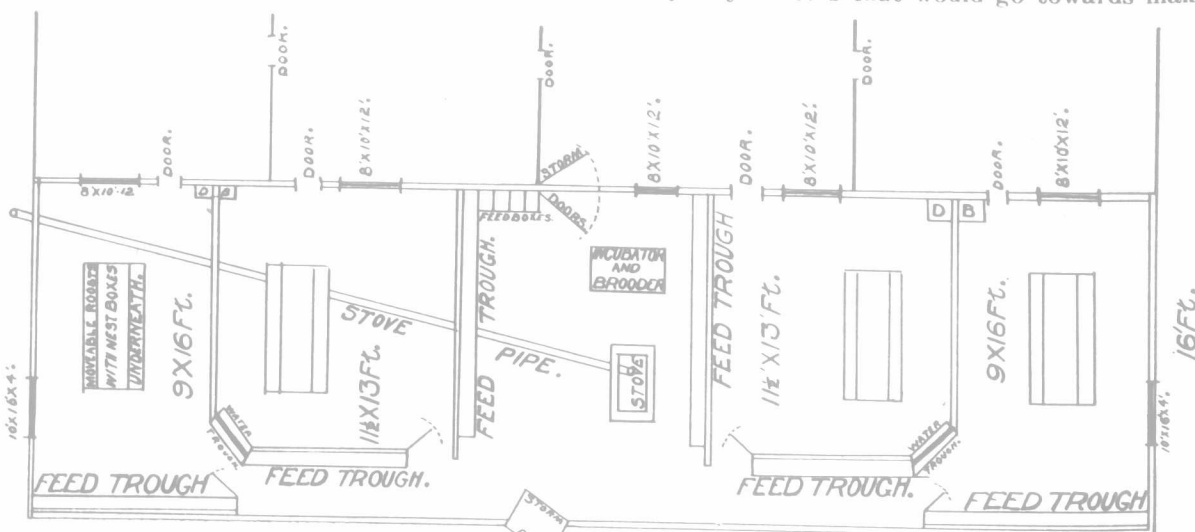
GENERAL VIEW OF J. WAKEFIELD'S POULTRY BUILDING.

which gives good satisfaction, being tolerably warm in winter and cooler than many kinds of roofing during summer. The windows and doors are all double.

Fowls must be comfortable before they can be expected to pay, and warm, well-ventilated quarters save feed and promote health. These are, therefore, essential factors in successful winter poultry raising.

As will be noticed by the diagram, there is a stove in the center pen, and about a foot from this stove a galvanized casing extends all around it 4½ feet high. Between the casing and the stove there is a hole cut through the floor, and connected by means of a flue to the fresh air outside of the building. As the air around the stove becomes warmed, it rises and fresh air from outside, being colder, is naturally drawn in, causing a complete circulation throughout the whole building, which is giving entire satisfaction. To keep a poultry building warm and dry during winter is extremely difficult, and this plan of ventilation can be recommended as one of the best for that purpose. Some experienced poultrymen, however, object to having a stove in the building, and claim that the birds will be more hardy and vigorous without artificial heat. This is a question worthy of discussion.

About twenty-five are kept in each pen. The movable roosts, with nest-boxes under, are sufficiently raised from the ground that the birds have scratching room beneath, thus all space available is at their disposal.



PLAN OF POULTRY BUILDING USED BY J. WAKEFIELD, NEEPAWA, MAN.

The Winnipeg Poultry Show.

The Winnipeg Poultry Association decided at their last meeting to hold their winter show in Winnipeg during February, from the 11th to 14th. Mr. Geo. D. Holden, Owatonna, Minn., has been secured as judge for the occasion. He has acted in that capacity here before, and given good satisfaction. The executive are working hard to make this an unqualified success, and they have with them the well-wishes and the hearty co-operation of a stronger membership than ever before. Unity dwells in their camp; surely success is assured.

a perfect balanced ration, if we took advantage of them. The secret of making hens lay is simply providing them with suitable feed, and it's the safe way.

Corn, wheat, oats, barley and millet seed are good poultry feeds; some do not believe in corn, but their reasons are mostly like the small boy's "because." The Agricultural Experiment Stations tell us that corn is one of the best feeds for poultry, but they do not tell us to feed it exclusively; still more, cool reasoning would not suggest that we feed it exclusively.

The natural make-up of their feed is a variety;

Value of Poultry Shows.

That our poultry shows rarely receive the patronage which they deserve goes without saying. If it were not for a few enthusiastic breeders in this Province, who do everything in their power to encourage the exhibiting of poultry, the general quality of the present stock of Manitoba would not enjoy the high reputation which it does. As one prominent poultryman said to the "Farmer's Advocate" a few days ago: "No breeder from the East can win more than his share in competition with our birds."

This condition of affairs is gratifying indeed, and it may be safely said has been very largely promoted by Western poultry shows. These exhibitions from time to time so arrest the attention of a comparatively disinterested public that greater numbers are brought into the ranks as a result. They also tend to promote a spirit of sociability among those engaged in breeding pure-bred fowl. Sales of stock are made to one another, as well as to visitors, and thus it acts as a great advertising medium. The show being held this week

in Viriden, and a similar event which will take place in Winnipeg in a few weeks, are both worthy of the heartiest co-operation of all who desire that poultry-raising in this country should increase.

The Home Market.

It is significant that to supply the Winnipeg demand for Christmas poultry, many thousand pounds of dressed birds had to be shipped in from the United States and Eastern Canada. Considering that poultry food is cheaper here than at the points from whence these supplies came, and that other facilities are quite equal if not superior in Canada West, it is surprising that greater quantities are not produced. Can it be that those who might embark in this industry are making more in other pursuits, or is it that some hesitate because of lack of knowledge of the management of fowls? We would suggest that the poultry associations press their claims upon the Department of Agriculture, urging that more attention be given to this matter in the approaching institute campaign.

Feeding for Eggs.

I would not advise anyone that has a good healthy flock to undertake doctoring them with antidotes with a view of forcing egg production, either summer or winter. On most farms there are plenty of feeds that would go towards making