

incubator, and got about 80-per-cent. hatches, and in my next letter I will give some interesting figures as to what my hens are doing in Philo coops this winter, which has been cold enough to test anything indoors or out. A year ago last November I started with 15 hens and pullets, and up to September 1st, 1910, they had laid 182 dozens eggs. J. STONEHOUSE.
Ontario Co., Ont.

Exhibition vs. Laying Pullets.

At the Poultry Department of the Ontario Agricultural College there are two interesting pens of Barred Plymouth Rocks, each of which contains twenty-three birds. One pen is bred from exhibition strains of birds, and the other from egg-producers. Both lots were hatched about April 23rd, 1910. When seen, during the first part of January, 1911, there was a marked difference between the two lots. The show birds were much larger, somewhat more uniform in size and markings, and were much more attractive in the feather, style and form. Any untutored person would readily have at once selected them as the choice of the two lots. But their history up to that time would make such a one change his mind.

From birth until October, the bred-to-lay chicks were the larger; from that time on they began to lay, grew less, and so were outdistanced in size by the first of the new year. The show birds produced no eggs in October, 66 in November, and 190 in December, making a total of 256 eggs. The layers produced 101 eggs in October, 337 in November, and 296 in December, making a total of 734, thus outdoing their fancy rivals by 478 eggs, which, at the modest price of 36 cents a dozen, would mean a difference of \$14.34. During that time the laying pullets consumed less feed. It will be interesting to know how they compare from Jan. 1st, 1911, on.

When it is remembered that most birds are discarded before they are two years old, the immense advantage of the laying birds during the first nine months shows pretty clearly the kind of breeding that is wanted in utility birds.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Interest in the Box Package.

It is said that discerning customers, having learned that some of the Pacific Coast fruit put up in boxes is better in appearance than flavor, are coming to rather discriminate against boxed fruit, not because of the package itself, but because of the inferior quality of Western fruit which has been so extensively packed in boxes. It is said, further, that, in order to escape the reflection, some of the apple-growers in Oregon and other Western States are discarding the boxes, and using barrels, instead. Of course, the consumers will presently become "wise" to this dodge, and then our Western friends will probably revert to the box, which, for the shipment of high-class dessert apples, has many decided advantages. It is held by some disinterested observers that the present should be a strategic opportunity for Eastern growers of choice, well-flavored fruit to step into the breach, sell their Number One apples in boxes as Eastern fruit, and establish a reputation for their respective brands. If this be done, and nothing but the choicest fruit is put up in this package, there is the best of reason for believing that the box will become increasingly popular in Eastern Canada. It is a convenient sized package to purchase, and boxed fruit, because of the swell in the top and bottom of the box, and because of the smaller quantity in a package, carries better and opens out better than barrelled fruit. If the apples be wrapped, they are preserved all the better.

There is a keen interest being taken by progressive Eastern orchardists in box-packing. In connection with the short course in fruit-growing, just concluded, at the Ontario Agricultural College, a special class in box-packing was provided, for which a fee of \$2.00 per head was collected from each participant. The class was in charge of S. G. Campbell, Hood River, Oregon, whose method was to set all the students at work immediately with the ungraded fruit and boxes before them, telling them simply to pack their boxes. Thus the eye was trained to grade rapidly and accurately, and the packer led to see the advantage of sorting his fruit. After a couple of days' work on ungraded fruit, the apples were assorted into sizes, and the packers sent from pile to pile and box to box. As difficulties arose, they were shown how to overcome them. The accommodation for this class (which ran concurrently with the regular short course) was overtaxed, twenty taking it the first week, while two dozen more applications had been received for the second course last week. Excellent fruit should result from this admirable line of training. (No more intended.)

Apple-growing on a Commercial Scale.

At last the Ontario orchard is coming into its own as a commercial proposition. The original farm orchard was planted with a view to supplying home needs. It proved too large for that purpose, and too small to be very much of a consideration commercially. Besides, it had too many varieties, and quite a few of these were early sorts, which, if marketed profitably beyond the local town or city demand, had to be handled like tender fruits, rather than like Ben Davis or hickory nuts. Few farmers outside the regular fruit districts knew how to care for orchards, and doubted whether it would pay to do so, anyway. The upshot was that these farm orchards were neglected, left in sod, seldom sprayed, improperly pruned, insufficiently manured, and neglected generally. This is changing. Keen business men, both farmers and those of other occupations, are planting out large blocks of commercial orchards



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President Nova Scotia Farmers' Association.

of a few well-selected varieties, and propose to make a business of orcharding. Among many others doing this, we note A. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, and Dr. G. C. Creelman, President of the Ontario Agricultural College, and we believe time will show that they are making no mistake. Meanwhile, the owners of these small farm orchards are waking up, and deciding it will pay to care even for the trees they have, as our own orchard work has abundantly demonstrated.

An Elaborate Transaction.

A reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" ordered four little packages of flower seeds, worth 25 cents, from a Philadelphia house. On arrival in Canada, by mail, they were promptly corralled by the vigilant postal-customs clerk of an inland city and pigeon-holed. An elaborate entry was made in the departmental books, and a post-card notification duly sent by mail to the party at a country post office ten miles away. In due time this reached the farmhouse, and a 20-mile trip finally brought the seeds to their destination. The departmental officer collected the sum of five cents before the seeds were surrendered. The net financial returns of such procedure must be very gratifying to the Government of Canada. Reciprocity will not be in vain if it but eliminate such fol-de-rol.

At the recent meeting of the Canadian National Exhibition, Major H. J. Snelgrove, representing the Ontario Horticultural Association, made

a well-grounded plea for a more attractive and artistic arrangement of the horticultural exhibits. Last fall, it will be remembered, the exhibits, being staged on the flat principle, were neither seen nor appreciated as they deserved. Major Snelgrove suggested a pyramidal arrangement of the fruits and the banking of the flowers. He also recommended that the color effect should be designed by an artist. The points were referred to the executive for consideration.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Would Enlarge Home Market.

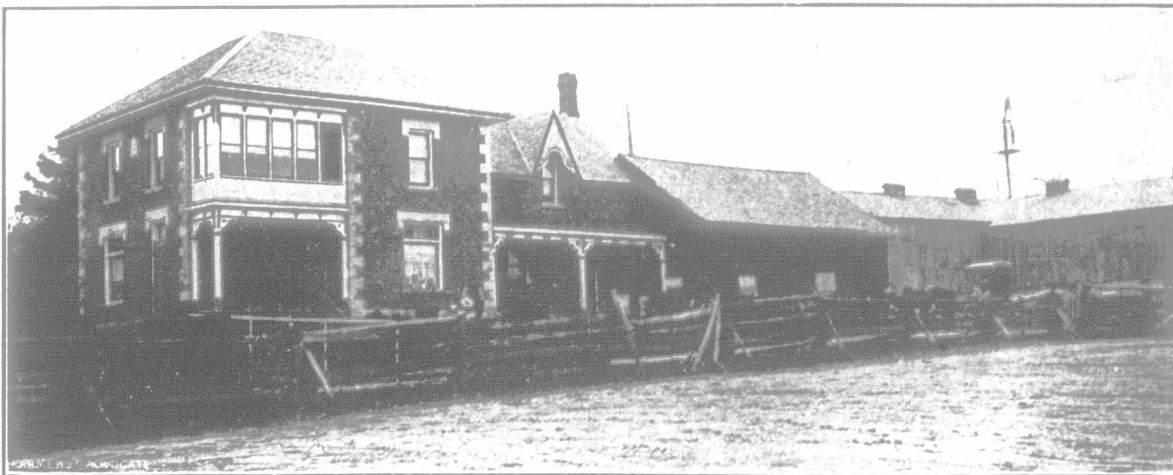
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the January 19th issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" I noticed an item upon which discussion is invited, as to whether it would be any benefit to Canada if the Massey-Harris Company would transfer their plant at Batavia, N. Y., to Canada. As we have a large plant in Toronto already controlled by the Massey-Harris Company, it might not be of the same value as it would be if some of the larger concerns of the United States would transfer a plant to Canada, for then we would have the increase of population and competition at the same time; and, as it appears at the present time, it is the home consumption that is increasing the price of farm products, therefore the increase of population must certainly benefit the farmer at the present time. We have two large American concerns with plants in Hamilton, employing a large number of hands, who are receiving their bread and butter in Canada, the larger part of which is grown on Canadian soil; and, if it were not for the protection, they might have increased their plants in Chicago, and some of those very men and Canadians might have left their native land and would be living in that great American city to-day, but by the high duty being placed upon the finished article, they were forced to manufacture their goods in Canada, and to-day the farmers of this country are receiving the same benefit from competition as they would if their goods were manufactured in the United States.

I do not believe in nursing the manufacturer or any corporation, but the argument that the manufacturer who needs protection should be out of existence, I do not agree with, for the small manufacturer sometimes is of more benefit to the farmer than the larger concerns that are usually in combines. The plants of the smaller manufacturers are built in smaller towns, and they are under less expense than the larger plants in cities, and are able to place their goods upon the market at a lower cost, and are the same benefit to those towns as the others are to the cities. It might be possible that tariff reduction would reduce the price of some of those articles to the farmer for a short time, or until the large concerns of the United States would have them out of existence; then they would be in a position to combine, for I don't think that Canadian firms are any worse to combine than the Americans, as every little while the American Government is forced to send out a commission to investigate these combines in some quarter or other.

Huron Co., Ont.. WM. P. HALLAHAN.

"Our Dumb Animals" publishes a vigorous article in favor of more humane methods of slaughtering animals in the abattoirs, and in support of legislation to that end in Massachusetts. Cattle are usually stunned by a blow before the knife is used, but in the case of smaller animals, such as swine, complaint is made of the needless brutalities, such as swinging along tracks for long distances suspended by hook and chain to the hind ankle, before the death blow is given, and too often the victim lingers on for several minutes in agony.



Commodious Buildings on the Farm of S. J. Brown, Dufferin Co., Ont.
Main part of house 30 x 26 feet, kitchen 24 x 18 feet. Photographed from south-east. House conveniently arranged, and provided with wash-rooms and large glass balcony, neatly planted around outside. Effect slightly marred by proximity of fence.