

the highest compliments from English growers as to its beauty and excellent quality. The fourth shipment was made by the Manchester Trader on the 20th of November, and consisted of fancy apples, Keiffer pears, Rogers' grapes, and quinces. The apples sold for about \$1.50 per bushel box, but the pears and grapes were held too long before shipment, and consequently did not bring satisfactory prices.

On the whole, the experimental shipments made under Mr. Dryden's directions during the past year have proven conclusively the importance of this trade to the fruit-growers of Ontario.

The Board of Control took this report into careful consideration, and recommended to the Hon. John Dryden that during the year 1901 arrangements be made for weekly shipments during the months of August, September and October, and that vigorous measures be taken to push forward this business, until the trade has become so established as to win the confidence of every intelligent fruit-grower.

Dominion Regulation Re Importation of Nursery Stock.

By an Ottawa order-in-council, dated January 5, exemption from the operation of the San José Scale Act is granted to nursery stock from any country or State to which the Act referred to applies. Importations will be permitted to enter only at the customs ports of St. John, N. B.; St. John's, Que.; Niagara Falls and Windsor, and Winnipeg, between 15th March to 15th May in the spring, and 7th October to 7th December in the autumn of each year, and at Vancouver during the winter months only, from 15th October to 15th March. At the above-named ports the stock will be thoroughly fumigated with hydrocyanic acid gas by a competent Government officer. All shipments made in accordance with the above will be entirely at the risk of the shippers or consignees, the Government assuming no risk whatever. Packages must be addressed so as to enter Canada at one of the ports of entry mentioned, and the route by which they will be shipped must be clearly stated upon each package. Well matured and thoroughly dormant nursery stock may be safely treated, but that there is danger of serious injury to the trees if fumigated in the autumn before the buds are thoroughly dormant, or in the spring after the buds have begun to unfold, all the stock which, when received, is immature or too far advanced for safe treatment, will be refused entry and held at the risk of the shipper.

Awards of Medals, etc., for Canadian Fruit at the Paris Exposition.

All our Provinces had a noble record of fruit exhibits at the Paris Exposition, and we shall await the full and complete report of the prizes awarded when the commission has completed its labors.

In the meantime, Mr. Robert Hamilton, of Grenville, Que., who was at Paris during a great part of the season, sends us an incomplete list of our awards from memory, explaining, at the same time, that he could give far more information only for the unfortunate loss of all his papers, photos, etc., on shipboard.

The following is Mr. Hamilton's list:

- June 27—Awards for natural fruit—old apples—to Provinces and the Dominion—a gold medal to each: Dominion of Canada, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia; a silver medal to New Brunswick; a bronze medal to Prince Edward Island.
- July 11—Natural fruit disallowed on this occasion. Fruit, preserved, non-edible—a gold medal and grand prize to the Dominion of Canada; a gold medal to each: British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia; a gold medal to the Northwest Territory of Canada; a gold medal to the Experimental Farms of Canada.
- July 25—Natural fruit, 1899. Awards to Fruit Growers' Associations; a gold medal and grand prize to the Dominion of Canada; a gold medal each to British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia; a silver medal to New Brunswick and a bronze medal to Prince Edward Island.
- Aug. 8—Natural fruit, old, 1899. Awards to local Fruit Growers' Associations: To Grimsby, Ont.; Burlington, Ont.; Montreal, Que.; L'Islet, Que.; Abbotsford, Que.; Nova Scotia, and British Columbia, a gold medal to each.
- Aug. 22—Natural fruit, old, 1899. Awards to Provinces: A gold medal each to British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick; a silver medal to Prince Edward Island.
- Sept. 5—Natural fruit, old, 1899. A gold medal was again awarded to each of the Provinces—British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick.
- Sept. 22—Natural fruit, new (a few old). The fruit arrived late, but a committee of the jury made the awards on arrival of the fruit. A gold medal was awarded to Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and to Linus Woolverton; a silver medal was awarded to Robt. Brodie, St. Henri, Montreal, and to J. W. Bigelow, Wolfville, N.S.
- Oct. 10—Natural fruit, new, 1900, and also of 1899. A gold medal was again awarded the Provinces—Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.
- Oct. 31—New fruit, 1900. Other awards were made, but I had left before this date.

Treatment for the San Jose Scale.

The United States Department of Agriculture has recently issued a circular on controlling the San José scale, a summary of which is presented herewith. It starts out with the admission that the insect is now so widely disseminated and so firmly established that its extermination is not possible, and that fruit-growers must recognize it as a factor to be permanently dealt with. The effective method of digging up and burning trees is advised only in cases of very recent introduction on nursery stock. If it has passed even one entire season in an orchard it will have spread much more widely than any inspection can discover, and very likely will have gained a footing on wild and ornamental plants, from which it will re-introduce itself into neighboring orchards or new plantings, in spite of the most thorough attempts to eradicate it. The value of repressive and remedial treatment has been so well demonstrated "that it is certainly very unwise and wasteful to dig up and burn a large proportion of an orchard because it is infested with this scale insect." For the Eastern range [And that would include the Province of Ontario.—Ed.] the methods of treatment, in order of their satisfactoriness, are given as follows:

1. Whale-oil-potash soap.
2. Coal oil.
3. Crude petroleum.
4. Mixtures of coal oil or crude petroleum with water.

These remedies are applicable when the trees are in a leafless condition. The soap, in the strength of 2 pounds to the gallon of water, can be sprayed on hot with an ordinary spray pump. The wholesale price quoted is 3½ to 4 cents per pound. The coal oil should be applied, on a bright, dry day, with a pump making a fine mist spray. The same careful precautions are necessary with Nos. 3 and 4. The lime-sulphur-salt wash is effective in California. The earlier experiments made with this remedy in the East were unsatisfactory, but some later ones have been successful. The circular states that if ten or fourteen days of dry weather elapses after the treatment, it is likely to give satisfactory results, if properly made and applied. The preparation recommended is: Unslacked lime, 30 pounds; sulphur, 20 pounds; salt, 15 pounds; water, 35 gallons. Boil with steam for three or four hours, dilute to 60 gallons, and spray preferably hot. In dry climates, the limy coating remains on the trees and retains its insecticidal value for months.

POULTRY.

Poultry Raising in Assiniboia.

THE WINTER CARE AND FEEDING OF A SMALL FLOCK FOR PROFIT.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have been doing for so many years just what most of our farmers and their wives do—that is, keeping poultry in a sort of desultory way, without regular methods, without proper means, and without really being able to see clearly where I lost or gained—that I fully realize my lack of knowledge and disability to write on the above subject which you have suggested to me, but I will do my best.

I am aware that there are many farmers who keep and raise cattle, hogs and horses in this same shiftless manner. They never know exactly the cost of feeding, and it altogether depends on their feelings at the time of talking on the subject whether they consider their stock has paid or not. When they have made a sharp bargain, it pays; when the other men have been the sharpers, it does not pay. Most of these men at the same time are thoroughly convinced that hens do not pay. They do well enough to consume the waste on the farm, and the cooking cannot well be done without eggs, but pay? Of course not. Now, to divide my text into sections, as the old-fashioned preachers used to do, I will begin at, firstly:

Winter Care.—As I am writing in Assiniboia, I take for granted that on or about Nov. 1st we shut up our fowls. I am also writing for the benefit of people in moderate circumstances; therefore, I will consider, if possible, what care can be given in such cases. Any farmer, if he has the will, can build or provide a warm henhouse. This is essential. When fowls are kept in a place so cold that their combs or feet are in danger of freezing, they may exist, but they will not thrive, and certainly will not pay. The building should be large enough to allow convenient room for feeding without too much crowding, and without having to pick the food from under the roosts. There also must be light, plenty of it, if possible from the south. Not too large windows, but enough to show light in every corner, from sunrise to sundown.

I do not approve of a place at the back of the horse and cow stable for hens. It is not good for either the animals or the poultry, and though the fowls may get some of their living from picking around the other animals, they are apt to be stepped on and maimed or killed. Then, in stables where no better provision is made for fowls, there is not likely to be a window from which they can get a ray of sunlight. A good henhouse can be built adjoining the stable and not opening into it. Now, supposing we have settled about the building,

we ought to keep it dry and clean. Once a week, in our hard winter weather, a thorough cleaning is necessary. If there comes a thaw, it must be done oftener to be at all comfortable. A large box should be placed where the light during the greater part of the day will fall directly upon it, and kept two-thirds full of dry dust for the hens to roll in. They enjoy this quite as much as a healthy baby does its morning bath. Ashes, especially coal ashes, will answer this purpose very well, but they must be changed frequently, for as soon as they become damp their efficacy ceases. From coal ashes the fowls get cinders enough to supply the grit which grinds their food, and from wood ashes they pick bits of charcoal, which greatly assists their digestion. Of course, it goes without saying that the ashes must be cold before carrying to the box, or you may some day see the whole business go off in smoke.

Drink.—Good pure water they require every day. Fowls do not drink as much in winter as in summer, but they must have it always. I have known people who threw in a shovelful of snow once in a while, and thought because the chickens picked at it they were satisfied. I wonder if those same people ever tried for even one day eating snow instead of drinking! The drinking vessels may be of whatever pattern is most convenient, but they should be so arranged that they cannot be spilled, and so that the fowls cannot get their feet wet. I have found small pickle pails answer the purpose very well, when they can be obtained. If the house is warm enough to keep water from freezing, the fowls will live and do well.

Feeding.—This is a much vexed question. There is such a diversity of opinions on this matter that I scarcely know how to approach it. But as I know of no kind of fowl that will live without food, I presume we are bound to consider ways and means. I have found that with the average farmer this is where the shoe pinches. He recognizes that his horses need straw, or even hay, and, yes, oats, even in winter. There are a few men, I regret to say, who think if a horse works not, neither shall he eat, but these men are few and far between, for which I am sure the equine race are truly thankful.

Any farmer knows that his cattle will not come through a winter and be of service the following summer on scanty and poor food. He also sees that his stock hogs have enough to eat; but the one thing he does not see, is why hens must be fed when he is getting no eggs. He begins this theme early in the fall, as soon as the "nasty, ragged-looking things" are going about "eating their heads off." Perhaps the poor, misguided being does not know that if the bird is cared for better than usual during moulting season it will feather out all the sooner and be better prepared to face the cold. Well, we give him this information just now and here. Then when we have them comfortably housed for winter, they must be fed regularly and with a variety of food. Now and then we see a generous farmer who believes in feeding his hens, not because they pay, but for the reason that he will not have any starved animals around his place. He will throw a paulful of wheat down in a heap, perhaps twice as much as the flock can eat at a meal, and when remonstrated with, replies: "Well, if they do not eat it now they will some other time." This is not proper feeding. If at all possible, have the feeding floor covered with chaff or some loose litter, then scatter the grain so the hens must scratch for it. You will at once hear their cheerful, busy conversation, as they keep up the exercise. This is healthful feeding. Once a day, I prefer at noon, give them cooked food. Where there is stuff such as pigweed seed, potato parings, and scraps of food of any kind, cook it all together and see how eagerly they will gobble it up. I have disposed of bushels of pigweed seed in this way, when I have known of farmers who were burning it up to get it out of their way. For Northwest feeding of fowls, I would like wheat for morning meal, cooked food at noon, and oats at night. Oats are stimulating and not so fattening as wheat, therefore for fowls which have no outdoor run in winter, and from which we hope to get some eggs, I prefer one meal of oats. About once a week throw them a half dozen whole raw turnips. They will enjoy them immensely.

Now, I think I hear someone say, "But she is forgetting the thirdly—for profit." Not at all. Just let me ask a question or two. Can some of you farmers tell me what is the use of throwing away feed on all those cows that give no milk in winter? I can easily see why you feed chop and hay in the spring, when you get the full pail, and when there is a nice little calf to raise. And that old sow! Is she not a perfect nuisance, always grunting for more, just when it is so icy that you slip every time you carry her a pail of slops? "Why," you say, "this woman must be crazy, if she is a farmer's wife, not to see the ridiculousness of these questions." Not a bit of it. Your hens will pay for their proper winter care all next spring and summer, just as surely as will your cows and hogs. Try it this winter and see. Grain, this winter, is a high price, but for good eggs and poultry there is always a ready market, and even with the high prices of grain, I am sure, if properly managed, hens pay. I have not said a word of who is to care for the fowls on the farm in winter. That is according to circumstances, but women can do it all, if in moderate health and if so inclined. I think it is healthful and cheery work for women on the farm in winter.

Central Assiniboia. MRS. A. NEVILLE.