

Cheese-box Courtship

A London, Eng., despatch says: "A Canadian cheese manufacturer has given a South Shields tradesman a rather difficult task. On opening a cheese the latter found a small bottle, containing a communication addressed to his English friend, dated from Frankville, near Brockville, Canada. The communication requested him to pass the letter on to 'the prettiest girl in town,' with whom the writer invited correspondence. The merchant, however, was not prepared to carry out this commission."

POULTRY.

Square Dealing with Customers.

If there is one purchaser wholly at the mercy of the seller it is the man who buys eggs by correspondence. For this reason it is especially desirable that advertisers of this class of stock should be thoroughly honorable and prompt in their dealings. Unfortunately, the temptation to hold off customers whose orders cannot be filled promptly, often proves too strong, and the remittance is kept until the sender is exasperated, and, perhaps, entirely disappointed in his calculations. As a point of honor, it would seem to be only fair, when a person advertises to sell eggs, that orders which come in as a result of that advertisement, and which cannot be filled within a reasonable time, should be acknowledged immediately with an offer to refund the money at the customer's expense. A complaint bearing the stamp of genuineness has recently come to hand from a disappointed purchaser, whose faith in poultry advertisers has been somewhat shaken. The person alluded to states that she sent for a setting of a certain kind of eggs, and after waiting for some four weeks, received in lieu of the setting of thirteen ordered, five of that kind and three of another kind of fowl; that, of the five none proved fertile, and that the seller had demurred from refunding the money or sending another setting. While unwilling to impugn the honor of poultrymen in general, we are not disposed to ignore instances of this kind. The "Farmer's Advocate" is naturally anxious to conserve the interests of the breeders, but subscribers come before advertisers. We believe the majority of our advertisers mean to be square, and that, as a class, those using our columns are the cream of the poultry and live stock men, but instances such as the above are liable to occur in spite of every precaution on our part. Many cases of disappointment are, no doubt, due to no fault of the seller, and it is not surprising that they become slow to listen to complaints. At the same time, it behooves them to exercise every care that orders be filled to the satisfaction of their patrons. We believe it is better to lose an order rather than displease a customer. Fair dealing and businesslike methods pay the advertiser in the end, please the purchaser, and redound to the credit of the advertising medium.

A Case of Apoplexy.

Would like you to tell me what is wrong with my hens. Have found as many as four healthy-looking Barred Rock hens, fat and with combs red, lying dead under roost in the morning, although nothing wrong had been noticed at night. Others have one side of the head swollen, and are lame on one leg. Found one hen dead on the nest. Have been feeding principally on oats, with roots once a day, and, occasionally, mixed-grain chop in milk. They had all the fresh water they can drink, all the gravel they cared for, and oyster-shells occasionally. Have a good-sized house, with plenty of light. They appear to eat well, and have been laying well all winter. J. M.

Under ordinary circumstances, I would have no hesitation in saying that the birds are dying of apoplexy, due to heavy feeding during the winter, and a lack of exercise. It is hard to understand birds becoming too fat when they are fed principally on oats, unless the chopped grain and milk are in excess. Where such breeds as Rocks and Wyandottes are kept, and the birds are over two years of age, or are even only one year old, they are inclined to become overfat. They will occasionally drop dead from the roost, and also die on the nest. The only thing that can be done is to increase the exercise and reduce the flesh. This can best be done by feeding the grain in deep litter, forcing the birds to take exercise, and so work off the superfluous flesh. A good dose of Epsom salts twice a week would do no harm, and would, perhaps, do as much good as anything that could be done. Give at the rate of about $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. for 50 birds. This, perhaps, may be a little too much, if given frequently. The best way of giving the salts would be to dissolve it in warm water, and then use this water to mix the chopped feed; possibly it would be well to give this mash at night, giving no other grain during the day.

Poultry Manager, O. A. C.

W. R. GRAHAM.

Much in Little.

I cannot praise your paper enough.

Elgin Co., Ont.

S. W. PLYBY.

An Experience With White Leghorns.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I have been amused at the letters regarding the farmer's hen, and will give the experience obtained with a small flock of White Leghorns given to my children as a present by the owner of the farm I am manager of. On June 11th a Plymouth Rock hen with eleven newly-hatched chicks arrived at the house. They had the run of the grass fields and were fed regularly. In October the first egg was laid, and during the balance of the month they laid from one to two a day. During November there were more. In the last of October two of the four cockerels weighed $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{4}$ pounds; one pullet weighed $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. During the past exceptionally severe winter we have had as many as four eggs a day from the seven pullets, and last week there were 41 eggs laid in seven days. A dozen of these weighed $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. The results of the eleven Leghorns are proof that they can supply eggs; and at the same time, the cockerels not five months old weighed over 4 pounds each. U. S. Southern Illinois.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Co-operation in the Fruit Business.

There is, perhaps, no other question occupying the attention of progressive fruit-growers so much as co-operation in the handling of fruit, and no enterprise deserves more careful consideration before undertaking it. Many a good co-operative association has been wrecked by people rushing wildly into it, imagining fortune is theirs, and then just as soon as some little difficulties appear rushing as wildly and rashly out of it.

Co-operation must be entered into with a steadfast determination to overcome obstacles and



D. Johnson, Forest, Ont.

to solve problems, which, when worked out, always leave us richer in experience and firmer on our foundation. We cannot expect to attain our ideal in one, two or even three seasons, but must be content to work patiently for years.

Co-operation should commence in the care of the orchard. We must produce good fruit before we can successfully co-operate in selling it. We find, as we travel throughout Western Ontario's fruit-growing district, that the people receive enthusiastically the idea of co-operative handling of fruit, but when we press on them the absolute necessity of growing it on scientific principles they seem to think it all so deeply enshrouded in insect and fungus mystery that they lose interest, and some take advantage of the occasion by having a good sleep. Although the possibilities of co-operation are great, in our own case spraying has done more than we expect co-operation ever to do. Many examples could be given, did space permit, to show the good results of spraying, but those which have been published in previous issues of the "Farmer's Advocate" will show the necessity of a co-operative association pressing spraying upon its members as an exceedingly profitable investment. Feeding the necessity of this, our association has practically a road to adopt a by-law forcing each member to spray at least twice before the blossoms open, and twice after they fall.

The possibilities of co-operation have been demonstrated by the success of the movement in California. Previous to that movement the fruit-growers were struggling individually one against the other, and all preyed upon by organized dealers, making rich at their expense. By co-operation they became their own masters, solved the

transportation question, worked out the distributing problem, and made themselves rich by honest, practical, united effort.

The handling of the Texas tomato crop is another example, the growers now being able to place their products in our markets, pay duty, and yet compete against us, while we, working as we have been doing, are unable to transport our plums, pears or tomatoes to Northwestern Canada, where thousands are hungering for the fruit that is spoiling by carloads in Ontario orchards. Two years ago thousands of bushels wasted in our district alone, not for the want of a market, but for the lack of a proper method of distributing it.

The Ontario Fruit-growers' Association must work out some system of handling such fruit for local associations. They have a right to Government aid in this matter, and should demand it. As a member of the Provincial Committee on Co-operation, I recently had the honor of an interview with the Minister of Agriculture and his managers on this matter, who showed a readiness to help the fruit-growers in every way they could, and were anxious to obtain information on the question.

It seems to me a central cold storage warehouse could be established in Toronto, to which each day's pack of tender fruits could be expressed through, and when a carload from the various associations was to hand, they could be loaded into a cold-storage car and rushed through to their destination. There are, no doubt, many difficulties in the way of such a movement, and if better proposals can be offered, the co-operative committee will only be too glad to receive them. Some system must be undertaken soon to meet the demands of fruit-growers, and the sooner the better. We cannot expect to be perfectly successful the first season, but we must experiment. I would suggest that the Government send a couple of practical men to California and Texas to study and report upon the co-operative systems there. The handling of the apples is comparatively easy, and I have no doubt but that in a year or two, with proper methods of packing, close Government inspection and proper advertising, buyers will come direct from Europe and the West, and pay cash down for our fruit, f.o.b. shipping point.

By co-operative spraying with power sprayers, co-operative buying of boxes and barrels, co-operative packing in central packing-houses, and co-operative selling of fruit, the fruit-grower can look forward to the day when the fruit-growing industry of Ontario will become as profitable and famous as the California business.

We must bury individual interests in the common good, work patiently, and, above all, refrain from quarreling among ourselves. The manufacturers find it to their interests to stand together in spite of individual differences. Why not the fruit-growers?

D. JOHNSON.

President Forest Fruit-growers' and Forwarding Association.

The Coreless Apple.

Oh, he was a Bowery bootblack bold,
And his years they numbered nine;
Rough and unpolished was he, albeit,
He constantly aimed to shine.

As proud as a king on his box he sat,
Munching an apple red;
While the boys of his set looked wistfully on,
And "Give us a bite!" they said.

But the bootblack smiled a lordly smile;
"No free bites here!" he cried.
Then the boys they sadly walked away,
Save one who stood at his side.

"Bill, give us the core," he whispered low,
That bootblack smiled once more,
And a mischievous dimple grew in his cheek—
"There ain't goin' to be no core."

English Commission Men Frightened.

Reports of the co-operative movement among Canadian apple and other fruit growers, and assurances of aid by the Chief of the Canadian Fruit Division, in promoting the trade in Great Britain next season, having reached the Old Country, the commission men there have become greatly disturbed, and are filling the newspapers with alarming reports of a "Canadian Apple-growers' Combine." They resent the movement, as a blow at the established order of doing the business of fruit sale and distribution, and predict its failure. English fruit-growers, on the other hand, fear that it will develop a taste for Canadian apples in every town throughout the country, and seriously interfere with their business.

Likes the Knife.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the premium knife, which I consider a very good one, and which works well.

FRED E. ALTON.

Halton Co., Ont.