

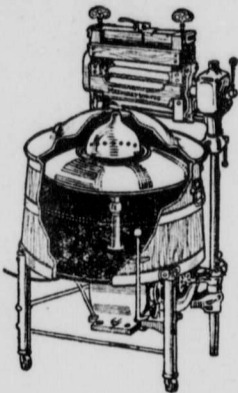
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JAPAN AND
NOVA SCOTIA
FRUIT ORCHARDS
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LAKE CHUZENJI—JAPAN'S LAKE LOUISE



JAPANESE BEAUTIES CHERRY BLOSSOMS

JAPAN has so distinctly put herself "on the map" that the well-travelled person is now compelled to put the "Land of the Rising Sun" into his life's itinerary. Improved trade relations and growing interest in things belonging to the other side of the globe, make a closer study of the countries there of prime importance.

Transportation, trans-continental and trans-Pacific, has become so highly developed that it is as easy to get to Japan as to Italy. Ninety-two hours from Montreal to Vancouver, trans-Canada, and the fastest time across the Pacific—a trifle more than nine days—puts the traveller into Yokohama, the chief port of the Land of Nippon.

Here the sights are unusual. Jinrikashas jostle one another in their competition to get the few cents charge for running the traveller in and out among the narrow streets

amid crowds of strangely garbed people, curious shops, street hawkers, endless numbers of brilliant kimono-clad children, and carts drawn by men and beasts.

Adding to the natural beauty of Japan is the cultivation. Japanese are the best agriculturists and gardeners in the world. Tomes have been written about Mount Fuji and the mountains, lakes and streams of the country. Lake Chuzenji is the Lake Louise of Japan and Mount Fuji, its Mount Rainier, although not so high. The cherry blossoms are not so wonderful as those of this country—if one remembers the hundred miles of orchards in Nova Scotia's Evangeline Land and Annapolis Valley.

Those who are contemplating an early summer holiday might well select Evangeline's Land, Nova Scotia, for a trip. For miles and miles along the Dominion Atlantic Railway the land is one mass of apple blossoms. Cherry blossoms,

too, dot the scene, making a sight that is wonderful and refreshing. The bulk of the Nova Scotia apple crop goes to Great Britain, but great quantities of British Columbia apples are exported to the Orient.

The cherry trees in Japan are raised for their flowers and not for their fruit, as, strangely enough, they bear no fruit.

Although the voyage from Vancouver to Yokohama is longer than the four days at sea from the Eastern seaboard via the St. Lawrence River Route to Europe, the Canadian Pacific Empress steamers, largest and fastest on the Pacific, are so thoroughly comfortable that the time slips away quickly. All of these steamers are so equipped that most all of the amusements to be had on land are also to be found on board.

April marks the beginning of the best season in Japan and even further down the Chinese coast to Manila.

"FEELING" FOR LAYERS

This Method Is About as Certain
as the Trap Nest.

Experiments With Capons — Feeding Costs—Excellent Flesh Produced Without Confinement—Handling Baby Chicks.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The writer carried on a series of experiments with poultry when connected with the Agricultural Experiment Station for Vancouver Island, Sidney, B.C., and presents the following notes as among those worthy of consideration:

DETERMINATION OF EGG-LAYING

A test was made of the feeling method, to determine its accuracy. Thirty hens that were under trapnest record were subjected to the feeling process for eight days: January 17 to 24.

The results of "feeling" were checked up and tallied perfectly with the "trapnesting," indicating that it is quite possible for any careful person to determine which hens are laying by feeling the egg in the oviduct, in the early morning before she leaves the perch. The method also has an advantage in that it eliminates the necessary confinement of the birds in a "trapnest" for a period which is frequently longer than is actually required to produce an egg.

The great disadvantage of the feeling method is that it is impracticable for pedigree breeding, inasmuch that the eggs from individual birds cannot be recorded.

CAPONS.

Thirty cockerels were operated on when twelve weeks old. These birds were a thrifty and well-grown lot, averaging 2½ pounds in weight. After caponizing, they were kept under the same conditions as the cockerels. The feed cost for a pound increase in weight was slightly less for the cockerels up to six months of age. At this time the cockerels and capons weighed the same. These birds were killed for Christmas trade when 264 days old, and weighed, plucked, 8 pounds 2 ounces. The percentage of offal was low, being but 18 per cent.

of the total weight. The birds were not crated fed, but were finished on a liberal milk ration. The quality of the flesh was excellent, and the wholesale price received was 30 cents per pound. The advantages of caponizing are that an excellent quality of flesh can be produced without confining the birds in small feeding crates and the tender flesh can be retained to a greater age and weight. The cockerels made just as good gains, and when milk fed in crates for two weeks, produced the same high grade of flesh. Following is the feed cost of an eight-pound two-ounce capon:

Feed cost to rear to end of third month	21.54c
Feed cost to rear during fourth month	16.2
Feed cost to rear during fifth month	13.17
Feed cost to rear during sixth month	21.2
Feed cost to rear during seventh month	21.3
Feed cost to rear during eighth month	23.4
Feed cost to rear during December, 20 days	14.4
Total feed cost	\$1.31½

These birds were sold for \$2.43 each wholesale, leaving \$1.11½ per bird. From this we can deduct 20 cents, the price paid for the bird as a day-old chick, and have 91½ cents per bird for labor and shelter.

HANDLING BABY CHICKS.

In another experiment a thousand one-day-old chicks were procured from two reliable local breeders. The first day they remained in the incubator, and on the second day they were transferred to the brooder, but were not fed until forty-eight hours old. The following hints on general treatment are given:

Do not chill or overheat the chickens, or disastrous results will follow. If they pant they are too hot, and if they huddle together they are not warm enough.

Do not overfeed during the first week.

Change the water daily and see that it is perfectly clean.

Give plenty of green food.

Feed sour skim milk whenever possible.

Do not forget to supply charcoal, grit, and shell.

Make all change of food and feeding gradually.

Clean and disinfect brooder often.

Do not use damp, mouldy feed or straw.

Never allow chicks to crowd in brooders or colony houses.

Place chicks on the range in colony houses, after the eighth week.

Do not let the cockerels and pullets run together on the range.—L. Stevenson, Sec., Dept. of Agriculture.

A farm needs a windbreak in summer as much as in winter. Did you ever notice the difference in the garden and fruit plantation on the two farms, one sheltered from the hot southwest wind and the other, exposed to it? The windbreak pays in dollars and cents.

When a new house is built among trees, none should be cut except those where the home actually stands. After the home is occupied, one can tell better which trees to retain for shade where it is most needed.

When our great-grandmothers were girls, tomatoes were called "love apples," and one or two plants were grown in the garden or flower beds on account of their bright red fruits. No one thought of eating them, for they were considered poisonous. When after a time it was found that they were not poisonous, people began to eat them and they soon became one of the standard garden vegetables.

Vegetable Matter.

The advantage of matter in the soil may be summed up as follows: It aids aeration, retains moisture, prevents baking, provides conditions suitable for bacteria, aids decomposition of soil particles, supplies plant food, deepens soil layer, prevents leaching, washing and drifting. Every opportunity to return to the soil vegetable matter of any sort should be taken advantage of by all farmers having any respect for the soil of their field.

Continuous grain cropping decreases the productivity of soils. This is due largely to the reducing in quantity of the fresh vegetable matter in the soil that is essential to chemical and bacterial action. Without chemical and bacterial action in the soil the feeding of plants would be difficult.—L. Stevenson, Toronto.

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