

POULTRY.

The Cockerels and Old Hens.

Are the old hens, also the cull and unnecessary cockerels, marketed yet? The advice has often been given through your valuable paper to have the latter all disposed of as soon as they could be got sufficiently large. For various reasons there may be large numbers of them on hand yet. What folly to feed a band of roosters, when the feed is needed for the pullets, in order that they shall be pushed to maturity and the production of eggs? No flock of hens can give satisfactory returns if constantly disturbed by these nuisances. When feeding time comes there is such a squabble for first place that the more timid pullets and hens steal away and go without the served rations, and thus can make no headway, and those daring enough to try to secure a share are robbed of it by a band of cockerels. There is no profit on the feed consumed by them either. In many cases the profit they would have made two or three months earlier is consumed ere this, and the loss on the flock to be kept over cannot be fully estimated. But if the weeding out is not done yet delay no longer, and get in shape for a measure of profit before the winter is gone, even though it be too late to experience the full share which earlier planning and attention would have secured.

Then there are a lot of old hens that should never see any more cold weather. After they have been through two winters they should be disposed of, and now is the time if it has not yet been attended to. Of course the price just now is low for such, but there is no money in waiting for better markets. Generally after January 15th any class of fowl becomes scarce, and the market is good. But considering the room they occupy, and the food consumed, the extra price is not sufficient to make keeping them profitable, because the layers are kept back. Where the pen is crowded the chances for disease to get a foothold are increased to a great extent. J. R. H.

Good Prices for Proper Poultry.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of November 9th I read that "A number of Montreal produce dealers are desirous of purchasing the output of the Government fattening stations in Prince Edward Island, and offer as high as 14c. a pound for dressed chickens."

The price mentioned is certainly not exaggerated, for here—at our station—where we rear quite a number of chickens for Montreal market, not one pound has been sold for less than 15c. this year. In fact, until the middle of October, live chickens were sold at 15c. a pound, and since at 15c. a pound dressed. In June, July, and even in August, broilers never brought us less than 25c. a pound, and could be sent to dealers as soon as they weighed 1½ pounds, alive. With these prices, a chick two months old brings 40c., and a four months fattened bird 75c., and even more.

It is to be wondered that when Montreal dealers offer these prices they are obliged to go to the Atlantic coast for their supply, especially when we see farmers giving away four-months-old chickens for 40c., and sometimes for 25c. Still, there is reason for this. For want of knowledge and want of training, farmers do not produce the proper article—the article wanted by the market. They even imagine it is impossible to do so with profit, though there are stations and up-to-date growers to prove the contrary.

It is true farmers visit the stations, and even follow the work done there, but a larger number of these gentlemen would take an interest in station operations and teaching did they know the stations existed; that is to say, if the local press, and even the city dailies, would call the attention of interested parties to the existence of the stations and the good work they are called to perform.

I have known readers of the "Farmer's Advocate" to drive twenty miles in order to be present on our "killing and plucking days." Others pay \$5 in the cars to come and spend a few weeks at the station. When they leave they are grateful and satisfied; so are we, for we notice that constant readers of agricultural magazines are good pupils. They may not always be extra well posted regarding the latest sensational crime committed or the next supposed political combination, but they are quick at understanding agricultural work and comprehending new methods. Still, they are not the class of farmers who most need training and teaching. The other class—the class which ignores the existence of teaching establishments, or heeds them not—are more in need of them and of their teaching, and I think the press could perform good work for that class and help the stations to reach it.

A. P. Q. Station Manager.

[Note.—The above letter is from the manager of a French-Canadian poultry-rearing station conducted for the Ottawa Poultry Division at the

La Trappe, P. Q., monastery. They have done exceptionally good work this year; from two incubators they will market 1,000 birds. They are very desirous that people should derive the full benefit of the work they are doing, and wish to impress upon farmers the wisdom of reading agricultural journals rather than "yellow" papers.—Editor.]

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Canadian.

November 20th was the sixty-fourth anniversary of Sir Wilfred Laurier's birth.

Lord Mountstephen has contributed \$50,000 to Queen Alexandra's fund for the London, Eng., unemployed, which now totals about \$400,000.

Hon. Mr. Aylesworth, the newly-appointed Postmaster-General, has been elected to the House of Commons as member for North York, Ontario.

Peter McKenzie, manager of the Hudson's Bay Co. at Montreal, has returned from a five months' trip in Labrador and Ungava. He reports an unusually prosperous year, with furs and fish abundant.

Alfred H. Green, by birth belonging to Prince Edward Island, and who lived for some years in St. John, N.B., has recently been appointed chief of the surveying department of Siam, in South-eastern Asia.

Our readers will remember the item of news appearing some weeks ago, which told of the capture of two Maritime Province men by the Russians. These two men, Robert Finlay and Charles Grant, were seized on board a Japanese sealing vessel, and kept in a Russian military prison for three months and a half. The Canadian Government enquired into the affair, with the result that the men were released. They tell vivid stories of the horrors of Russian prisons and the cruelty of Russian soldiers.

British and Foreign.

Resolutions, recommending the exclusion of Chinese, Japanese and Koreans, were passed by the American Federation of Labor.

One hundred and twenty-eight people lost their lives in the wreck of the London and Southwestern Railway Company's steamer, Hilda, in the English Channel, on the night of November 18th.

Another poverty parade of six thousand unemployed took place in the streets of London. Banners were displayed, bearing such devices as "Curse your charity, we want work!" and "There is a limit to human endurance." The crowds were very orderly.

Doings Among the Nations.

RUSSIA.

Some little improvement in the outward condition of Russia seems to have taken place during the last week. There is less bloodshed and rioting, the strike has been broken, and the strikers have gone back to work. But underneath it all there is no abatement of the discontent and bitterness. Count Witte has incurred the people's displeasure because of his moderate views in regard to reform. He believes that the elaboration of a constitution containing the charter of Russian liberties, to which the Emperor will swear allegiance, is the safest way out of the present difficulty.

TURKEY.

Recent despatches announce that the Sultan has rejected the proposal of the powers for international control of the finances of Macedonia. A fleet of the allied powers—Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia and Austria—is about to assemble at Piræus, a Grecian port, and make a naval demonstration to back up their demands. The plan is to seize a Turkish port and collect the customs until the Sultan yields.

The Sultan's refusal to their demands is based on his belief that the Mohammedan populace will support him; and he also appears to have gained confidence when Germany did not join the alliance. This attitude of Germany makes the situation more difficult, since if Germany should become an ally of Turkey, Italy and Austria could not fight against her without breaking their triple alliance. Russia is in no condition to render aid, so that the weight of the struggle falls upon Great Britain and France.

Handsome and Useful.

The farmer's knife came to hand yesterday. I am very well pleased with it. It is just what every farmer should have. Thanking you for the very handsome and useful knife you have sent me, I remain,

Yours respectfully, JAS. ALEXANDER.
Halton Co., Ont., Nov. 21st, 1905.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

The tobacco crop of Essex County, Ont., for this season amounted to about 12,000,000 pounds.

Of the twenty-eight million bushels of wheat passing inspection at Winnipeg, eleven and a half per cent. has been graded rejected, on account of weeds and smut.

The Marquis of Downshire, Ireland, has agreed to sell his farming lands to his tenants. The estate is the largest in Ireland, and is valued at about \$15,000,000.

Alderman Pay, of St. Catharines, has lately returned from a trip West, in the interests of Niagara fruit-growers. He considers that the Western plain can easily use all the fruit Ontario and British Columbia can supply.

A barrel of apples shipped from the Niagara district to Winnipeg was brought back and exhibited, to contradict the story that this district was shipping inferior fruit to the West. The apples are of splendid quality, and in good condition.

For the information of several readers who have been asking about the prize plans in the Macdonald beef and dairy barn plan competition, Prof. Jas. W. Robertson advises us that in the opinion of the judges they were not sufficiently meritorious to warrant their publication.

A press despatch from Amherst, Mass., stated that on the morning of November 17th the farm barns and dairies of the Massachusetts Agricultural College were burned to the ground, along with 40 head of registered cattle and 90 registered pigs. The total loss was estimated at \$100,000, of which no part was covered by insurance.

The joint Ontario Bureau of Colonization and Forestry, in charge of Thos. Southworth, has been transferred back to the Department of Agriculture, to which it formerly belonged. The bureau has charge of farm labor, land settlement, forestry, parks and forest reserves. The Crown Lands Department will retain control of the latter.

Charles Archibald, Beaver Brook, Colchester County, N. S., has made a record on an acre of land on his farm this season. He has just completed his harvest from it, and when all cleaned up the yield will give him \$100. If some of our farmers who are cultivating from 50 to 100 acres of land would give it the same care as this acre of Mr. Archibald's, they would be able to live on the interest of their money in course of a very few years. The yield was as follows: 8 barrels apples, 2 bushels plums, 30 barrels potatoes, 40 barrels turnips, 10 barrels mangels, 1 barrel beets, 2 barrels parsnips, 200 pounds squash.—[Moncton Times.]

Mr. C. N. Bell, Secretary of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, has sent samples of No. 1 hard, Nos. 1 and 2 northern, and Nos. 1 and 2 white oats, to the Secretary of the Corn Exchanges at the Baltic, London, Glasgow, Leith, Hull, Liverpool, Manchester, Gloucester, Dublin and Cork, Bristol Channel and West of England, Corn-trade Association of Bristol, and the Superintendent of the New York Produce Exchange. The letter accompanying the samples states that the object in sending the official standard samples is that, through the secretaries' assistance, the trade may learn definitely of the character of the average of grading by the Canadian Government inspectors of Manitoba wheat of this season's crop. They are also asked to retain a portion of each sample for purposes of reference in case of questions arising in connection with shipments of Manitoba wheat arriving in Britain without proper certificates of Canadian inspection.

Ontario Crops in 1905.

The November crop report, issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, indicates in a general way that fall wheat this year, though promising well before harvest, ripened too rapidly, and, consequently, the grain is in many instances shrunken and light in weight. Of spring wheat little is grown, but the quality this year is rated from medium to very good. Barley is reported as above the average in both yield and quality. Oats suffered in many parts from lodging, and while the yield is fair, there was considerable waste in harvesting, and the grain is light in weight, so that the general result is hardly up to the promise before harvest. Peas in both yield and quality are well up to the average, and the bug has done comparatively little injury. Corn in most sections was better than for three previous years, and most returns show an average yield. Potatoes promised an immense yield, but in some districts the rot set in, and heavy losses have resulted. Turnips have been a comparative failure, owing to the depredations of the aphid or turnip louse in many places.

Farm help continues scarce and unsatisfactory, and this is, perhaps, the most serious disability farmers have to contend with. While some of the British immigrants who have come in recently have given fair satisfaction, many of them are without previous knowledge of farm work, and are slow to learn, and have been far from satisfactory. Regarding wages, the general opinion appears to be that while skilled farm labor may command increased wages, the rate paid to green or unskilled men will remain about the same.