

Dairymen's Association Exhibition.

The cheese exhibition of the Dairymen's Association of Eastern and Western Ontario held at Hamilton was the largest exhibition that has ever taken place in Canada. There was some very close competition. The winner of the sweepstake prize of \$50 and the gold medal was Mr. Wm. Harris of Elora, who also took the first prize for the best white cheese made during the month of August. The maker of the cheese carried off the sweepstake prize for the best cheese made anywhere at the international dairy fair held in New York last December. The dairymen talk of an international dairy fair to be held in Montreal some time next year. The following is a list of the prize-winners:—H. S. Lossee, of Norwich, took first prize for best colored cheese made during the season; W. Waddell, of Corinth, second; C. J. Brown, Ingersoll, third. For best white cheese made during the season:—W. Harris, of Elora, first prize; Chas. Wilson, Ingersoll, second; L. R. Richardson, third. For best colored cheese made during the month of August:—First prize, Jas. Elliott, Dereham; second W. Waddell, Corinth; third, A. Atchison, Listowel. For best white cheese made during the month of August:—First prize, W. Hurley, Fullerton Corners; second — James, Nilestown; third, Jas. Elliott, Dereham. For best colored made in July:—First prize, A. Atchison; second, W. Squire, of Logan; third, James Elliott, Dereham. For best white made in July:—First, W. Hurley, of Fullerton Corners; second, — James, Nilestown; third, L. R. Richardson.

Canadian Rye and Barley.

A letter recently received in this city from Belgium by one of our foreign consuls, contained the following interesting paragraph: "There is a lively inquiry for rye at Antwerp, as there is very little in the warehouses. Canadian rye would bring here 24 francs (\$4.68) per 100 kilo. (A kilo is a fraction over 2 lbs.)" Many of our readers may not know that Canadian rye and barley is heavier and of better quality than that grown in the States and is worth an average of three cents per bushel more. Antwerp imports about 10,000,000 bushels of rye annually, and last year 300,000 bushels were taken from Montreal. She also imported last year 6,300,000 bushels of which were Canadian. If further encouragement is wanted to induce Canadians to sow heavy crops of both classes of cereals it is offered by the imports into Germany for 1879, which were obtained from official sources in this city, and which are as follows: Rye, 29,591,416 cwt.; wheat, 18,482,402 cwt.; barley, 6,441,146 cwt.; oats, 6,420,739 cwt.; maize, 4,083,808 cwt.

Letters received in this city show that merchants both in Germany and Belgium are fully aware of the excellence of the Canadian rye and barley, and our exports no doubt would have been much heavier in the past, if ocean vessels had not been driven from the St. Lawrence to New York by excessive pilotage, towage and port charges. —[Montreal Star.]

Sheep versus Weeds.

It is a matter not sufficiently known that sheep give material assistance in keeping land free from weeds. Many of the most pernicious weeds with which farmers have to contend are greedily relished by sheep in their early or soft state, and ultimately eradicated in this way. It has constantly come under our observation that land stocked to a greater or less extent with sheep is comparatively free from weeds, and we fear this great advantage of sheep farming is not appreciated by agriculturists. It may also be observed that the younger the pastures are when the sheep are put on to graze the more effectual they will be in keeping in subjection and finally killing out the weeds.

THE WHEAT MIDGE.—The wheat midge or fly is a serious depredator, which farmers with care can in a large measure mitigate, although none of the remedies practiced have been sufficient to insure the growing wheat from its ravages. Whenever the screenings of the fanning mill abound with the yellow larvae of the midge, they should be burned or fed under cover to swine and poultry. If thrown out the larvae will eventually mature into a swarm of flies, that will exist at the expense of the wheat crops the following season. Those larvae that leave the wheat heads previous to harvest remain in the fields tightly wound up and fettered in their cocoons. They may be diminished if not wholly exterminated by turning the wheat stubble under with a plow and burying them to such depth that, in their efforts to work their way up to the surface the following June, they will become exhausted and perish.

Poultry.

Hints to Beginners.

As we are in the midst of fall shows at present, and some readers of the ADVOCATE may have taken a fancy to some species or strains in this department, a few words may not be out of place.

Any who intend purchasing this or any season had better invest in some work on poultry and carefully peruse its columns, and compare his yards and taste. For all breeds are not alike in their requirements and dispositions, any more than horses, cattle or sheep.

To an old experienced breeder all kinds will bear confinement moderately well, yet there are some species that are out of their element in close quarters. To a new beginner there are many mishaps to be endured that only experience can tell. Because one has only small compartments he need not be discouraged. The majority of our exhibition birds are the occupants of very small apartments, as most of our poultry fanciers are residents of towns or villages.

Mr. H. M. Thomas, one of our most extensive breeders, says:—"All that is required to keep a pair or trio of fowls healthy in a box four feet square the year round is to provide them with plenty of food, but just only what they will eat up readily, and plenty of pure water every day; give them some kind of green food, such as carrots, onions, turnips, apples, or a small bunch of clover tied up tight and suspended in a corner of their box. The boxes must be kept clean, and sprinkled with coarse sand." He says that for years he has had twenty or thirty of those boxes side by side in a building erected for the purpose; and some fifty boxes, two feet square, where birds were kept for exhibition.

After this experience one need not despair to venture on one or two pairs. I know of parties who have kept successfully and made profit on ten hens and a cock in a box six by four feet, after supplying the table with fresh eggs the year round; they had four more small boxes, where hens were setting, and reared twenty-six chicks until large enough to supply the table with young boilers. These were Brahmas, but I would not be afraid to venture Leghorns at the same risk, for I have had seven confined in a place about large enough to turn around in, and a small separate box, secluded at the side, to lay in, in which were found four or five eggs every day during their incarceration.

If one has eight or ten dollars to spare, he may build a neat little house with proper accommodations, with a lath run outside. The eaves need not be above four feet high, the roof double-boarded and a window in the gable end, and augur holes bored in above the window for ventilation.

If purchasers would ask breeders to mate their stock for breeding purposes they would do so, and could sell pairs which would give better satisfaction as breeders than their exhibition birds, for this reason: When breeders mate for exhibition they pair as nearly alike as possible, and probably both may have a defect in the same point; whereas, if mated for breeding, there would be a choice made to check the defect in the offspring. For instance, if the cock had a red ear lobe, which ought not to be so in Leghorns, then the hen should be pure white, and vice versa. Your progeny would be more apt to count higher than if mated for exhibition only.

If you have none or little experience, you had better be content with one trio (two hens and a cock) for one year. Then you will have some experience and have gained some knowledge by reading works on the subject. CONTRIBUTOR.

Rye is an inferior food for poultry; wheat is the best, corn is next, oats next, and rye is inferior to all these. If a mixture of all is fed to a flock, the corn will be taken first, then the wheat, and the oats and rye last; but a mixture of all these would be preferable to any one singly. Fowls should not be confined to grain food alone; some green vegetable food should be given with it.

THE EXPORT OF APPLES.—A firm in London, have written to the Hamilton emigration agent, Mr. John Smith, asking them to place them in communication with some of the principal apple growers and shippers of this Province, as they are anxious to establish business relations with houses in that branch of business. The present season, they say, promises to be favorable for the shipment of apples of good quality to England, the English apple crop being a very small one.

The Apiary.

Preparation for Winter.

This is the last opportunity of the season to caution bee-keepers to know the precise condition of their bees. Examine every colony thoroughly and critically. If they are short of winter stores, supply more this month; if you find a colony weak, double it up with the next weakest; if you find a colony queenless, give it a good queen immediately. Get your cellar ready this month for putting your bees in, should a cold snap catch them next month; see that it is dry; put in your ventilators now and prepare the windows for darkening at a moment's notice. If you conclude to winter out-of-doors, do your packing this month—the sooner the better, for rains are coming on, to be succeeded by cold, frosty nights. Leave nothing to chance; but perform your duty promptly, thoroughly. If you have fine stock, you prepare proper food and stabling for them; you are under as great obligations to provide for your bees, which are more helpless. —*American Bee Journal.*

HONEY PLANTS.—Wherever the apiarist may be located, he should observe the time of the year when a scarcity of honey is likely to occur, and provide, if possible, for this contingency, and by taking note of the few nectar yielding flowers at this time, will discover what could be cultivated to advantage. In our dry sandy soil, which is so easily affected by drouths, we fail to find a better honey plant than sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*), blooming from the middle of June until late in autumn. 'It is mete' that we should talk about these things now, for the seed is ripening, and if it is scattered now upon the highways, gravelly banks, and waste places generally, as it is self-sowing and not eaten by stock, the honey flow may be materially increased. One of Canada's great honey producers furnishes this seed to hands working along the railroads, who carry it in their pockets at all times, sowing it wherever they disturb the soil.

The Skunk.

There is a constant war waged by the farmers generally against the skunk, which is widely considered as the persistent enemy of the poultry and is blamed for destroying large numbers yearly, especially in the winter season, about the time the snow begins to disappear. Though this has long been considered a fact, we have recently seen them highly spoken of in some American papers of good authority. The following we extract from an exchange:

It is well-known by hop farmers that the skunk is an invaluable assistant in the hop yard in destroying the hop-worms and out-worms which attack the tender vine; yet they have looked with indifference on the destructive warfare carried on against their friend and auxiliary, and which has been so nearly exterminated in some sections. The worms, not having the skunk preying upon them, have increased to such an alarming extent that the ground seems full of them, and a great cry has gone forth that the worms are eating up everything, for they not only attack hops, but corn, grain, grass and garden stuff suffer alike.

A writer in the American Journal of Science, says this animal is very dangerous in some sections where it is often affected by a disease which renders its saliva so poisonous that its bite is more to be feared than that of the rattlesnake. He gives many instances where persons have been bitten, generally with fatal, and always with dangerous consequences.

Bee-keepers find this animal a decided injury where the hives are set near the ground. It is very fond of honey, and will eat bees readily. Its depredations are nearly always committed in the night. It will alarm the bees by scratching on the entrance to the hive, and as the insects cannot fly by night they become a ready prey, and are eaten in large numbers. This nuisance may be avoided by setting the hives up a distance from the ground.

The Indiana Farmer, commenting on some Bokhara clover growing on the experimental plots connected with the State Agricultural Society, says: "It bids fair to become a valuable addition to plants of this class in this part of the country; it is of thrifty growth, and can be cut down or fed down two or more times during a season. It is of fragrant odor and an excellent bee plant."