

Manitoba Grain Growers' Executive Meet.

The executive of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association met in Winnipeg on the 17th and 18th insts. to discuss plans and actions. Those present were:

President, D. W. McCuaig, of Portage la Prairie; vice-president, R. C. Henders, of Culross; hon. president, J. W. Scallion, of Viriden; S. C. Doran, Brandon; W. G. Rogers, of Carberry, and William Miller, of Boissevain. In the absence of R. McKenzie, secretary, who was unable to be present, W. G. Rogers was appointed secretary pro tem.

A communication from the Retail Merchants' Association and also from the Jobbers' and Shippers' Association, of Winnipeg, was read, urging co-operation in obtaining redress from the very unsatisfactory transportation conditions now existing throughout Western Canada. The remedy suggested was reciprocal demurrage or a penalty to be paid by the transportation company to the shipper for neglecting to remove a car a minimum distance per day as per a resolution passed at the annual convention in February. A resolution was passed indicating the association's willingness to co-operate in the matter.

The action of the Government in securing amendments to the Grain Exchange by-laws was approved, but in the opinion of the executive the amendments do not yet fully meet the requests of the association, and the following resolution was accordingly carried:

"We, the directors of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association in executive meeting assembled, note with pleasure the action of the Government in securing amendments to the by-laws of the Grain Exchange, particularly those which refer to the elimination of competition in the purchase and handling of grain and also the removal of restrictions to membership in the Exchange. The amendments to rule 4, by-law 19, and amendments 7 and 8, do not seem to have been fully understood by the Government, and therefore as now amended do not meet our fullest approval, but in view of the fact that at the approaching conference we are assured that a full discussion and settlement of these matters will take place, we do not deem it advisable to make any further pronouncement at present. Carried.

In response to the many complaints received by the association from shippers at flag stations, it was moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Doran: That immediate steps be taken to secure suitable persons at all flag stations on the Canadian Pacific Railway to look after car order, book and seal cars, and that Mr. Henders interview the C. P. R. in the matter.

The following resolution was also passed: That in view of the coming conference for the discussion of Government ownership of elevators and other matters, which was postponed until June 5th and 6th, be it resolved that preparations for the same be made."

Horticulture and Forestry**Practical Advice on Planting a Garden.**

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

If I were growing vegetables for my family use only I would adopt the following method: Land in this country being both cheap and plentiful. I would select two plots, or one large plot say one hundred rods, cropping half, in alternate years. During June or July I would summer-fallow and surface cultivate, with a view to having my plot thoroughly clean, and free from weeds the following year; in August manure and plow again, and cultivate thoroughly, mixing manure with soil and leave till following spring. Then say first week in May a scratch over with the harrows will be all that is necessary; then get a Planet Jr. drill with cultivator attachment.

Sow from the 3rd to 9th of May—carrots, beets, parsnips, onions, peas, lettuce and parsley, in rows from twelve to sixteen inches apart. In one hour a man can sow of these seeds as much as one ordinary family will require for a year. Then from the 12th to 16th sow cabbage, celery, tomatoes, beans, marrow, cucumber, squash and pumpkin. If the plot is sloping choose bottom of plot or where you have the greatest depth of soil for celery and sow flat, not in trenches, leaving from five to six feet from row to row.

For cucumbers sow thinly in drill, not in hill, and let drills be from six to eight feet apart. This method for cucumbers will also apply to citrons. For squash and pumpkins, sow in drills about ten feet from drill to drill. When plants have grown from four to six leaves; thin squash and pumpkins from six to eight inches from plant to plant; citrons and cucumbers, from three to four inches from plant to plant, protect at night if danger from frost. For tomatoes sow in rows from three to four feet from row to row. Bake or otherwise destroy sixty per cent. of

seed; mixing destroyed and good seed thoroughly, and sow together. Plants will be found quite thick enough in this way. Set indicator as marked for carrots and sow from one half to three quarter inches in depth on level and even surface. In cabbage sow from twenty to twenty-four inches from row to row, and set indicator between turnips and carrots. For onions let the bed be hard and well packed; sow seed according to indicator on drill and thin from two to two and a half inches from plant to plant.

As to kinds: In carrots, Short Horn and Ox Heart are good both for crop and quality; Beans, Valentine and Wardwells Kidney Wax. These may be sown in drills three feet apart from May the 12th to June 6th for succession crop. Beet, Edmand's Red Turnip and Early Eclipse are both good. Cabbage for early use, Jersey Wakefield, for general crop, Winingstadt; Cucumber, for pickling and general use, Nichols Medium Green; Cauliflower seed being expensive it is advisable to raise in hotbeds or boxes and plant out, from 1st to 10th of June. (Early Snowball is the best.) Parsnip, Elcoms Giant, and Student, are good; onion, Extra Early Red, and Yellow Globe Danvers; lettuce, Toronto Gem, and Paris Coss; peas, Premium Gem, and Rennie's Queen; radish, Early Scarlet, and Improved Chaities; squash, Hubbard; celery, White Plume, and Paris Golden. There are many other good varieties, but the



A RHUBARB (PIEPLANT) LEAF FROM THE KOOTENAY COUNTRY.

above will be found to give satisfactory results. Last year I sowed everything in the open, with the exception of cauliflower, and had very satisfactory results even with cabbage, tomatoes, and celery, (especially the latter). I do not follow the method of summer-fallow, but crop all my land for garden products every year, but have merely suggested the advisability of having land ready in early spring when seeding is all the rage, vegetables, like everything else, to be successful must have early attention, and if grown in the way indicated, will give more profitable results than anything else on the farm, the labor being reduced to a minimum.

S. LARCOMBE.

[Mr. Larcombe is one of the most noted gardeners among our Western farmers.—Ed.]

POULTRY**Hopper Feeding.**

No one will doubt that the hopper method of dry feeding fowls saves a great deal of time, and consequently enables a person to care for a much larger number with the same amount of time and attention. Within the last two years so much advancement has been made in the methods of dry feeding that it has become almost the only method used on large poultry farms. When one feeds only once a day, or once a week, one can handle so many more fowls than by the old method that the profits are much greater.

A person who has always fed certain quantities carefully measured according to the number of fowls

naturally looks doubtfully at a method of feeding which allows the fowls to help themselves when they like. He fears over-eating and indigestion, etc. But one method of feeding cannot be judged by what one observes under the other method. For example, when a flock of hens have been fed, say a quart of grain, three times a day, and you set a dish of grain down in front of them, they at once proceed to gobble down all they can hold. It is natural to suppose that if the dish were left there and always kept full that they would continue to gorge themselves, but anyone who has tried it knows that this is not the case. Fowls that have access to a hopper eat a little now and then all through the day, but never much at a time and will run about digging for bugs and worms quite as industriously as hens fed twice or three times a day. Growing chicks which are fed all the mash they will eat three times a day, will consume more grain than if they have dry grain always before them, and fed no mash.

There is much dispute as to whether hens will lay more fed on mashes or on dry grain. When a poultry raiser has fed mashes and suddenly changes to dry grain he gets less eggs. If another suddenly changes from dry grain to mashes he gets less eggs. Each is sure that the new method is not so good as the old. Any sudden change lessens egg production.

There is absolutely no question but that a larger number of chicks live and thrive when fed dry feed in hoppers than when fed mash at intervals; hundreds of chicks owe their early deaths to wet corn meal. After chicks are old enough to eat whole grain, if given the run of a hopper full of grain and free range, they will do better than by any other method of feeding.

The easiest hopper to make is one made of an empty box five or six inches deep and of any length and width to suit the number of fowls to eat from it. Two feet long and eighteen inches wide is a good size. Boxes of this size and depth can usually be easily gotten at any store. If they are too high it is an easy matter to saw them down to five inches. All that is necessary to complete the feed box is a frame made like a mosquito bar frame for a window and covered with chicken wire. The frame should be enough smaller than the box to let it move up and down easily. There should be about a quarter of an inch between the edge of the frame all round and the sides of the box. Fill the box nearly full of grain and put the frame on top of the grain; as the grain is eaten the frame follows it and keeps the fowls from scratching it out over the sides. Laths can be nailed to the frame an inch apart instead of the chicken wire if desired. The only objection to this hopper is that some of the droppings from the fowls get into the grain, but not so much as one would suppose, and the quickness and ease with which it can be made recommends it. When used in a building it should be nailed up on the sill to keep the fowls from scratching the litter into it.

If one wishes a hopper which the fowls cannot get into for the hen house, one can make it by taking an eight inch board from four to eight feet long according to the number of hens. This board makes the bottom of the trough or hopper. Nail two eight inch pieces sixteen inches long on for ends of the trough. Let them project below the trough bottom four inches to keep it above the floor. Let the end pieces project upward from the bottom twelve inches; then saw the upper ends of these end pieces like the gable ends of a house to carry the roof of the trough; then nail a three inch strip along the bottom and a one inch strip at the eaves and nail lathstrips up and down between, wide enough apart for the hens to put their heads in. Nail two boards together V-shaped at the right angle to fit your gables and you have a cover which can be lifted off to put the grain in. It will keep the rain out if you wish to use it out of doors and will keep the fowls from getting into the grain when used indoors.

Most of the objections which come to one's mind before trying hopper feeding disappear when it is used. There is absolutely no danger that growing chicks will eat too much dry feed, nor that laying hens will over-eat when out on free range. When confined to the hen house in cold weather hens should be fed oats in a hopper and a moderate amount of wheat in the litter. Those that lay will not fatten. Those that do not lay and get fat can be sold to the butcher.

Crossfield, Alta.

W. I. THOMAS.

Use Care When Testing Eggs.

A poultry expert thus testifies in a contemporary on a point of interest to poultrymen:

"We believe many crippled chicks are made the first test. Anywhere from the fifth to the seventh day the eggs are tested. Frequently the egg is rolled between the fingers in front of the tester; sometimes held so close to the flame that the tender germ is cooked; again, so rudely handled as to break or disturb the blood vessels of the tender allantois, the growth which pushes out from the digestive canal of the embryo and which is seen as a bag or sack protruding from the navel. The allantois serves as a temporary lung by which the blood is oxygenated from the outer air, and injury to it at any stage is disastrous to the chick.

Handle the eggs the first twelve days of incubation as if each had a tender living organism inside which would be killed or crippled by careless movement.