

warm. While the flock usually laid a few eggs during the winter, better results have been obtained since the birds were partitioned off by themselves and a large opening made in the wall for glass and cotton. Poultry will not stand dampness, but it is almost impossible to avoid it unless the proper ventilation is given. It does not seem that this can be obtained satisfactorily through a ventilator in the roof; the curtain-front is a much more satisfactory means. It is not expensive and is easily put on. True, it collects dust, which has a tendency to clog the pores of the cotton and so keep out the air, but this can be remedied by occasionally cleaning the cotton. If your poultry house is damp and the cotton-front has not been tried as a remedy, it might pay to try it this winter.

### Balanced Rations for Hens.

Feeders of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs have claimed for years that these animals must be fed a "balanced ration." Special attention has been given to balanced rations for dairy cows. By this is meant that one food constituent should not be fed in excess, while another is lacking for the upkeep of the animal's body. The protein must be in a certain proportion to the sugars, starches and fat in the food. Now the hen comes in for her share in this scientific feeding.

Ten times as many eggs were produced by hens fed a well-balanced ration as by those given only corn, wheat and oats in an experiment conducted by the Ohio Experiment Station. The balanced ration consisted of three parts by weight of corn and one part of wheat fed twice daily in the litter, and a mash mixture of two parts meat scrap added to two parts ground corn and one part bran fed in self-feeding hoppers.

The 21 Barred Plymouth Rock pullets in each lot received the same house space and treatment, except for the difference in feed. The test period lasted for 140 days.

The hens given the balanced ration ate more feed, which cost about 50 per cent. more than the ration of corn, wheat and oats. However, they gained more in weight and produced ten times as many eggs, making a net profit while the other lot was kept at a loss.

## HORTICULTURE.

Is that small quantity of vegetable seed, so carefully harvested last fall, in a safe and dry place?

Watch for the seed catalogues. Select your varieties, and have your order placed in good time.

In all your planning for next season's operations, remember the great emphasis now being placed on quality.

What about the neglected farm orchard? Would it not pay to expend some labor now and later, as well as a few dollars in cleaning it up.

Don't allow the apples or vegetables in the pit to spoil for lack of covering or on account of too much covering, and remember that the snow is a good protection.

Will your spraying supplies be purchased co-operatively this year? Get an estimate of the requirements of your local association or a few of your neighbors and write for quotations.

Decomposing apples in barrels or boxes will affect those lying against them. It will pay well to sort them over early, and feed or destroy any that may be showing signs of disease or a tendency to rot.

It will soon be time to commence pruning. The disadvantages of winter pruning are perhaps more than offset by the lack of sufficient pruning, which is sure to result from the scarcity of labor if the job is left till spring.

Have your delegate to the annual Fruit Growers' Convention secure information regarding your local problems. It will help you and it will help the Convention. The very subject in which your local association is interested may not be discussed at the Central Meeting, unless your representative introduces it.

Fruit Growers' Conventions and local meetings will be held during the following three months. It was never more important than at present to know the latest ideas regarding cultural and marketing methods and these should be discussed fully at such gatherings. Your presence and ideas will help to make these meetings a success.

### Tramp the Snow Around the Trees.

If no protection has been afforded the young trees against mice and vermin of this kind, it would be well from this on to keep the snow firmly tramped around the trunks. Towards spring when the mice begin to get quite active and burrow through the snow long distances in search of food, the bark of the young tree is very likely to suffer if it happens to come in their way. When the snow is tramped about the stem, the mice are more inclined to divert their channels where the burrowing is easier, and the tree is spared. It would be a good plan after every snowfall to take a trip through the young orchard and make the snow firm about the trunks of

the trees. Watch for injury wrought by rabbits also. Sometimes a few fresh twigs cut from the branches and left on the ground will attract the rabbit and spare the tree.

### How to Prevent Sun Scald.

The injury to trees, known as sunscald, is confined principally to northern districts. Yet in almost every locality trees can be found in the various orchards that have been damaged in this way. It is caused by the alternate freezing and thawing of parts exposed to the hot sun in early spring. The bark on the southwest side looks unhealthy, dies and splits when dry; oftentimes the dead, blackened bark separates entirely from the stem, which either causes the tree to die or to become so weakened as to be useless. Oftentimes the oblique and horizontal branches exposed to the intense heat of the sun will be blistered, after which borers are very likely to gain a foothold and finish the work of destruction. Any orchardist who has noticed these unfavorable conditions existing in his plantation in former years would do well to prevent a future occurrence of sunscald.

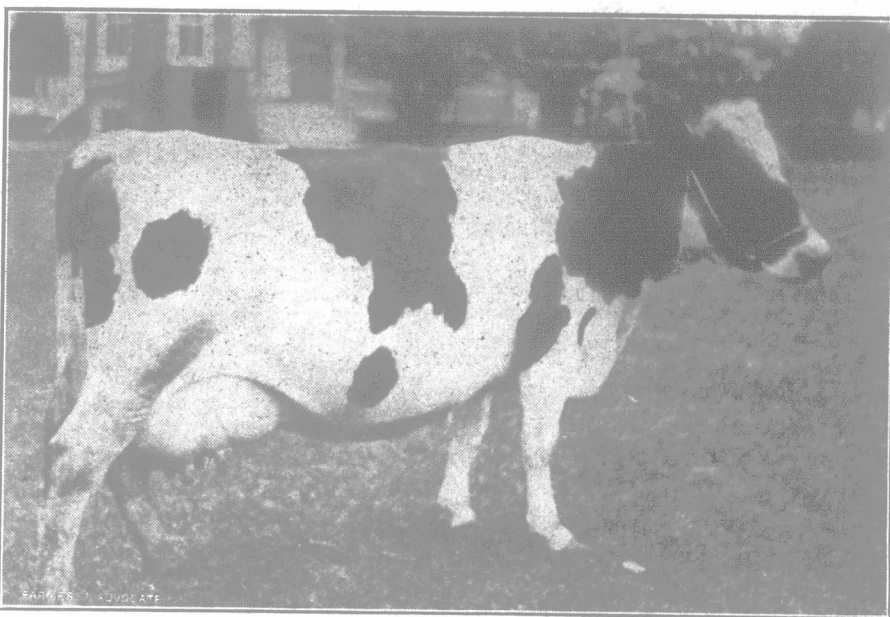
Some protection which simply breaks the force of the sun and does not entirely obstruct it is preferable. Under these conditions the bark is partially injured to exposure to sunshine, and will not suffer, but if it is entirely darkened from the sun it is liable to remain weakly and to become affected some other time. Finely woven wire netting rolled around the tree is serviceable, but too expensive to recommend at this time. Corn stalks placed against the exposed side of the stem will answer the purpose quite as well and incur no actual expense, except that for labor. Some fruit growers set a board on the exposed side, or two boards nailed together in a V-shaped or trough fashion. Lath can be driven into the ground on the southwest side of the tree and do quite as well. It is a very simple operation to prevent sunscald, yet there are thousands of trees that succumb to it every season.

Oftentimes the limbs are injured by this alternate freezing and thawing. Where winter pruning is done and there is danger from sunscald, it is not wise to thin the top of the tree too much, for if sufficient branches remain the sun's rays will be broken up before they strike directly on to the exposed side of the large limbs.

### The Characteristics of a Few Good Peaches.

There are many at this season of the year who are approached and requested to buy young peach trees for spring planting. Some may desire to do so and are not acquainted with the different varieties, their quality, color, or date of maturity. The following description of a dozen different varieties is taken from the Ontario Bulletin 201, and will convey considerable information to those who may be considering setting peach trees in the spring of 1917.

Alexander—The first peach of any importance to reach the market; it ripens early in August; it has poor quality, white flesh, cling pit; its only value is in earliness, but it comes into competition with southern fruit.



Toitilla De Kol Sarcastic 6189.

Official record for seven days: Milk, 534.4 lbs.; butter, 29.42 lbs. Dam of Toitilla of Riverside, present R. O. P. champion, with a record of 1057.5 lbs. butter and 24,049 lbs. milk in a year.

Triumph—This variety ripens about mid-August; it is largely planted but is not exceedingly popular on the market on account of its downy skin; in color it is dull and is a poor advertisement for what is to follow.

Yellow St. John—This is the first good yellow-fleshed peach to reach the market. It ripens from the middle to the last of August, has good color and good quality; it is a heavy bearer, a good shipper and is one that almost everybody grows.

Early Crawford—This kind ripens in early September; it has good quality, good color, is a good shipper and is well known to the trade. Many other varieties of the same type are sold under this name.

Garfield or Brigdon—This kind ripens about the

first of September. It is a good peach of the Crawford type; medium size, excellent color, a good shipper, and fills the space between St. John and Crawford.

Reeve's Favorite—This ripens with New Prolific; it has good size and color, is a good shipper and a favorite with a number of growers.

Niagara variety ripens the same time as Chair's Choice. It is inclined to bunch, but the quality is good. It is also a good shipper with large size.

New Prolific—This kind ripens from mid to late September. It is a very heavy bearer of medium size with good quality. It is a good shipper and responds in production to manure, cultivation and thinning. This latter quality caused a prominent grower to remark: "If I could grow but one variety it would be New Prolific."

Elberta—This popular variety ripens about ten days or two weeks after Early Crawford. It is large in size, of fair quality, and is one of the best shippers if not the best. It is the best commercial peach now grown and is more largely planted than any other variety.

Crosby—This is medium sized, flesh a rich yellow, a good canner, and one of the best quality peaches grown. Chair's Choice—This is a good peach of good quality and a good shipper. It is quite largely planted.

Smock—The best late peach we have. It has fair color, fair quality, is an excellent canner, and ships well to distant markets.

Any five of the above varieties would make a good combination for the commercial orchard.

To show the difference of opinion regarding the varieties, the choices of five prominent growers are here quoted:

I. Triumph, St. John, Crawford, (type), Elberta, Crosby, Chair's Choice, Niagara and Smock.

II. Triumph, St. John, Crawford, Fitzgerald, Elberta, Niagara.

III. St. John, Fitzgerald, Reeve's Favorite, Jacques Rareripe, Elberta and Oceana.

IV. St. John, Fitzgerald, Crawford, Reeve's Favorite New Prolific, Elberta.

V. St. John, New Prolific, Elberta and Niagara.

It will be noticed that St. John and Elberta appear in every list. The former is one of the best early peaches we have. Elberta comes later with good quality and is an excellent shipper. The smaller varieties are gradually being discarded, as size and color bring the price. The four following are preferred by the factories for canning purposes: Hill's Chili, Elberta, Crosby, and Smock.

## FARM BULLETIN.

### The Mystery of Lord Brunswick.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

That sounds a good deal like the title of an old-fashioned, three-decker novel, but I can't help it. What I propose to write about this week seems more like romance than reality, and it may as well be given a romantic title. The papers tell us that we are to have a new Canadian Lord who will probably take the title of "Brunswick" in honor of his native province, New Brunswick—and thereby hangs a tale. If I am not mistaken this will be our first native-born, Canadian Lord. Shaughnessy was an American, Strathcona a Scotchman, and I think Mount Stephen was also British born. Anyway, our new Lord is a native-born Canadian, and about the most surprising specimen we have yet produced. Only about forty years of age, with the appearance of a chubby-faced boy; he has to his credit the accumulation of many millions of dollars, a seat in the British House of Parliament, a baronetcy, and now a seat in the House of Lords. Assuredly Max Aitken, to give him his baptismal name, is a hummer. Outside of the inner circle of High Finance, practically no one had heard of him until he was ready to emigrate to England, a full-fledged multi-millionaire. My first acquaintance with his name "synchronized" with the job of putting a cement foundation under the house. While the work was in progress the price of cement went up forty cents a barrel, and on making a wrathful investigation I found that the new price was ascribed to the activities of Max Aitken, who had reorganized, merged and otherwise high financed the cement industry. Then I found that when nobody was looking, he had merged a whole lot of other Canadian industries, and it was suspected that the low level of the water in the Great Lakes at that time was due to the amount he had used in his stock flotations. And just when Canadians were waking up to the fact that we had a wizard of finance "in our midst," and were undecided whether to lionize him or "leave 'arf a brick at 'im" he suddenly emigrated to England. Shortly afterwards he got into the British Parliament and acquired the title of Sir Max. This was a great mystery which has