

### SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE TURKEY AND WATER-FOWL CLUB.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In giving the list of officers for 1908 of the Turkey and Water-fowl Club, page 2014, December 19th issue, you have Sec.-Treas., Mr. Thos. Scott, St. Thomas, Ont. It should be Vice-President, Mr. Thos. Scott; Sec.-Treas., W. J. Bell, Angus, Ont. I trust you may make this correction to prevent delay and trouble to Mr. Scott in getting correspondence to me.

As Sec.-Treasurer of this Club, permit me to say that I was greatly pleased at the amount of space you gave to the description of these varieties as exhibited at the Winter Fair.

Turkeys and water-fowl are raised chiefly by farmers, and are generally ignored in the reports of fairs by the poultry papers, or handled in this way: "Turkeys, geese and ducks made a good exhibit."

We have 26 members thus far in our Club for 1908, and any information that your many readers may desire with reference to this Club will be cheerfully furnished.

W. J. BELL,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

### GOOD WINTER EGG PRODUCTION.

C. C. McKellar, of Middlesex Co., Ont., sends us a tabulated monthly egg record of his flock of 25 hens, which laid in January 26 dozen and 3 eggs; in February, 22 dozen and 6; March, 28 dozen and 4; April, 38 dozen and 7; May, 24 dozen and 5; June, 25 dozen and 11; July, 24 dozen and 8; August, 17 dozen and 10; September, 17 dozen and 8; October, 7 dozen and 2; November, 5 dozen and 5; December, 1 dozen. The twelve-months' production of 243 dozen and 1, although good, is not remarkable, figuring out to an average per hen of between 116 and 117 eggs, but the production during the winter months is most creditable indeed. It would add greatly to the value of the item, however, had Mr. McKellar described his system of care and feeding. We always like to hear what our readers have done, but the HOW is of more practical value. The breeding, housing, feed and management should all be given.

## APIARY.

### MICHIGAN STATE BEEKEEPERS MEET.

Michigan, one of the leading States in the Union for beekeeping, held its recent annual convention at Saginaw. The attendance, owing to the series of comparatively poor seasons, was only fair, being in the neighborhood of seventy-five. The Canadians present were: Messrs. F. J. Miller, Treasurer Ontario Beekeepers' Association, London, and R. F. Holtermann, Brantford. The convention opened at the City Hall, Wednesday, December 18th, the President, W. Z. Hutchinson in the chair. The first address was by Mr. Holtermann, the subject being "Co-operative Experiments in Beekeeping." The inception and growth of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union was explained, and the educational value of co-operative experiments brought out. Upon resolution by the Hon. R. L. Taylor, Lapeer, Mich., it was decided that the members of the Association would co-operate in testing the effect upon a more even finish of outside and inside rows of sections of comb honey by putting a double bee space next the super walls, and putting a wedge-shaped piece of board, the length of the side of the hive, the wedge being  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch at the front, running to a point at the back, thus compelling the bees to reach the supers largely by means of the sides of the hive and supers.

The National Beekeepers' Association was invited to meet at Detroit for the next convention. Information has been given out that Detroit will be the place for the next convention. It will likely be held in October, and from seventy-five to one hundred Canadians are expected to attend. F. J. Miller advocated, in the production of extracted honey by beekeepers having out apiaries, that the combs of honey be hauled home to a central honey and extracting house.

Mr. E. E. Coveyou, Petoskey, Mich., stated that he hauled the combs from his out-apiaries home in a carload lot; heated the combs to a high temperature, when the honey would extract more readily, then extracted, using a gasoline engine as power, and a strainer (cone-shaped) in the bottom of the extractor, as invented by Mr. Holtermann. He heated the unstrained honey on the bottom of the honey extractor, so it would strain more readily. An electric alarm-bell notified him when the package he was filling had the required weight, and, also, closed the honey gate.

Mr. L. A. Aspenwall, Jackson, Mich., ex-President of the National Association, gave an instructive address upon his experiments with the non-swarming hive. After crowding the hive so brace and burr combs were numerous, even with such treatment, running for comb honey, he had succeeded in getting only one colony to swarm out of thirty-one. Mr. Aspenwall exhibited a queen-catcher, which he had been using for five years, and he also signified his intention of giving one to each beekeeper attending the Brant District Bee Convention, which he will attend in Brantford, on January 21st to 23rd, next.

W. J. Manning gave one of the happiest addresses of the convention. His subject was "Winter Losses." He stated he should be able to speak upon the subject, for he had lost 50 to 75 per cent. of his bees ever since he began. Last winter he only had one colony to come through, out of 125.

He attributed his losses to aster honey, gathered late in the fall. He advised those who lost their bees to preserve, or, at least, render into wax the combs left in the majority of cases. Formerly, beekeepers allowed the combs to be utterly destroyed by moths. He bought bees every spring, and, in spite of his winter losses, made money out of them.

In the winter of 1903-04, he had 225 colonies of bees, and found them all dead in February. From the old comb, he secured about 2½ lbs. of wax to the colony. A near neighbor, at the same time, lost all his colonies—147. He bought his combs for \$40, and made a good profit.

Mr. E. D. Townsend, Remus, Mich., gave an address on rendering wax. He advised cooling the wax in wooden boxes, covering them to keep in the heat. This prevented cracking of the comb, and, also, allowed impurities to settle to the bottom before the wax hardened.

## GARDEN & ORCHARD.

### THE QUEBEC POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S MEETING.

On December 18th and 19th, the Quebec Pomological and Fruit-growing Society held its annual winter convention at Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que. In the absence of the President, Aug. Dupuis, Vice-President Robt. Brodie, of Westmount, occupied the chair. The presidential address, forwarded by Mr. Dupuis, expressed warm thanks to Dr. Robertson for having invited the Association to hold its meeting in that institution, and remarked that from one end of the Province to the other were heard expressions of gratitude towards Sir William Macdonald for his munificent gift. The college had been founded, erected, equipped and royally endowed for the following noble purposes:

1. The advancement of education, the carrying on of research work and investigation, all with particular regard to the interests and needs of the population in rural districts.

2. To provide suitable and efficient training for teachers, and specially for those whose work would directly affect the education in schools in rural districts.

J. C. Chapais, of Kamouraska, in a paper on tree surgery, discussed methods of dealing with damaged trees, the straightening of bent or broken-down limbs, etc., so as to get them in the best shape. Prof. W. Stuart, of Burlington College, Vt., read a paper on the growing of an apple orchard. His opinion is that there are not enough young orchards growing up to meet the increasing demand for apples. He spoke of the orchard site with suitable soil and good air drainage. As to varieties, he would depend upon the formation of the orchard site, and the markets in which it was intended to dispose of the fruit. Prof. W. S. Blair, of the Macdonald College, gave a practical talk on pruning, illustrated by demonstrations.

R. W. Shepherd discussed the Fameuse (Snow) apple. He touched on its obscure origin and its long cultivation in this country, and said that for centuries it had proved superior in quality to all other Quebec apples, and the most profitable. But, he asked, were we going to preserve it? Many trees had been killed by severe winters, and very few orchards of Fameuse were now being set out. Too little care had been taken in selecting scions from perfectly healthy trees; hence, the weakness of constitution in most of our Fameuse. Unless orchardists undertook to set out new orchards of Fameuse, the variety must die out. He predicted that in twenty-five years from now the Fameuse would be a scarce apple in this Province, and the prices for good fruit of that variety would advance every year. The constitution of the tree, he suggested, might be improved, or its longevity increased, if it were top-grafted on hardy stocks, like McMahon, or other similar robust stocks, which would overcome, at least, a tendency towards sun-scald and disease of the trunk, or winter-killing.

In the evening of the first day, Principal Robertson, addressing the Society on "Education for Horticulture," expressed the hope that they would long be identified in working together for the building up of this Province in all its rural interests, and particularly in those of producing larger quantities of better fruit, in order that the people might be prosperous, and enjoy life better through knowledge of better life. Any education worthy of the name was the learning of the lessons of consequence, not merely listening to what some man said in the class-room, or in the orchard, or in the school, but in the market. The school had been separated from these lessons regarding rural life, and, therefore, the people who lived in rural parts had not been prepared to live life at its best. Having defined education as meaning the power to improve those around you, he said that the Macdonald College, both as a body of instructors and students, hoped to make progress, and hoped to help this whole part of Canada by adding to the store of knowledge possessed by each member, by adding to the sum total of knowledge what was best, true and beautiful.

Mrs. J. E. Torrance, of Chateauguay, read an in-

teresting paper on "Our Summer Fruits: Their Value in Our Diet," and Prof. John Craig, of Ithaca, N. Y., formerly of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, spoke on "Co-operation in the Marketing of Apples." Among the advantages were that each grade of fruit could be made the best of its class, each grade could be made uniform, the packages could be made uniform and attractive, the confidence of the buyer was established, expenses of transportation were lessened, better prices were secured, and the expense of growing might be very much reduced in purchasing necessary supplies.

"Ten Forms of Winter-killing, and What We Know About Them," was the subject of a practical address by W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Anyone who had tried to be an orchardist in Quebec Province well knew what winter-killing meant. If an accurate estimate could be made of the fruit trees which had been winter-killed in the Province of Quebec during the past 300 years, the number would reach millions, representing millions of dollars. The terrible destruction from this cause had been a great discouragement among the people, and it was one reason for the slow development of the fruit industry. Much of this loss, he pointed out, could have been avoided if only the hardiest trees had been planted. For a long time it was not known which were the hardiest and most suitable trees for the different districts. Now, however, experiments had been made by the Central Experimental Farm, and there was no reason for anyone not knowing which were the most suitable trees for his district.

The ten forms of winter-killing he mentioned were: Root killing, bark splitting, trunk splitting, sun-scald, trunk or body injury, crotch injury, killing back, black heart, killing of dormant buds, killing of swollen buds, and these he described at length.

Mrs. A. L. Jack, Chateauguay Basin, had forwarded a paper on "A Plea for the Improvement of Rural-school Grounds," in which she advocated school gardens as a means of nature study for the children, and said that such study taught patience and perseverance, and made for good citizenship.

Mr. T. L. Kinney, of South Hero, Vt., speaking on "Home Storage for Apples," pointed out the lack of it at present among fruit-growers, and showed how it would enhance their profits by enabling them to hold their fruit until a suitable price could be obtained, instead of selling it, in many cases at a small figure, to the commission man at the time it was ripe, and letting him reap the profit. He also pointed out how easy it was to construct such storage, and the advantages which would accrue if the fruit-growers in a district combined in this direction.

Dr. Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist, Ottawa, spoke on "Insects Injurious to Fruit and Vegetable Crops," and, in a popular way, conveyed much useful information.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Patrons, Hon. S. A. Fisher, Ottawa, and Hon. Jules Allard, Quebec; Hon. President, Mr. R. W. Shepherd, Comox; Hon. Vice-President, Mr. Auguste Dupuis, Village des Aulnaies; President, Mr. Robert Brodie, Westmount; Vice-President, Mr. G. Reynaud, Oka; Secretary, Mr. Peter Reid, Chateauguay Basin. Directors—District No. 1, Mr. G. B. Edwards, Covey Hill; No. 2, Mr. J. M. Fisk, Abbotsford; No. 3, Mr. G. P. Hitchcock, Massawippi; No. 4, Mr. A. D. Verreault, Village des Aulnaies; No. 5, Mr. M. Lemoine, Malbaie; No. 6, Mr. C. P. Newman, Lachine Locks; No. 7, Dr. W. Grignon, Ste. Adele; No. 8, Mr. N. E. Jack, Chateauguay Basin; No. 9, Prof. W. Saxby Blair, Ste. Anne de Bellevue.

In the afternoon of the second day, Mr. C. P. Newman, Lachine Locks, read a paper on "Experiences with the Fruit Crop of 1907," in which he spoke of the girdling of fruit trees by mice, and said that the season was the worst he had experienced. Winter injury to apple trees was mostly confined to Ben Davis, and in his orchard about 60 per cent. of these had been practically destroyed. Apples were not, generally, too thick on the trees, but, except in a few instances, orchards were free from spot.

### SUCCESSFUL FRUIT INSTITUTES.

The Farmers' Institute branch of the Department of Agriculture has taken a marked step in advance in the line of agricultural education. A three-days' meeting has just been held at Grimsby (December 16th, 17th, 18th), with an attendance of over 80 men from Grimsby and the surrounding district. The printed programme was followed as closely as possible, and the discussions by local men took up every minute of the time allotted. Never before in the history of Farmers' Institute work have the fruit-growers taken so active an interest as that manifested at the Grimsby meeting.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Putnam, Supt. of Farmers' Institutes, was present, and gave a short talk on the scheme attempted for the first time in Ontario. He in every way encouraged the farmers to form farmers' clubs, and hold monthly or even twice a month meetings, for the discussion of local subjects, and increase the knowledge, and, as a consequence, the wealth of each community. The Department is willing to do all within reason to assist farmers' clubs, and short courses of instruction by furnishing lectures on special subjects. Any local Institute desiring a course similar to the one put on at Grimsby, and followed by the one on December 18th, 19th