

Fruit in Algoma.

It is too early in the season to say to what extent the present severe winter will affect fruit buds and trees, but, judging from past experiences, am not at all anxious, and so far feel safe in saying that little or no harm has been done. Our conditions here have been very different from those further east—no soft or mild weather since winter set in. A soft day with bright sunshine, followed by a keen frost in the latter end of march and through April is much more likely to do injury, to buds especially.

We shall spray before the buds swell with Bordeaux mixture, and probably wash trunks with mixture of slacked lime and wood ashes, as a partial preventive of sun-scald, also to give vigor to the wood and kill any insect harboring under the loose bark.

Apples and small fruits, except blackberries, strawberries and currants, are particularly to be recommended.

In planting varieties suitable to our conditions and climate, we have now a well selected list of fruits that are especially suited to a northern climate, and mature to greater perfection than further south.

As fruit-growing, with most of us, is only a sort of side line, more or less neglect is to be looked for, perhaps want of care or proper attention in forming a handsome, symmetrical head is more evident than anything else. Clean cultivation before the trees come into bearing is also neglected. CHAS. YOUNG.

Algoma Fruit Station.

POULTRY.

Trap Nests.

A poultryman asks us to publish a description of a trap nest. That given below was furnished us by a Huron County reader. The nest box is very simple and inexpensive. There can be as many made in one section as is desired. Each one is two feet long and one foot square (they would be better a little higher). A division board (or rather four thin strips about two inches wide, nailed together at the corners) is placed eleven inches from the back end and twelve inches from front end. Instead of a close door at the entrance, it is made of lath, spaced just wide enough so a hen cannot get her head through (or it might be made of wire-netting tacked to a light frame). The door is made small enough so there will be no friction. It is hinged at the top and opens up into the box. Drive a small hardwood peg in the middle of the bottom bar of the door.

The trip is merely a piece of wire (stiff enough so a hen will not bend it), about fifteen and one-half inches long, bent as shown in the cut. A piece of board three and one-quarter inches wide, and just long enough to reach across the top of box inside, is nailed flat-ways in front of the division board, and one-half an inch below the top, with the space of one-quarter inch being left between the edge of the board and the division. This board is merely to support the trip-wire.

Next slip the long part of the trip-wire down (through the quarter-inch slot) close to and in front of the center of the hole in the division board, letting the three and one-half inch piece of wire rest on the narrow board. Small wire staples are driven over wire into the board to hold it in position, yet let it roll sideways easily.

The hen passing in at the door (which, by the way, is held up on the half-inch piece of wire by the wooden peg) goes on into the next apartment, pressing the wire to one side in so doing, loosening it from its connection of the door, which swings down in its place and the hen is secured. We have not used any fastening, as the door with us stops in its place.

Trip Wire.

Poultry Experience.

Tell what you know—not so much the theories you contemplate as the results of your actual experiences. This telling is doubly beneficial: it indelibly impresses facts upon the mind of the teller, and teaches someone else that can benefit by your knowledge.

There are many poultry men and women who have been successful in varying lines of poultry culture, whose experience if given to the world would do them and others much good. Fortunately, none of us can "know it all," and if those who are successful in one line will give their treatment and results, another in a totally different direction, the first would be benefited by the second, and vice versa.

There are many in the Province who have been able to get fresh eggs every day during this winter; at the same time this man or woman has "no luck" in raising chickens. On the other hand, someone has "good luck" raising chickens, but cannot get fresh eggs during the winter. Let us have our experiences, and if you have kept a profit and loss account, we would be glad of that too. It is your experience that will be valuable and helpful.

Difference Between the British and Home Markets.

One of the differences between the British and the home market is that our consumers do not object to a large bird, which usually means a later one; nor do our consumers have such pronounced objection to yellow tinge of flesh or leg. The later bird is somewhat an easier one to produce, certainly, but it comes when the market is well stocked with similar birds, and prices are generally lower. It is obviously better to produce the earlier chickens. As a result of this difference in the phases of the two markets, there is a possibility of a twofold opportunity for our farmers to make money by taking advantage of the early demand for export chickens and the later birds for home use. An objection to certain strains of three and four months old cockerels of standard breeds, is that of sharp and prominent breastbone with absence of flesh. In numerous cases noticed this has not been such a cause of complaint at five or six months of age, but we are warned, as already noted, that our birds of either age named, and which would probably be of seven or eight pounds weight each, are too large for the British consumer. We then fall back on our later home market, which, as already remarked, offers no such objections, provided the birds have been well fed and cared for, and show flesh of good color and fine grain—as a rule, sure indications of tenderness. In no case should quality be a secondary consideration. It is gratifying to note from Dr. Boulbee's letter that the quality of our birds is rapidly improving. Objection to sharp breastbone and yellow tinge of leg and flesh, the latter more particularly from the English consumer, experience has shown can be overcome by breeding from selected birds.

Waterloo Co., Ont.

G. E. SCHMITT.

Producing a Laying Strain.

EXPERIENCE FROM B. C.

Now that incubators and rearers have reached such a high state of perfection, there is no reason why every farmer should not take advantage of them, and aim at a higher grade of poultry than is to be found on the average farm. Now is the time to select the birds to breed from for next winter's layers.

In hatching out chicks for winter laying pullets, it is best to use eggs from one-year-old pullets and two-year-old cock; the chicks should be hatched between the middle of March and May, then they will not moult the first season; for the first twenty-four hours no food should be given, as they are provided for by nature for this time, then give hard-boiled eggs and bread crumbs mixed with milk that has had the chill taken off. After the third day a little oatmeal may be introduced, mixed stiff enough to crumble; after that a few groats (hulled and crushed oats or wheat) should be given, also a little finely-chopped green and underdone meat.

At first chicks require to be fed every two hours, and when a week old the last feed at night should be bruised oats and barley. Always see that they have a liberal supply of pure water, which should have been previously boiled. Do not give more food than will be eaten at a time; vary the diet as much as possible through the day. When about four or five weeks old remove them to a house provided with a good run; let them lie on straw until their bones are set—they will be warmer and less liable to crooked breastbones than if allowed to perch. See that they have plenty of sharp grit. As soon as you are able to pick the cockerels from the pullets remove them to separate pens, and do not let any male birds run with the pullets until the middle of September. It is well that only a few birds be kept in each pen, about nine females to one male; if more are kept it will be necessary to have two cocks. We have often found this to be the cause of eggs not being fertile, as the cocks hinder one another from mating. By the end of December those that have proved their winter-laying qualities should be separated to a pen by themselves. Then choose a cock that is known to be of a good laying strain, and breed your next year's birds from these only.

By carefully selecting your pullets each year in this way you will soon have a reliable strain. It has been proved that a cross between the Langshan hen and Black Minorca cock surpasses all others. The house must be kept very clean; the inside lime-washed every three months, and all chickens gathered up twice a week. Good light and ventilation must also be provided; houses that have but little light are very liable to be infested with insects. In winter the morning feed should consist of boiled potatoes and barley meal given warm; at midday a little green food and hay or sweet, giving hard corn (mixed) at night. Never let the birds get too fat, as many injuries are caused in this way. A little salt added occasionally helps to keep them in good health. Coquitlam, B.C.

E. T. BIGGS.

EVENTS OF THE WORLD.

Earthquake shocks in the vicinity of Albuquerque, New Mexico, are causing much alarm among the residents of that part of the State.

A woman and eleven children were burned to death in a house at Chicoutimi, Que., on the night of Feb. 29th.

President Roosevelt has signed the proclamation putting into effect the treaty with Panama regarding the Isthmian Canal.

Fourteen people were drowned by being swamped in small boats while attempting to escape from fire on the Steamship Queen, near Port Townsend, Wash., U.S.

Paul Kruger, ex-President of the Boer Republic, is slowly dying at Mentone, France. His mind is failing, and he lives in seclusion, rarely conversing with anyone.

A five-million-dollar fire occurred in the business center of Rochester, N.Y., recently. Help was obtained from the fire brigades of Buffalo and Syracuse.

Captain Thacker, of the Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery, Quebec, has been chosen as the Canadian military attaché to go with the Japanese army and watch war operations in the Far East.

A company of French soldiers were overwhelmed by an avalanche recently while crossing a portion of the lower Alps. Nineteen men were buried under the snow, six being killed and the rest severely injured.

The cannibal tribes of Nigeria, Africa, have instituted a rising against the missionaries and white population of that part of the country, and a number of native Christians have been massacred. A force of 300 British troops has been sent to the disaffected district.

Lord Morpeth, Liberal-Unionist, carried the South Birmingham by-election by a majority of 3,076, the largest on record. The main issue of the election was preferential tariff to the colonies, and London newspapers ascribe the victory to Mr. Chamberlain's influence.

A gradual cave-in in the anthracite region of West Scranton, Pa., has affected an area of about 40 acres, upon which stood 200 houses. Many of the houses are completely wrecked, others are out of plumb, and nearly all are twisted so that neither doors nor windows can be opened.

According to a recent despatch, Austria and Russia are likely to intervene co-operatively in the Balkans. Orders for the mobilization of the Austrian army have been issued, military, railway and transport officers have been appointed, and higher officials in the army have been told to grant no leave of absence to officers. The Albanian revolt is spreading daily, and it is asserted that the Turkish Government is concentrating large bodies of troops along the Servian frontier.

Details of the successive events which led to the expedition into Tibet have recently appeared in the London Times. Briefly, these are as follows: In 1886, Tibetan troops invaded a State under British protection, and were dispersed by the British. The Chinese Government, claiming suzerainty over Tibet, now interfered, and entered into negotiations with the Government of India, whose result was the signing of the treaty of 1890. In 1903, British and Chinese commissioners met, and drew up a set of regulations to facilitate the working of the treaty. Both regulations and treaty were, however, treated as a dead letter by the Chinese and Tibetans, and the Indian Government, losing patience, at last despatched Col. Younghusband and his force to demand that the treaty obligations be carried out. It now appears that this Tibetan indifference has been due to Russian influence. Little by little, a chain of intrigue by which Russia hoped ultimately to acquire control in Tibet is being evolved; and it is believed by many that the move initiated by Lord Curzon was taken just in time to prevent a Russian protectorate over Tibet being announced.

There has been a surprising lack of confirmed news from the Far East during the past week. A report of the sinking of two Russian warships and a torpedo-boat has been contradicted, although the silence of the wires has been taken as an indication that an attack on Port Arthur may be