

for, as the writer of the third-prize essay on "My Most Profitable Mistake," in your issue of Jan. 11th, said, "Mites can inflict more torture in one-half hour than any other thing fifty times their size." I also can testify to this, having been kept awake a whole night looking for a half dozen or so, obtained by coming in contact with a door of a henhouse infested with them. I am thankful to say, though, that it was not my own door.

3. Ventilate much and often, but avoid drafts. Drafty houses do not mean well-ventilated ones.

4. See to it that the hens have grit, lime in some shape, green feed and water before them all the time; meat and charcoal, as often as necessary.

5. Feed liberally on good wholesome food, but not so much that the hens will go back to roost through the day, and not take exercise, looking for more feed. Exercise is absolutely necessary in the production of eggs.

6. Have plenty of nests and keep them clean. Use nest eggs, not, as one writer, who considers nest eggs a fallacy, said, "to make the hens lay," but for a saner reason, to keep the hens from all laying in one nest, and often crowding one another out or breaking the eggs. A hen likes to see an egg already in the nest where she goes to lay.

7. Follow this advice, and get your egg-basket ready. A SUBSCRIBER.
Carleton Co., Ont.

Poultry Housing in British Columbia.

I have a shack 12 x 12 x 12 which I intend to convert into a small henhouse. It is double-boarded—that is, it has matched boards on either side of the studding, and the space between is packed with shavings, and the roof is shingled. It has a small window in the north side, which I intend to board up. The door is in the south side. Now, how about the open front, or do you think this climate is too cold—we get it down to 40 degrees below zero quite often—or would you advise putting in a fair-sized window in half the south side, the other half in factory sheeting, as you advise W. C. in the issue of December 21st, or would clean sacking answer the purpose, and would this be enough ventilation, or would it be too cold for this climate? I thought of starting with about one dozen pure-bred Barred Rocks.

British Columbia.

M. G.

Ans.—A house this size is large enough for twenty-five birds, at least. Making a false ceiling of poles six and a half feet high in front, which should be the south side, and the same, or somewhat lower, at the back, over the roosts. Fill the space above with litter material, if convenient. In any case, spread a foot of straw over the poles. Make a small door in the southern exposure of the loft, and see that straw is piled against this, or else cotton tacked up to prevent snow drifting in. The south side of the poultry apartment may very well consist of one-third glass and two-thirds cotton, or one-third cotton, and the remaining third double boards. The glass should be in the center, and should extend from near the ceiling pretty well down to the floor. Provide a curtain to drop behind the glass on bitter-cold nights. For the door of such a house, which should be either on the south or the east side, a sheet of cotton may be tacked over a light framework of material about twice as heavy as lath. This frame may be held in place on one side by an upright batten, and on the other by a removable spike or bolt. When weather permits, this door may be left partly or wholly open. Of course, an ordinary hinged, wooden door, such as you have, may be used, and is to be commended, but for cheap temporary construction, the writer has found the framed cotton very satisfactory. Sacking will do in place of cotton, but does not admit so much light. In cold weather, see that your house is banked well around the bottom with earth, straw, manure, snow, or something of the kind.

Egg-Laying Race at Storrs.

During the first ten weeks of the international egg-laying contest of 100 pens of five birds each, at the Storrs (Conn.) Experiment Station, under the auspices of the Philadelphia North American, 873 eggs were laid. Every week since the first has shown an increase over the preceding week, and the grand total for the ten weeks was 4,923. The tenth-week showing was considered particularly good, in view of the cold snap that froze some of the White Leghorn combs. An English pen of the latter breed hold the record during the period with 202 eggs—an American pen of Leghorns being second, with 145. Beulah Farm, Hamilton, Ont., ranks fifth, with 122, by a pen of White Wyandottes. In the lay for the tenth week, the English pen were down to nineteen eggs, the leaders being Pennsylvania pens of Rhode Island Reds and White Leghorns, with 24 eggs each.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Topical Fruit Notes.

ABOUT PLUMS.

As a rule, the plum is not considered a very profitable fruit. In comparison with the peach and cherry, year in and year out, it certainly has not been so profitable, but there are some years that the plum comes into its own, and then the proprietor of an orchard reaps his reward for placing some dependence on this most plebeian of fruits. On the whole, then, it is advisable for a fruit-grower to plant a fair percentage of his farm to plums. The canning factories are using considerable quantities, and the great Northwest markets are annually increasing their demands. Last season, prices ranged from 25c. to 45c. per basket of 11 quarts, and at this price there is very good money in plums. However, they have not been planted so extensively of late years, because they often produce in such great quantities that a severe glut, with consequent slump in prices, is the result. Often I have seen magnificent crops of Lombards shaken from the trees to rot on the ground, because it did not pay to pick them.

The plum has a wide range in Ontario, the European varieties being successfully grown in most of the counties bordering on the Great Lakes, and some of the hardest of these even in the inland counties, as far north as latitude 45 degrees.

In soils, it is not so discriminating as many other fruits, so long as the ground is well drained. A deep clay loam is best for the European varieties. The plum is usually planted at two years from the bud, but strong-growing varieties, such as the Burbank, may be planted at one year from the bud. There are three general groups of plums cultivated in Ontario:

1. The American type (*Prunus Americana*).
2. The Japanese type (*Prunus triflora*).
3. The European type (*Prunus domestica*).

The varieties of the first group are very hardy, and can be grown much further north than those of the second and third groups. However, they are not grown to any extent where the Japanese and European varieties thrive, and in the Niagara fruit belt they are practically unknown.

The Japanese group has several good varieties, of which the Red June, Shiro and Burbank seem to be the best from a commercial standpoint. The Red June is a large, handsome plum, and the tree is hardy, vigorous and fairly productive. Its value lies in its earliness. The Shiro is also an early plum, large, and handsome yellow in color. The Burbank is a vigorous grower, early bearer, and very productive. It, also, is comparatively early, and is shipped in large quantities to the West.

The European group furnishes the principal commercial varieties, which may be classified into five somewhat arbitrary groups:

(a). Prunes.—These are characterized by a sweet, firm flesh, and, in dry climates, such as found in California, are often used for making a commercial dried product. The German and Italian prunes are known to do well with us. Being good shippers, of excellent quality, and ripening late, they command the highest prices.

(b). Damsons are very small, firm plums of various colors, generally borne in clusters. There is coming to be a big demand for these for the Western trade. The Shropshire is the variety generally recommended.

(c). Green Gages comprise various small, green or yellowish-green plums of spherical form, and mostly of high quality. They command good prices on our local markets, but, with the exception of the Reine Claude, are poor shippers. There are a number of varieties grown in Southern Ontario, but of these, the Imperial Gage and Reine Claude stand out prominently, the latter being one of our very best commercial varieties, its great fault lying in the short life of the tree.

(d). Large Yellow Plums, of which the most valuable are the Yellow Egg, Washington, and Coe. They are known to the trade as "fancy yellows," and as such bring the highest prices. The Washington is generally considered a very erratic bearer, and, on this account, not suitable for a commercial orchard; but with us, on a rich, deep clay loam, and interplanted amongst other varieties, it does very well. The Coe is our latest yellow plum of this class.

(e). Large Colored Plums, of which the most valuable are Bradshaw, Duane, Orleans, Glass, Quackenboss, Grand Duke, Gueii, Lombard, Monarch, Pond, and Diamond. A number of these varieties, such as Lombard, Gueii and Orleans do not generally attain any great size, and by the fruit dealers are often quoted as "mediums," and sold at a price considerably lower than "in eye reds and blues." But these three varieties, just named, are very productive, and are planted largely on that account to supply the demand for

a cheap canning plum. The Bradshaw is the best early plum of this group, and the Grand Duke and Monarch the best late ones. The others are mid-season varieties. W. R. D.
Wentworth Co., Ont.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Renewal Offer Extended.

Thousands of our subscribers have taken advantage of this Special Renewal Offer, but we want to see a great many more take advantage of it, and to this end are making the offer good till JANUARY 31st.

The offer is: For one new yearly subscription and your own renewal for 12 months we will accept \$2.00. For each new name in addition to the first one, we will accept from you \$1.00, the balance of 50c. being retained by you as commission. Or, if preferred, you may send in the new names, accompanied by the full subscription price of \$1.50 each (United States subscriptions \$2.50 per year) and have your choice of some of our splendid premiums.

Might Board with the Hired Man.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The labor question is to the front again, I notice. I read with interest the letters that appear in your paper from time to time. Most any of us might have won your first prize on "My Most Profitable Mistake," had we cared to let out some of our experiences with the hired labor we get, or don't get. I do not know which way to put it.

In your issue of January 11th, W. R. C. claims the cities are prospering in advance of the country. It is true the manufacturer is too often exempted from taxation, but beyond that their prosperity depends largely on the amount of prosperity the farmer is having.

I do not believe the manufacturer offers any better wages to a good man than the farmer does. The manufacturer often pays as much to a poor man as he will to a good one. It often occurs that the lad on the farm has a much larger bank account at the end of the year than the boy in the shop. In this part of Ontario, very few hired men have any excuse to complain about long hours. W. R. C. claims we must build a cottage for the hired man. His plan is proving itself all right with the farmer who has a large farm, but for the average farmer who works eighty or ninety acres of a 100-acre farm, I do not see how he can solve his labor problem that way. The average farmer often has a boy or two of his own, which is all the help he needs during the winter.

W. R. C. says the farmer who would ask his wife to wash a hired man's clothing, and to cook for him, as well, should not have a wife at all. Ha! ha! W. R. C. should have given his opinion on who should board the hired girl. In our old county few farmers' wives are compelled to work for the hired man, though many do it.

My advice to the average young man is not to marry a girl that is too good to cook for the hired man. She would be very apt to shake her head and turn ugly at the sight of a gang of hungry threshers or apple-packers, though I suppose such hungry ruffians could be fed at the hired man's cottage.

HALTON COUNTY CHARLIE.

Love the Animals.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

While making a loose box in the barn, so that the colts would be more comfortable, the thought came to me, "How much in successful farming springs from love?"

There is no denying it, but the chief object to some of us is "dollars." To gain dollars, a man stints his horses their grain and works them to death, only half feeds his cows, and then grumbles at the end of the season if he has not done as well as his neighbor. You have a horse, and expect a lot of it; then, see that it has good food, and all it wants, with plenty of good water. See that its collar fits comfortably, and, instead of shouting at it, let your voice be seasoned with love, and, presto! you bring happiness to your horse, happiness to yourself, which means better and more work, which means more dollars.

You have a cow, and expect a lot of milk. See to it that it has proper food to make milk from, good water to drink, comfortable stable, have patience when bringing the cows in to milk and whilst milking, then, presto! the wages of love is milk, which means dollars.

The same can be said of young stock. Let the colts and calves see you have some love for them, and then, instead of having to drive them