

been frequently advertised in the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN. He made several importations himself, and bred with much judgement and care, always with reference to certain traits which he endeavored to impress upon the herd, and succeeded. Such men as Mr. Whitney, thorough going business men, have done much for the interest of agriculture, and when they are removed by death there is a great loss, and their memory should be cherished.

E. R. T., Franklin County, Vt.
I hear that the Ayrshire herd of the late Mr. N.S. Whitney of Frelighsburg, will shortly be offered for sale. The cattle have been fully bred, never forced for show purposes, and are worthy of the attention of all who are on the lookout for genuine, practical dairyman's stock. I am glad to hear that the family intend still to retain the homestead.

A. R. J. F.

State of Crops, etc.

In parts of Manitoba 50 0/10 of the wheat and oat-crop was damaged by frost.

A correspondent from Stratford, Ont., states that the present harvest, barring hay, is the worst known in the history of Canada. The Mark Lane Gazette still sticks to it that the wheat-crop in England is even worse than was expected: but it must be remembered that this paper is, and always has been, the organ of the corn-factors, and is, I regret to say, utterly untrustworthy. Hops, for which \$1.05 were refused last year, are being sold, in the States, at 20 cents per pound.

The wheat-crop in the States is officially stated to be 112,000,000 bushels below the average.

At Poughkeepsie, Concord grapes are selling for two cents a pound, retail!!!

A. R. J. F.

Packing Eggs for Incubation.

Mr Voitellier, who is an important breeder of poultry, gives, in his paper (*L'Aviculteur*), the best way, according to his experience, of packing eggs for incubation:

"Latterly the favorite method of packing eggs has been in the upright position. As this means offered some difficulty, it was seductive at first sight and warmly adopted. We have in vain sought to understand the advantage of this system. It is said the egg keeps better, because it is less liable to be shaken. Let the air-bladder be at the end or at the side, it is exactly the same: consequently, the shaking cannot be weakened. As to its being kept fresh for a longer period by being kept in an upright position, we protest *in toto* against that point. In every question of incubation, or of breeding in general, nature is the best, or, more properly speaking, the only rule to follow; to depart from it is wrong. Now, when birds are at liberty, and lay every other day, their eggs keep perfectly well for twenty to twenty-five days, and the whole brood comes out simultaneously, the first being as strong as the last. Was there, it may be asked, ever found a pheasant or a partridge's nest with the eggs upright? The shape of the egg sufficiently indicates that the natural place is on its side, as well during incubation as before, and to maintain it in a different position would be more hurtful, but in any case there is no advantage. Eggs put into an incubator in an upright position would never hatch; all the experiments which have come to our notice on this subject are conclusive.

"In our opinion, the old classic way of packing in sawdust is most practicable and the most simple, provided deal sawdust is used; but it must not be too dry or too damp. When too dry, it tends to absorb the aqueous principles of the egg; when too damp, it produces in time fermentation and a smell of mustiness, the action of which is hurtful to

the egg. Deal sawdust is preferable to oak sawdust, because the latter gives to the egg a coat of coloring which it is difficult to remove by water. Bran is often used in preference to sawdust, as being softer, and deadening in a great degree, by a sort of elasticity, the shaking of the journey. Sawdust answers the same purpose, and has not the disadvantage of depositing on the shell a sort of fatty substance, which fills up the pores and stops the circulation of air during incubation. Sawdust has still a greater advantage, that of maintaining the eggs in an equal temperature; it is an excellent insulator against cold or heat, and it cannot be replaced either by cardboard boxes, paper or even out straw. Upon the whole, as far as incubation is concerned, the question of packing is quite secondary; when you want to send away eggs, let them be as fresh as possible. That is the grand secret, and they will not then suffer during the journey, and will produce fine and vigorous chicks."

SIMPLE CURE FOR GAPES.—The easiest and best remedy for gapes in chickens is caustic lime, either air or water-slaked. It should be dry and powdered. Take the chicken in the left hand and open the mouth, keeping it upright, and then drop a pinch of the dry lime into it. Held in this position a few seconds until it is obliged to breathe, when it will inhale some of the lime; then let it go. One application of the lime in this manner has cured, in my experience, every case of gapes, some of them in the last stages. After trying a number of remedies I find this the best of all, as it is simple and sure, and does not injure the chicken. The lime kills the worms.

F. D. C.

Charlton, N. Y.

Obtaining a Herd for the Dairy.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—Success in dairying depends almost entirely upon raising the best crops, using the best crops, using the best machinery, and keeping the best stock. But the best cows are not necessarily pure-bred cows. A cow that will produce 20 pounds of butter in a week, or 500 pounds in a year, and sells at \$3,000, is not the best cow for the ordinary dairyman. Such an animal is valuable principally, because she will produce other animals having as good quality as herself. Good dairymen can stop short of such animals and be perfectly safe. The man whose profits from his dairy are determined by the number of pounds of butter produced, should buy the best ordinary dairy cows. If he is unable to purchase from the farmers in his immediate neighborhood, he should buy in the nearest cheap market. Good, healthy, medium-sized cows, of a kindly disposition, are the best foundation stock for any ordinary dairy herd.

Having a good ordinary herd, it takes only a few years to breed up to a herd of grade Jerseys, Ayrshires, or anything else to which the farmer's fancy may incline. I know of several dairies, the value of which has been doubled in the past few years by such a course. The object is to have a herd in which there are no culls, and of such breeding that each animal will possess a superior productive capacity. This is the most economical kind of a herd. Many herds, otherwise good enough, become unprofitable because they are not properly cared for. We feed our cows wheat straw and cornstalks all winter, and even if they escape "lifting" in the spring, we wonder why they do not yield more. Feed the best food, and abundantly both summer and winter; provide good warm stabling in winter, and see that the cows do not want for sufficient pure water in summer. These little details are very economical, and will be found to pay.

St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

F. K. MORELAND.