

less destructive; only about one-fourth died. Each time the blight continued two to four years, and the intervals were eighteen or twenty years. It is now twenty-four or twenty-five years since we have had any blight on the grounds where I live, but three or four miles north and south of us it has been quite bad. As to any cause or cure, I know of none, although I have heard all the theories and seen them all fail, and I suppose your friend will have the same experience. There is only one thing I can say about it, and that is, that the wild, hardy pear trees seldom have any blight.

TANNING A WOODCHUCK SKIN.—Put the skin in an old pail and cover thoroughly with wet ashes; let it lie one week; this will take off the hair. Then dip it into a pail of soft soap and let it remain from twenty to thirty days; then wash or rub off the soap and work it with the hands in a warm place, either in the sun or near a warm stove, until it becomes soft and dry.

Hedgehog raising is encouraged in England because they are formidable enemies to all vermin.

A shipment of tomatoes has been made direct from Oshawa to Liverpool.

Poultry Yard.

Fattening Turkeys.

While ducks, geese and chickens, especially the latter, can readily be fattened in confinement, and in fact, fatten more readily that way, turkeys seldom, if ever, do well when cooped up for that purpose; and, in many cases, they grow poorer daily, instead of gaining in fat and flesh. We know of a party who had an extra-fine bronze gobbler, weighing some forty seven pounds, and twenty-five dollars was offered for him if he would draw fifty pound by Christmas, then about three weeks distant. He was at once put into a roomy enclosure—an old corn-crib—and fed liberally on the and most wholesome food. But when he was put on the scales, about four or five days before Christmas, he pulled but thirty-two pounds. Had he been fed outside, and given full liberty, we believe he would have readily gained the extra three pounds, instead of lowering his weight so materially.

The best way to fatten turkeys is to keep them growing rapidly from the start by feeding liberally, often and at regular intervals. Let them have their liberty, so they can get their accustomed feed of bugs, worms and grass, and give them, morning and night, liberal feeds of mush, made by boiling or scalding coarse corn-meal. Keep, also, a trough in some convenient place, in the shade, in which put daily supplies of thick (clabbered) milk.

Shelter for Poultry.

At this season of the year the nights are chilly, and summer-grown chickens should gradually be taught to give up their summer haunts and begin to establish themselves in winter quarters, as far as roosting is concerned; pullets especially, if they are expected to furnish eggs for the coming season. They should be slowly invited under roofs of buildings at night. Hens that are late in moulting suffer much, and it is beneficial to provide war shelter, free from exposure either to storm or wind. Good, healthy fowls, if well fed, pass over the moulting season with little difficulty, if the weather be favorable. The non-sitters usually suffer most. The great drain of egg production during the warm months exhausts the system, and the fowls suffer when the feathers drop out suddenly, leaving the body naked, literally speaking, or only covered with green, juicy pin-feathers, that require all the remaining strength the bird has to spare to ripen and unfold from the sheath. Such birds should be fed on strong, hearty, soft feed, and be given something in the shape of a tonic once or twice a week. Usually the best layers drop their feathers suddenly.

With a flock of fowls, the moulting season generally commences about the 1st of August, and extends well into the winter before all the birds have donned their new coat of feathers. For this reason it has become necessary to provide comfortable houses for their benefit. It requires often some two or three weeks more nursing and feeding to bring the already moulted hens to laying once more. The length of time differs greatly with the different breeds, but it is a generally conceded opinion at the present date that good, comfortable

houses must be provided in our northern latitudes, if any great amount of eggs be expected during the winter season, when they are the most profitable. During the moulting season, sitters are rather easier managed. The period of incubation, during which many of the organs are at rest, acts as a tonic to the vitals, and the system has repose and ample time to recruit before the feathers drop. Indeed, the moult comes so gradually that it is hardly observed.

For the combed varieties houses should be made warm with every crack and crevice stopped, else when the mercury falls below zero the large, handsome combs will suffer. At present it may seem needless, but cold weather will soon come and then it is too late to make extensive preparations; now while the days are warm and sunny is the time to guard against cold. Boards are apt to warp in the hot summer sun, and the boards shrink, leaving cracks perhaps not more than a hair's breadth in width, but that crack, when the mercury marks zero, admits a fine draught, that may play directly on a large comb belonging to a fine cock, and before morning in the long wintry night the bird's beauty and most valuable exhibition point is ruined. All such openings should be attended to now, and tightly caulked with cotton or tow. Where buildings are lathed and plastered this danger is avoided. In cold weather a larger quantity of fowls may be massed, where they are accustomed to running together, but strangers should not be herded in a small compass. The Asiatics require more room than the Europeans. It is not so necessary to guard against the cold with the Asiatics. An open shed, with a sunny exposure, is quite sufficient. Such a run is beneficial for all breeds during the day, but the Brahmas do not suffer at night. Their bodies are large and warm, and thickly covered with a soft, downy mat of feathers. Light Brahmas are good winter layers, requiring more feed and less care than the non-sitters.

Poultry houses should be thoroughly cleaned before the fowls go into winter quarters, and if not provided with a board floor, should have good drainage and be protected by banking on the outside. Dust boxes should be furnished, and renewed with fresh, dry earth; gravel and oyster shells should be provided for the coming season. Every one accustomed to the production of winter eggs knows the regular routine of daily business to be performed. Water, and feed, and greens, several times a day, and for days and weeks in succession, before hunting for eggs. The hens must be fed for the labor. Patience and perseverance will bring about many charming results. The southern exposure of winter houses should be of glass, and now is the time to supply all broken or cracked panes with new ones. The perches should be arranged in the warmer portion of the building, and be so situated, or protected, that the droppings will escape without falling on the birds underneath, as some birds desire to roost a good portion of the day, and others are abroad early.—*Country Gentleman*.

Last fall we visited an orchard in which fowls were kept; the owner of which told us that before the fowls were confined in it, the trees made little or no growth, and only a corresponding amount of fruit was obtained. But what a change was evident now. The grass was kept down, the weeds killed, and the trees presented an appearance of thrift, which the most enthusiastic horticulturist could not but admire and envy. The growth of the trees was most vigorous, and the foliage remarkably luxuriant. The fruit was abundant, of large size, and free from worm and other imperfections. This excellence was accounted for by the proprietor, who remarked that the hens ate all the worms and curculio in their reach, even the canker worm. He found less trouble with their roosting in trees than he expected, and that a picket fence six feet high kept them within bounds. His orchard was divided into three sections, and the fowls were changed from one to another, as the condition of the fowls or the orchard section seemed to require.—*Poultry World*.

A Davenport firm shipped nine thousand dozen of eggs one day recently.

There were 4,915 barrels of flour shipped from Minneapolis on one day recently.

It is reported that a starch factory is about to be established at Fort Erie.

A rich deposit of mica is being worked at L'Ange Gardien, near Quebec.

There was good sleighing in parts of Iowa and Minnesota on Nov. 16.

Canadian Agricultural Notes.

Ontario.

DISTRICT OF ALGOMA.

The vast district known by the name Algoma has been looked upon as of very little, if any, value for agricultural purposes. A rocky, sterile land, wholly unfit to support any who might be unfortunate enough to select it as a home, was the character it bore. But it is becoming better known. Some townships in it are filling up and the settlers are prospering. The *Sarnia Observer* gives a very favorable report of the country, obtained from Mr. Proctor, who had charge of Government road-making on the north shore of Lake Huron. While the land in the vicinity of the Bruce Mines is of a rocky and forbidding character, it is different with several of the townships to the rear and on the east and west thereof. In the township of Lefroy, on the north shore of the lake, there is a large quantity of excellent land, the greater portion of which is taken up, and some of it has been several years in cultivation, producing all the cereals, roots and vegetables usually grown in Ontario. The same remarks apply to the adjoining townships of Plummer and Rose. Thessaly is now open for settlement; it contains a large proportion of good land, and through it runs the river Thessalon. St. Joseph's Island also contains very good land, and a great deal of it is occupied by thrifty farmers, who are prosperous and becoming independent. The want of a road was till now the great drawback to agricultural improvement, but during the past season leading roads have been made, and access afforded to the rear portion of the settlement, giving to those residing at a distance from the shore an opportunity of communication with other places and of bringing their surplus produce to Sault Ste. Marie, where there is a good market. The reports from the townships named are very favorable. Occasionally ridges of rocks are met with running east and west, but on crossing the ridges we find miles in depth of table-land, having deep, rich soil, and though in some instances broken and rough, there is in every quarter sections of sufficiently good land to make good farms. The land to the rear of those townships is reported to be equally good, the timber being principally maple and black birch, with here and there a black pine.

Mr. P. brought down with him several samples of wheat grown there this season. The first is of the Fife variety, grown by Mr. McCrae, who had 350 bushels of it from 8½ acres. The second sample is of the Red Chaff sort, the yield of which was 25 bushels to the acre. The third was fall wheat, which produced 28 bushels to the acre, the quality of all being equal to the average run of wheat grown in Ontario. A neighbor of Mr. McCrae's sowed two bushels and a peck of seed, and had 78 bushels therefrom. Of the settlers, one raised 310 bushels of black oats from three acres, and 178 bushels of white oats from the same quantity of land. Fine crops of barley and peas were also grown in the settlement this season, the barley being especially clear and bright. It is also an excellent place for raising potatoes, three hills commonly producing a bushel, and these, too, of excellent quality. The whole of their crops ripened early and quite evenly, and the frost in June last did not touch them. The yield of grain above referred to was not obtained from an odd settler here and there, but all were alike good.

A good many settlers have gone into this settlement during the past summer—as many as sixty families within the past six weeks. Lumber for building purposes can be got at Diamond's Saw Mill, at the mouth of the Thessalon, in sufficient quantities to supply all the local demand, and at very low rates.

Col. Laurie's Suggestions to the Farmers.

At the opening of the Agricultural Exhibition in Kentville, N. S., Col. Laurie, President of the Central Board of Agriculture, delivered an address which is of general interest, and replete with suggestions which only a practical farmer could make. We can only give some extracts.

The late large shipments of cattle from Canada to England have to a large extent dispelled the idea that the Dominion is a region of perpetual snow and ice, devoted to sleighing and skating; and it is now recognized as a great farming country. With their attention thus turned to Canada,