

Western Ontario Dairymen at Stratford.

Last week, the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, held at Brockville, was one of the most successful conventions in the history of the organization. The meetings were addressed by noted authorities in Canada and the U. S., and although prices for cheese have not been high this year, compared with those of the past two seasons; the general opinion prevails that dairying is yet the surest and most remunerative line of farming for the great majority of people to follow. Next week the annual convention of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association will be held at Stratford, on the 17th, 18th and 19th. The programme of the convention is being circulated. In addition to the list of speakers selected from among the best authorities upon dairying and kindred subjects in Canada, there will be present from the U. S. Hon. John Gould, of Ohio, and Prof. G. L. McKay, of Iowa. The subjects of discussion are of vital interest to all those in any way connected with the dairy industry, and the speakers are men of proven ability and practical experience. The exhibits of cheese and butter promise to be the largest in the history of the Association, there being one hundred and fourteen entries of cheese and thirty-eight of butter. R. M. Ballantyne, Montreal, will judge the cheese, and Prof. McKay will make the awards in butter. Professional dairymen and patrons of factories should make an effort to attend this convention, and secure the latest ideas relating to the industry.

POULTRY.

Does Your Flock Pay?

Here are some questions we would like our readers who keep poultry to answer briefly, and to the point.

1st.—What breed of poultry do you consider most profitable for the farmer, and why?

2nd.—If possible, send us facts and figures, based on your own experience, showing returns for eggs and dressed birds, and the profit over expense.

3rd.—Describe the feeding and care that give you the best results in winter eggs.

Resplies to the foregoing simple questions can be put in a couple of hundred words, and should be forwarded by the earliest mail convenient.

Tonics for Poultry.

From time to time an iron tonic in the drinking water has been recommended for fowls which were off condition. Some form of iron should be used which is really assimilated into the blood, and one, besides, which does not constipate. Many forms of iron are faulty in the latter respect, and to continue their use for any length of time is to injure the liver of the bird. Sulphate of iron, perhaps, because it is so cheap, is most frequently used, and, provided only sufficient is given to taste the water very faintly saline, it can be continued for some considerable time. In fact, only a minute amount of iron can be assimilated into the blood at one time, and it is totally useless, as well as somewhat injurious, to give more than is actually required. Perchloride of iron is sometimes used, and it is very handy, being put up in liquid form, but it has a strongly astringent action, and is apt to upset the liver and constipate the bowels if continued for any length of time. When it is used, five drops to a pint of water is quite enough. Carbonate of iron is better given in pill form, and is useful in this way. Phosphate of iron does not mix with water, and requires to be given in pill form, but I prefer it as a hypophosphite, in which form it parts with its phosphorus more readily, and this materially assists the healthful action of the iron. Two grains is the dose of this particular form. Reduced iron is a powerful haematinic, a general tonic, and I think it is one of the most useful of all forms of iron for feathered stock. It is very cheap, and a two-grain pill may be given twice a day when required. Finally, some people adopt the cheapest plan of all, viz., putting a rusty nail or two in the drinking water. Perhaps it does some small good, but it cannot be much, as the red oxide is practically insoluble in water.

Iron should never be put in a tin or zinc drinking vessel, as chemical compounds are formed which might prove fatal to the birds which imbibed them. An earthenware jar is the best kind of vessel to use, and is easily come by.

The uses of iron are to increase the richness and vitality of the blood, and to act as a general tonic. It increases the oxygen-carrying power of the blood, and this secures vigor and prolificacy. When a fowl lays pale-yolked eggs, it is short of iron in its blood, and should have this remedied. Whenever iron is given, green vegetables and grass should be freely supplied at the same time, as these greatly assist in keeping the liver working freely.—[Farm and Stock Breeder.]

An Experiment with Laying Pullets.

In England the Utility Poultry Club conducts laying competitions with birds of different breeds. This year's competition began on Oct. 16th, and the results for the first eight weeks, as given by the Agricultural Gazette, are given below. Each lot consists of four pullets, hatched in 1904:

No.—Pen and Breed.	1st month.		2nd month.		Total.	
	Eggs.	Pts.	Eggs.	Pts.	Eggs.	Pts.
2 White Wyandottes	44	81	56	108	100	189
3 White Leghorns...	40	72	61	114	101	186
27 White La Bresse...	34	68	48	90	82	158
10 White Wyandottes	29	58	41	80	70	138
5 Black Langshans.	42	83	27	50	69	133
11 White Leghorns...	21	42	45	88	66	130
29 White Orpingtons	14	27	58	100	72	127
15 White Wyandottes	21	39	45	88	66	127
14 White Leghorns...	21	41	41	80	62	121
28 Buff Orpingtons...	29	53	37	66	66	119
31 White Wyandottes	26	48	37	70	63	118
21 Speckled Sussex...	11	18	43	84	54	102
32 White Wyandottes	13	26	38	76	51	102
1 White Wyandottes	10	19	39	73	49	92
26 White Wyandottes	18	32	26	50	44	82
23 Buff Orpingtons...	9	18	32	63	41	81
6 Black Leghorns...			44	79	44	79
25 White Wyandottes	19	34	26	44	45	78
9 Black Orpingtons			40	74	40	74
18 Buff Orpingtons...	6	12	30	59	36	71
17 Buff Orpingtons...	6	11	27	53	33	64
24 White Wyandottes	14	27	16	30	30	57
7 Golden Wyandottes			38	57	38	57
22 S. Faverolles.....			28	55	28	55
34 Buff Orpingtons...	7	14	17	31	24	45
33 S. Faverolles.....			23	44	23	44
4 Buff Orpingtons...	13	23	9	18	22	41
16 White Wyandottes			21	39	21	39
12 Golden Wyandottes			25	39	25	39
13 White Wyandottes			20	35	20	35
8 White Wyandottes	1	1	21	34	22	35
20 White Wyandottes			12	24	12	24
19 Golden Wyandottes			14	14	14	24
35 Buff Orpingtons...			7	14	7	14
30 Golden Wyandottes						
36 Buff Orpingtons						
Total					1,540	2,880

Two points are given for every egg weighing over 1½ ozs., and one point for every egg weighing 1½ ozs. or less.

Four birds have been broody during the past month.

The manager reports that the very severe weather recently experienced did not in any way retard those pullets which were laying.

The egg average per pen for the first two months last year was 42.2, and this year 42.7—a slight increase.

The health of the birds continues good.

The Hen that Pays.

The hen that pays best is the one that belongs to a good laying strain, and is well cared for in winter time. If the hen be a good one, the quarters comparatively warm, and proper feed be supplied, there is sure to be eggs in paying quantities.

To be a good one the hen should not be more than two years old; in fact, the best returns are always got from pullets hatched during the early part of the previous summer. Warm quarters does not mean that a place should be supplied that is heated artificially. Indeed, pure air during the day, even though it be down near the zero mark, is preferable to warm air charged with impurities, the result of improper ventilation. It is at night that the hen that is going to pay requires a warm spot the most. This is easy to obtain. Have a clean, compact roosting corner, made as nearly air-tight as possible on three sides, and on top, by using tar or building paper, with thin sheeting over. This corner need not be large; in fact, it is desirable that it should not be, because the more compact the fowls are the warmer they will be on a cold night. On the front of this roosting apartment a heavy curtain of canvas, or an old blanket, that can be dropped down after the hens go to roost, is the proper thing.

For feed, all the old meat scraps that can be obtained should be given to the hen that is going to pay. She should be provided also with grit, in the form of coarse sand, gravel, or broken oyster shells, from which to make shells. During the morning wheat, of feeding grade, should be scattered around through the straw or litter, in such a way that the hen will be encouraged to scratch hard to get it. This provides exercise which is very essential in the production of winter eggs.

Most successful poultrymen give one feed of soft, warm food each day. The evening just before they go to roost is considered a very good time, particularly when the roost is warm. This much of soft food should be composed of a fair proportion of bran, mixed with chopped oats or barley or linseed, in the absence of bran, chopped wheat should be omitted.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Celery and Onion Growing.

1. I would like to know what kind of soil and how to grow celery to keep it from rusting?

2. What kind of onion seed to sow, so as to have them mature without thick necks?

H. A. H.

Ans.—1. The best soil for celery is one rich in vegetable matter and retentive of plenty of moisture. Usually black muck lands produce excellent celery. The matter of keeping the plants free of rust and blight, which has been so common the past few years, is one which may have to be attended to on any soil. The best means of preventing these diseases is to spray the plants thoroughly with Bordeaux mixture from the time they are pricked out from the seed-bed until they are well grown in the trenches. Even then it is sometimes difficult to keep the blight in subjection. The occurrence of blight depends largely upon the season and surrounding conditions. This year our crop at the College blighted badly, notwithstanding it had been sprayed thoroughly during the early part of the season; while last year plants were remarkably free from the disease of any kind. Then, again, I know of another case this year where the plants were unduly shaded by bushes growing near, and were badly blighted; while in the same row plants not shaded in any way were entirely free from blight. It seems that a good circulation of air is desirable to avoid conditions favorable to blight.

2. The cause of thick-neck or scallion onions is supposed to be due to poor seed; that is, seed saved from immature or undeveloped onions. This is a matter which the grower cannot well control, unless he grows the seed for himself, as he is dependent more or less upon what he gets from the seedsman. It is advisable, therefore, to purchase from a reliable seedsman, and to purchase only the very best seed that can be obtained. We took upon the Yellow Danvers, Prizetaker and Red Wethersfield as three of the leading varieties of onions for a good crop of bulbs.

H. L. HUTT.

O. A. C., Guelph.

Report of the Canadian Forestry Association.

The report of the fifth annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association, which was held in Toronto on March 16th and 11th, 1904, has been issued. The report is a most complete digest of the thoughts of the most practical authorities upon forestry subjects in Canada to-day.

The deliberations of these men upon the subject of forestry is a valuable addition to the literature relating to forestry problems. The annual meeting this year will be held at Quebec, on the 9th and 10th of March. Parties desiring to receive the report of the association may do so, and become members by remitting the annual fee of \$1.00 to the Secretary, Mr. R. H. Campbell, Ottawa, Ont.

Prune, Cultivate and Spray.

As the season for handling and selling the product of our orchard has about closed, we have an opportunity of comparing notes of success or failure, of profits or losses, of which every fruit-grower has had an experience the past season. As I stated in a former article, the fruit buds of last year were well developed, but the severity of the winter of 1903-1904 proved injurious to many of the more tender varieties, both of apples and pears, and destroyed the plum crop on nearly all varieties; although many varieties blossomed very weakly, the trees failed to set their fruit. April and May being cold and wet, the trees were two weeks later than usual getting started to grow well. However, where they were protected by a spruce wind-break, thirty to forty feet high, they were not so much affected by the winter frost.

In our experimental ground, we commenced cultivation in spring as soon as the land would permit, and kept it up (viz., cultivator and harrow) till the bending branches prevented further work. I found that by constant cultivation the trees and fruit grew much more rapidly than where the land was simply plowed and harrowed in the spring.

Notwithstanding the moist weather, we were not troubled with scab on our fruit, as the sprays and Bordeaux mixture were used freely. The fruit was exceptionally well colored this season. I thoroughly believe in the maxim, viz., "prune, cultivate and spray," if first-class fruit and plenty of it is to be obtained. I find the most effective remedy for bark lice is crude oil, or petroleum, but must be applied sparingly, in a very fine stream. Having treated over one hundred trees, both apple, pear and plum, only one tree seemed to be injured, and that was a Rhode Island Greening. We have used largely whale-oil soap, diluted, also, lye made from wood ashes, and I think the lye quite as effective in clearing the