

## Our Poultry Corner

If you have some things you do not understand in connection with your poultry and want some information, state your case briefly and to the point, writing on one side of paper only, and address it to THE MONITOR PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED, we will submit it to Prof. Landry, and when his answers are received we will publish them withholding your name if you so desire it.

### THE TRAP NEST A BOON TO POULTRYMEN

There is no disputing the fact; the introduction and use of trap nests marked a new era in poultry culture. Prior to the installing of traps the individual capacity of our hens was all guesswork.

Nearly every flock has its drones. They must be weeded out. The feed and the room are demanded by the actual workers. They can be detected only by means of trapping.

An instance just happened in our own yards that fully illustrates this. One particular hen in one of the flocks is about as fine a type for egg production as the most exacting judge could wish—and yet she had not laid three dozen eggs up to August 1st. On the other hand the champion of the flock is just that of build which would be rejected by those who think they know how a heavy layer should be.

There are many reasons why the trap nests are boons to the fraternity, a few of which are:

First—They tell us which are our best layers.

Second—They tell us the number of eggs our best layers give us.

Third—They enable us to breed from the best.

Fourth—They point out which hens lay the brownest eggs.

Fifth—They tell us which hens lay the best shaped eggs.

Sixth—They arrest the egg eater.

Seventh—They give us a chance to discover the barren hen.

Eighth—They pick out the drones.

Ninth—They prevent crowding on the nest.

Tenth—They help us knock theories in the head.

When I read the argument that too much labor and time is involved in the care of traps I make up my mind that the writer has not the industry at heart. It was the trap nest that plainly and bluntly convinced me, that I was a student in poultry culture, and

I had previously spent twenty continuous years in the work. Like all poultrymen, I had my individual opinions about hens and eggs and many of these were shattered when the trap nests came into use.

After carefully studying the subject and making many experiments, I have come to the conclusion that the only trap nest is the one that embodies ventilation convenience, and accuracy.

To confine a hen in a poorly ventilated trap is not only torture but dangerous. Especially so during hot summer months.

Convenience implies the easy manner in which the hen can get into the nest, and the equally easy manner in which she can be removed. When a hen is not in a broody condition she will be ready to come off the nest after laying, the moment you show her a mean exit. When she is broody, however, you must lift her off, and some of the nests I have seen are hard problems to solve when it comes to removing the stubborn broody hen.

Accuracy is the mainstay. I do not want any confining pens to trap nests. It requires too much guesswork. You find a hen in the confining pen and one in the nest part, and you have but one egg; you do not know to which hen the egg belongs. If you must guess at it or if you must compare eggs in order to find the owner you are not doing accurate work.

Some nests, too, will admit two hens at one time. Such nests are a mistake. One hen at a time, and she securely penned in until you release her, is the only way in which to accurately determine which are your best hens and which are your drones.

Between the hours of nine in the morning and three in the afternoon the nests should be looked at every hour.

Of course that means an outlay of time—but it is time well spent. Yet it is as costly to spend five or ten minutes every hour to look after a lot of traps as it is to feed and care for a lot of hens that are not paying their board? And when you count on the advantage in building up a strain of heavy layers, is there not enough profit in that to pay for the time it takes to look after the nests?

We all know that the successful poultryman is continually at his post, that he gives the work his undivided attention. Then how much extra labor does it cost him to hastily glance at his nests every hour?

There is a benefit too, outside of the egg question. Every hen must be handled to be gotten off the nest. This gives one an opportunity to notice anything wrong—slight colds, scaly legs, wounds, etc., that might be overlooked otherwise.

In conclusion let me suggest that in putting in traps it is best to allow one trap for every three hens in the pen. This will avoid much laying outside the nest.

### SURE DEATH TO MITES

The common red mite which is most active during the warm weather is commonly found about the roosts and dropping boards also about the nests, and many times in brooders coops for the hen and the chicks. The mite is easily held in check if proper methods of control are used. While keroseene will quickly kill them, it evaporates in a few days.

Any of the coal tar mixtures are more effective. Carbolenium is recommended highly by the Connecticut station. Containing a coal tar product and carbolic acid, it acts as a wood stain and remains effective for a long period of time, being even more effective than pure carbolic acid. One application a year is generally sufficient, but it must be used with discretion.

An excess amount either on roosts or on the adjoining boards may result in eye trouble to the hens or chickens. To avoid this it is best to make the application when changing the chicks from one house to another, allowing at least two days for the mixture to dry before using the house. If this cannot be done dilute it with kerosene and apply lightly with a brush.

If roosts are allowed to dry outside of the poultry house there is less danger of injury to the fowls. The roosts should be removed and painted, the roosting boards thoroughly cleaned, then painted being sure to use the carbolenium very liberally in the cracks between the boards. In badly infested houses or where mites show signs of returning, it may be necessary to make a second application.

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## HAVE YOU

tried Zam-Buk for those disgusting pimples and blackheads? Others have used it with great success, and we are confident you will not be disappointed.

Mr. J. B. Wagner of New Canada, N.S., writes: "For a considerable time I suffered with pimples and blackheads on my face. They were very unsightly and I suffered a good deal. Someone recommended Zam-Buk and I commenced using it. To my delight the pimples and blackheads gradually began to disappear, until now my face is entirely clear of them. I am, indeed, grateful for what Zam-Buk has done for me, and should like all others who are troubled as I was, to know of this wonderful ointment."

Zam-Buk is just as good for eczema, salt rashes, ulcers, abscesses, old wounds, blood-poisoning, boils, piles, burns, cuts, scalds, etc. 50c. box, 2 for \$1.25, all druggists or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto. Send 1c. stamp for postage on free trial box.

**ZAM-BUK**

**THE GRAVE YARD OF NATURE**

Little does the traveller think, as he drives over the dreary wastes of snow and sees no living thing save the arctic fox, the raven and the snow owl, that the ground below him is packed full of the remains of enormous animals that have perished in some mysterious manner. Such nevertheless is the extraordinary fact, states a contributor to Chamber's Journal in his quotation from "Siberia and the Polar Sea."

The whole of northern Siberia, from the Ural Mountains to Bering Strait, is one vast graveyard. The bones, teeth and skulls are those of elephants, rhinoceroses, buffaloes, and musk oxen. They occur everywhere. They are found on the banks of the rivers, in the plains on rising ground and in frozen cliffs. On the shores of the Arctic Ocean there are slipping banks of ice. These are split and furrowed in all directions with deep chasms, and as the traveller looks down into their dark depths from above he sees that the lower portions of these icy chasms are filled with fossils.

In other places on the northern coast of Siberia fronting the Arctic Ocean the low cliffs that rise above the beach and are formed of earth and clay are full of the bones of elephants and rhinoceroses. In the brief summer, which hardly lasts for six weeks, portions of these earthly cliffs thaw and fall on the beach below. Then it is that the traveller who walks along the shore witnesses an astonishing spectacle. Not only does he observe icebergs stranded on the beach, but he also sees the tusks and bones of elephants (the mammoth) lying on the shore. If he leaves the Arctic Ocean behind and journeys inland, the same sights constantly meet his astonished gaze. He comes, it may be, to a plain where for perhaps half a mile the whole ground seems to be formed of masses of tusks, teeth, and the bones of elephants and rhinoceroses welded together in one confused mass in the frozen soil. These mighty beasts must have been destroyed in herds, but how they perished no one knows. Still more amazing is the fact that the islands in the Arctic north of Siberia, are equally full of the tusks and bones; and on the shores of these islands in the polar sea the tusks of elephants can be seen sticking up in the frozen sand. Stranger still, actually the very bodies of these great elephants, with flesh and hair perfect, are seen standing upright in the frozen cliffs. When the cliffs thaw the bodies of these great elephants fall to the ground, and are so perfect, after being entombed for thousands of years, that the wolves eat the flesh!

There are many who maintain that a great future is before Siberia, owing to its vast mineral wealth and its corn-producing power. This applies to the southern districts, but has nothing to do with the regions of awful desolation to which we have referred. Into these silent solitudes man cannot penetrate except when the land is buried in ice and snow. The snow does not melt there until the middle of June, and many of the rivers are covered again with solid ice by the middle of August.

But she will not lay unless she receives proper food and care, and therein lies the wisdom of the man who thinks before he acts.

Get hold of some good literature, read up on the subject of egg production, apply the knowledge you thus obtain, and in the end you will learn to experience a keen delight in every cackle of your hens.

Your hen wants to cackle—she will cackle if you give her a chance. And there's money in the cackle of a hen.

Minard's Liniment cures Burns, etc.

## Horticulture

### THE TUSOCK MOTH IN NOVA SCOTIA

(By G. E. Sanders, Field Officer in charge of Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Annapolis Royal, N.S.)

The white marked Tussock Moth is common throughout Nova Scotia and periodically does extensive damage to orchard and shade trees. The last serious outbreak in the Annapolis Valley occurred in 1906. In 1912 a heavy outbreak occurred in Halifax Valley. The Brown Tail Moth inspectors' reports for 1914-15 showed Tussock Moth egg masses scattering throughout the Valley. During the summer of 1915 many larvae were noticed, and in a few cases serious damage to the fruit was seen. One Nonpareil tree in Moschelle showing at least 50 per cent of the fruit eaten and made worthless by Tussock larva. It would appear, therefore, that we are at the beginning of what may prove a serious outbreak of Tussocks and it would pay any orchardist to examine his trees, pick off the winter egg masses and to add plenty of poison to his last summer spray, or the spray applied about June 25-30 in 1916.

How to Identify the Tussock Moth

The most common species in Nova Scotia is the White Marked Tussock Moth, *Hemerocampa leucostigma* Stea. The eggs of this species are deposited on the old pupa case and may be found among the twigs and branches of the tree. There are about 150 medium sized white eggs in the mass which is covered with a white froth or frost.

The eggs are deposited about August 30 and hatch the next season about June 27. The caterpillar which reaches maturity about August 11 is, when full grown, from 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches in length, hairy, with two characteristic tufts or pencils of long black hairs projecting forward from either side of its head, and one projecting backward from the tip of the body just above the anal plate; there are four short, dense tufts of white hairs in a row along the back, just behind which are two vermilion red raised glands; the head and thoracic shield just back of the head are also vermilion red.

In the adult, the male has wings and is a strong flier, is rather pretty, somewhat inconspicuous brown moth with a characteristic white spot on the inner angle of the front wing. The female has no wings but emerges from the pupa case which is formed among the branches and fruit spurs, deposit her eggs on the outside of this case, covers them with froth and dies, without having moved an inch from where the pupa case was formed.

Remedies.

The date of applying the last summer spray or spray 4, from June 25 to 30, coincides with the hatching of the Tussock Moths, and the addition of Lead Arsenate to this spray with thorough work in applying it should protect any orchard from outbreaks. The earlier sprays are of practically no value in Tussock Moth control. Gathering and burning the egg masses in winter when pruning is of some value, but control cannot be assured from such methods.

THE BROWN-TAIL MOTH

We have had during 1914-15 and 1915-1916, two very successful seasons in controlling the Brown-Tail Moth in the Province. In 1913-14 the Moth is the Province. In 1913-14 the Moth is the Province. In 1913-14 the Moth is the Province.

The following year they cut this down to 18154 nests and this last winter they made a further reduction finding only 14755 nests in the Province.

One of the reasons that they have been so successful is that they know most of the infested orchards and go to them early in the season before the drop of the nests begins.

Many infested orchards, however, could not be located until quite late in the season and thorough work was of course impossible in them on account of the drop that had already occurred.

The Brown-Tail is very easily located by apple pickers during October. The winter nests are now being formed and a circle of skeletons of leaves surrounds each nest to a distance of from six inches to two feet. These spots of brown skeletonized leaves are now very conspicuous against the dark green of the trees and the nest containing a number of very small caterpillars in the centre of these browned leaves will identify the work with certainty as that of the Brown-Tail.

Owners desirous of keeping their orchards free from the Brown-Tail would do well to instruct their pickers to keep a look out for these nests and to destroy them by burning whatever found, they would also confer a great favor if they would notify the

writer of nests found in their orchards so that an inspector may be sent to these orchards at the beginning of the season, and so more effective work done.

GEORGE E. SANDERS,  
Dominion Entomological Laboratory,  
Annapolis Royal, N. S.

"Now," said the boss barber, questioning an applicant, "what is the thing to do if while shaving a man you cut the hide?"

"Hide the cut," was the prompt answer.

—Exchange.

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