

has also tried different methods of cultivation. At the present time he is president of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union.

MR. THOMAS H. MASON, of Straffordville, has the honor of having been one of the first lot of young men that were enrolled as students of the Ontario Agricultural College. The classes then formed were taught in the old farm house that had belonged to Mr. F. W. Stone, the previous owner of the land now occupied by the college farm. This was in May, 1874, when Mr. Mason was only sixteen years old. Mr. Mason remained at the college for over two years, and then was one of the first class of Associates that were sent out from the college. This was in September, 1876. In April, 1877, Mr. Mason settled on



Thomas H. Mason, Straffordville.

a small farm of 50 acres, that was only in a partially cleared condition. He remained on this farm until he paid for it, and then after accumulating a little more money he sold it and purchased his present farm of 175 acres. On this farm Mr. Mason has given special attention to dairying and hog-raising. All the direct products of the farm with the exception of wheat are fed upon the farm; and, in addition, a large amount of bran, shorts, and cotton-seed meal is purchased. At the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893 Mr. Mason received a medal for his butter. With such a record as the above Mr. Mason may, without hesitation, be pronounced a successful farmer, one of the sort that ought to command attention at any institute meeting.

MR. J. E. MEYER, of Kossuth, the well-known breeder of Silver laced Wyandottes, has been breeding poultry for ten years, and has tried many varieties of thoroughbred

fowls, but prefers the Wyandottes to all others. The Silvers he has had from the beginning, and they are still his first choice of all fowls. Here are his words: "I find them a very hardy, rapid-growing, early-maturing fowl, of medium size. They have a beautiful, clean, yellow leg and yellow skin. They are wonderfully plump as chickens, and they are ready for table use at any time after they are ten weeks old. As layers of good-sized eggs they are excelled by none excepting some of the non-sitting breeds. Their low, rose combs do not freeze in winter, and they are covered with an abundance of fine, soft feathers which enable them to withstand the rigors of our climate well." Mr. Meyer breeds not only Silver-laced, but also Buff, Golden, and White Wyandottes, but though he finds the same general characteristics in all these varieties the Silver-laced, as said above, are his first choice of all fowls. In these he has been especially fortunate as a prize-winner, and has frequently won the highest honors for them at the Toronto Industrial, as he also did at the World's Fair, Chicago. Mr. Meyer is a thorough believer in artificial means in the raising of poultry. He uses both incubators and brooders of his own invention and manufacture; and he has found them so successful in his own practice that he now manufactures them for sale, and his orders have already been so numerous that he is build-



J. E. Meyer, Kossuth.

ing twice as many this year as he did last year. While Mr. Meyer is very fond of his thoroughbred birds, and likes to admire their fine points, yet a bird is of no value to him unless it is *useful*. His words are: "I breed poultry not merely for their fancy points, but also for their money-making qualities, when used exclusively for laying eggs or for table use. There is, it is true, a very great pleasure in having birds as perfect in feather as possible. There is a great pleasure in breeding such birds. But I always look for usefulness as well as beauty; however, I must say that my best exhibition birds have been nearly always among my most useful birds as layers and breeders." Mr. Meyer raises annually from 400 to 500 chickens. All of these that do not come up to his standard he sends to market ruthlessly. The rest are kept for breeding purposes or for sale. His trade extends over all parts of Canada and through the United States. As Mr. Meyer believes in reasonable prices that will be within the reach of all, he very frequently has more orders than he can fill. It should be mentioned that Mr. Meyer is not only a poultryman; he is a successful stock farmer as well, and his large farm is well stocked with thoroughbred Shorthorns, Cotswolds, and Berkshires. Mr. Meyer attributes his success as a poultryman to the following facts: (1) He started modestly, and for some time went ahead very slowly until he gained experience. (2) When once he had gained experience he considered it the best policy to pay \$10 for one really good pair of birds, bred by a reliable breeder, than