

EGG PRESERVATIVE.

Which is the better way to keep eggs—from the time they are plentiful until the winter, so that we may get good market—is cold-storage or pickling best? If cold-storage, how is it done? If pickled, what kind and how is it made? We think there is a glycerine pickle; is it expensive?

R. & D.

Ans.—Cold-storage, either by means of ice or by a refrigerator machine, will preserve eggs, but is rather expensive, if one has to build the plant. In some of the larger cities, eggs are kept this way for one cent per dozen for the summer. Pickling is, perhaps, a cheaper way to keep eggs over summer. The best pickle we know of is that made of water-glass solution. Water-glass, or sodium silicate, is for sale at any drug store, in a semi-fluid condition. This is mixed with twenty parts water, and poured over the eggs until the top layer is covered. The eggs are left in this solution until they are required for market. Barrels cut in halves make good casks for storing. When buying in large quantities, water-glass should be had for about \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt. Eggs preserved in the "Glycerine Pickle" returned eighty per cent. bad at the end of a season, where the experiment was tried.

STUBBLE SHEARING.

What is meant by stubble shearing of sheep?

J. R. E.

Ans.—See letters on early shearing in this issue. Stubble shearing means leaving an inch or more of the old wool for the purpose of making the sheep look larger when the showing or selling season arrives. The practice is sometimes carried to ridiculous extremes, nearly one-half the length of wool being left on certain places to hide defects in the formation, the intention evidently being to deceive judges and buyers. A competent judge, however, is apt to consider it a confession of weakness, and will not be deceived by it, as the dry and dead appearance of the old wool is quite apparent, and only leads to a more critical examination for discovery of the failing attempted to be covered up. It is probable that in not a few cases prizes have been lost owing to the suspicion or prejudice created by this practice. The best condition of fleece is secured by close shearing.

BROME GRASS PASTURE.

We sowed a 22-acre field with brome grass seed about the first of last August at the rate of 20 lbs. per acre. How soon would it be advisable to pasture it; also, when could we get seed off a small part of it?

A. BROS.

Gladstone, Man.

Ans.—You may safely pasture it as soon as the grass gets a good start in the spring or early summer. To get the best returns, do not allow it to become beaten down too closely the first season, especially at the time when very dry weather may be expected.

It will bear seed this year, but many prefer to cut the first crop for hay, believing that by so doing many weeds will be destroyed through not being allowed to seed.

Field Notes.

A stallion show will be held at Regina on May 6th.

The Dominion Swine Breeders' Association will contribute the sum of \$84.00 to the prize list of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.

Controlling Elevators.

The following petition, which has been circulated and freely signed by farmers in the Moose Jaw District, was received a few weeks ago from Wm. Watson, but, with considerable other matter of special interest, was unavoidably crowded out of our special Immigration number:

The petition of the undersigned farmers and citizens of the Moose Jaw District humbly sheweth: That the plundering manipulations of the Elevator Combine have become a menace to the peace and prosperity of the country, and cannot and should not be longer endured.

That, while under existing conditions the regulating by preventive legislation on the lines laid down by our Western M. P.'s, Agricultural Societies, Grain-growers' Association and Northwest Senators is a pressing and absolute necessity, yet that past experience incontestably proves that nothing but immaterial, spasmodic and occasional relief can be secured by such legislation. Proof, that after all the acts and amendments of acts passed by the Dominion Parliament, "all good and well directed," the exactions and plunderings of the Elevator Combine are greater now than in any previous year.

That we, therefore, respectfully urge and demand that a new system of farmers' elevators be inaugurated, to be operated in the interest and to the advantage of the producer, instead of, as at present, to that of the Elevator Combine, and that legislation giving effect to this be passed at the approaching session of Parliament, and containing the necessary directions and machinery to start operations the incoming season.

That an annual tax be levied on all grain marketed or passed through elevators in the West, and the proceeds spent exclusively in building said elevators or buying combine elevators. That the last year's estimated crop in Manitoba and the Northwest is 126,000,000 bushels, and, deducting 50,000,00 bushels for seed, feed, and grain otherwise disposed of, 76,000,000 bushels remain to be passed through the elevators.

That a tax of a quarter cent per bushel would yield \$190,000, which would build 38 elevators at an average cost of \$5,000 each.

That if propitious seasons are vouchsafed to us, with the vast influx of immigrants now assured and consequent increased acreage to be put in crop, the quarter cent per bushel would build 50, 75 and 100 elevators per year in the next three years, respectively, or 1,000 in five years.

That if experience and public sentiment, as expressed from time to time by Manitoba and Northwest M. P.'s, Grain-growers' Associations and Agricultural Societies, require it said tax of a quarter cent per bushel be raised or lowered to suit changed conditions, but not to exceed one-half cent per bushel in any one year.

That if the people and Government of Manitoba deem it unnecessary to demand said system at present, that it be put in operation in the Northwest.

That the tax levied be expended in the district where collected.

That in view of the elevator record of the last few years, and the excessive plunderings of the previous and present years, that the Government take into consideration the expediency of collecting a special tax for the remainder of this year, not to exceed one cent per bushel, and that a grant be given this year from the Dominion Treasury, to be repaid, to expedite the building of farmers' elevators.

That Government control and supervision be given to the extent of ensuring that the grain reach its destination without mixing or shading with softer or inferior grain, and such further control as experience shall warrant.

That the Government of the neighboring Republic has battled by legislation with trusts and combines for several years with little or no success.

That under the wise guidance of President Roosevelt a bill has been passed through Congress by a unanimous vote, and is now before the Senate, dealing with this Behemoth of recent years, the keystone of which is—Publicity.

That we are entitled to publicity in elevator transactions.

That we demand that competent, responsible, trustworthy men examine, certify and publish, under oath, the number of bushels received, or bought and sold, at each elevator, and surplus, if any, over what was bought, with prices paid and received; thus putting a check on weight and dockage and making public the exact amount taken from farmers over and above a fair legitimate profit and the rake-off ascertained and sold and the proceeds added to the Farmers' Elevator Fund; it being essential that the vast crops of the West be marketed through elevators.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

A Dominion Exhibition.

An order-in-council, approving of a grant of \$50,000 for a Dominion Exhibition at Toronto this year, has been passed at Ottawa. This, we presume, practically settles the question, and whatever opinions may be entertained as to the reasonableness or otherwise of undertaking to prepare for an adequate display of the Dominion products in the space of four or five months, a brave attempt should now be made to improve the time and appropriation to the best possible advantage in bringing together as good a display as possible under the circumstances in all lines of live stock, agricultural, horticultural and dairy products, and also of the products of our mines and forests, in order that visitors from other lands may be given some idea of the capabilities of the country. Dr. Orlando Orr, the new manager, announces that arrangements are being made for exhibits from the different Provinces, and that another special feature of the exhibition this year will be the display of many important processes of manufacture in all stages.

Eden Bank Creamery.

The report of the directors of the Eden Bank creamery at Sardis, B. C., shows that the creamery received, during the last season, milk and cream testing 104,590 lbs. of butter-fat, which made 118,580 lbs. of butter. This butter sold for an average price (after deducting commissions and freight) of 24.72 cents per pound, an advance of .31 cent per pound over the average price of 1901.

The Wellington Field Naturalists' Club reports red-winged blackbirds, white-rumped shrikes, phoebes and winter wrens as having arrived before March 26th, and flocks of Canadian geese were on that day seen flying northwards. The red-winged blackbirds are later by ten days than last year, the white-rumped shrikes earlier by two days, the phoebes by a day, the winter wrens by eleven days, and the Canadian geese by twelve days. Shepherd's-purse and moosewood were found flowering on the same date.

Hackney Horse Show.

During the first week in March, the Hackney Breeders held their annual show in the Agricultural Hall, London, England. Interest has been developing in the Hackney horse during the last few years, and as a consequence the show was larger in every respect than ever before. The awarding of the final championship to Bashful Kate, a two-year-old Rosador filly, brought on a most remarkable scene for an Old Country show. Queen of the South, owned by Mr. Livesey, a mature mare over 15 hands, was the choice of the spectators, and when she was beaten by the youngster the crowd went wild with excitement. But modern and advanced breeders are somewhat changing the type of the Hackney, and there may be something in the award that is worthy of serious cogitation. Breeders are beginning to realize that the Hackney's place is in the harness and not under the saddle, and in breeding to this latter type old ideals of style and action may have to be slightly changed. The male championship was won by Mr. C. E. Galbraith's Administrator, with Garton Sirdar, owned by Mr. Buttle, reserve. This decision was, apparently, popular and just. The show throughout was most successful, and the awards generally satisfactory. A proper realization of the real province of the Hackney horse is one of the most certain signs that in the future he will become more popular than ever. To his credit it can be said that for soundness and style he is easily in the first rank of harness horses, and, whether to his credit or not, he succeeded in beating the Thoroughbreds in jumping at the Hunter Show, which followed that of the Hackneys.

Shire Horse Show in London.

The last week in February and the first two weeks in March saw remarkable activity in the horse business in Old London. The interest began with the annual Shire Horse Show. The entries, though fairly satisfactory, were not as large as in recent previous years, but the quality of the exhibit was well maintained. A remarkable feature in connection with the Shire horse is his popularity with the rich classes, among whom his breeding is followed as a hobby, a pastime and, in some instances, as a profitable occupation. This feature made itself manifest this year in the conspicuous absence of farmers' names from the catalogues and prize lists. This, however, does not decrease the popularity of the Shire with the farmers. The championship in the stallion classes again fell to Strocton Tom, Messrs. Forshaw & Sons' eleven-year-old horse, who was winner of the same honor last year. His reserve this year was the three-year-old Birdsall Menestrel, same owners. When the females had finished their contest, Lord Rothschild's Solace, nine years old, by Lord Arthur; dam Madame Albani, by Prince William, was in possession of the Gold Challenge Cup and champion cup for the best mare, her stable companion, Guildler Rose, standing as her reserve. The gold medal which is presented to the breeder of the championship mare thus fell to His Majesty the King, who received the token from the president of the Shire Horse Society amid the wildest enthusiasm.

The Cattle-guards Question.

Mr. E. A. Lancaster, M. P., of St. Catharines, Ont., has again introduced in the House of Commons his Cattle-guard Bill, the substance of which simply is to compel the railways to use a guard that will turn cattle. In other words, it makes the railway companies responsible for cattle killed on the tracks if they do not protect the highway crossings with proper guards. This is practically as the law used to be. He asked that Parliament itself pronounce upon the principle and not refer it to the Railway Committee, where it was blocked last session. Dr. Sproule, M. P., remarked that the committee was the graveyard of bills of that sort. Pending the report of the famous Cattle-guards Commission, the bill was sent to committee.

Extension of Markets Division.

Mr. W. W. Moore has been appointed Chief of the Extension of Markets Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The work that has been carried on by Prof. Robertson, under this head, has grown so extensively of late that it has been considered wise to establish a separate division. Mr. Moore has been in the Department for a number of years. He visited South Africa in connection with the shipments of Canadian products there during the late war, and on his return had charge of all the shipping of supplies for the Imperial Government.

An Independent Line.

The business men of Calgary, Edmonton, Wetaskiwin and other points on the C. & E. Railway have undertaken the construction of an independent telephone line. No line of telephone communication at present exists, and the promoters are to be commended for their enterprise in not only aiming to provide a necessity, but in building a line which they themselves will control.

Calgary Stock-yards.

A Montreal syndicate has arranged with the city of Calgary to establish large stock-yards in that active center of stock-raising. The company is purchasing twenty acres of land at \$1,000, agreeing to give the city fifty per cent. of the market fees and to erect buildings to the value of \$6,000 the first year.