

account contained in their family papers. In these, as a rule, not only are all the successive scientific discoveries relating to the occupation of their patrons, described in a popular style and at sufficient length for all practical purposes, but the experiment of hundreds and the experience of thousands of farmers, instead of remaining confined singly to a few in each neighborhood, are made collectively the common property of all.

The Month.

January is particularly the month of meetings. The Ontario and Quebec legislature have each begun their annual sessions, and whilst our provincial parliaments are now of comparatively secondary interest to the Dominion, yet their deliberations should be watched with great care for they affect general prosperity and comfort more closely in many respects than the supreme government. Both houses are still discussing our railway and colonization grants, the boundary question and revenue. The grants to railways and colonization roads have been exceedingly liberal, and a more economical policy will soon have to be pursued, or the provinces will have to resort to more direct taxation. Our timber lands must be husbanded with frugality, and competing parallel roads a few miles apart built for subsidies only, must be treated on commercial principles—will they pay.

The Board of Agriculture and Arts have held their January meeting, and but little of great importance however was transacted.

Again the accounts were not ready, as the Auditors had not audited them. Apparently one of the auditors allows the public interest to suffer whilst his private affairs were first taken care of. As auditors are usually paid for their services it might be more profitable to have this scrutiny undertaken by another who would sacrifice his private affairs slightly, if necessary, for an equivalent.

The accounts of the Board should be balanced, audited, printed, and mailed to all agricultural societies by the 1st of January in each year, and then these societies would have an opportunity of passing upon the stewardship of the Board, and instructing their delegates.

The question of the treasurer remaining a little while after the conclusion of the Provincial Exhibition to pay the prizes, was not entered upon. Many complaints have been made of an undue haste on the part of the paying officer to escape from his week's work too soon. An officer with full authority should remain at least until the Saturday night, and a better suggestion would be until the following Monday evening.

The agricultural societies have had their annual meetings, and elected their officers for 1878; a better attendance and a greater interest than usual has been taken by the members. This year the new act has come into force, and the election of delegates who will choose new members in place of those who retire this year from the Board of Agriculture and Arts, has had its first trial.

The Ontario Legislature certainly take considerable interest in agriculture and arts, if the periodical changes in the act are true symptoms. Whether they are now bordering on confusion by so many alterations time will better demonstrate.

Our useful commercial body, the Dominion Board of Trade have again been in session and their deliberations are of a most important character to all. The subjects brought forward are of the best possible utility, and should have great weight. A suggestion has been offered that our agricultural interests should be represented on this Board. This is a step in the right direction and a few of our leading agriculturists would do good

service there by enunciating freely their particular opinions and mature experience.

Why should not the Board of Agriculture send a delegate?

Among the miscellaneous gatherings, the Dominion Grange have once more had their annual meeting and report great progress both in the number of granges, membership and increase of funds.

The Weather and the Crops.

January has been unusually mild. There has been no snow worth speaking about. The roads has not been good, much of the produce is still on the farmers hands. The winter wheat has not been injured as yet by the open weather, the plant is very strong, the covering of snow at the present time would be of much benefit to it although no injury has as yet been done, and the plant is unusually luxuriant, a protectory mantle might prevent injury.

Illustrated Agricultural Lectures.

We see by the Lansing, Mich., *Republican* that Prof. Manly Miles, of that city, who has made agriculture and stock-raising a life-long study, has prepared illustrated lectures on the subject of live stock, which present some very novel and interesting features. He has procured a large and costly magic lantern, furnished with achromatic lenses and a large number of slides containing types of every breed of domestic animal. These are exhibited on canvas, life-size, and used to explain and vivify various portions of the lecture, thus giving the audience not only the facts, but illustrating and enforcing the lecture by placing the animal before them and pointing out its distinctive features. Nothing of this kind has ever before been attempted, but it is a feature which cannot fail to interest and delight any audience.

If our farmers would form clubs and obtain the services of the Professor in Canada, we have no doubt but that beneficial results would follow, as agricultural information in any form is advantageous.

Poultry Yard.

Ontario Poultry Society.

The annual exhibition of the Ontario Poultry Society will be held in the City Hall, London, the last week in February. The Committee are busily engaged in arranging their special prize list, which we believe is to be an excellent one. Their regular prize list, we understand, will be \$5.00, \$3.00 and \$1.00, besides many specials. Mr. John Plummer, the President of the Society, intends giving a first-class lumber wagon to the exhibitor of the best six pairs of any variety, and the donor to have the choice of one pair. There will also be many specials to the value of \$5.00 and \$10.00 in goods of various kinds. Entrees must be in two weeks previous to the exhibition. Send to the Sec. Treas., Mr. L. G. Jarvis, Nilestown, for entry papers, who will forward them to you immediately. Put the price you want for each pair opposite the entry, as the price must be put on the cards. All sales will be effected through the Secretary, and ten per cent. deducted from the price realized. The fowls will be taken care of by the Society in the best possible manner, so the exhibitor need not hesitate in sending them. We feel sure that every exhibitor will get every cent of his prize money at the close of the exhibition, as the Committee have worked hard and got the treasury in good condition.

Canadian Poultry and Meat.

The good demand in England for the produce of our Canadian farmers is of very great importance to us—scarcely less so than the yield of our crops. Had we not a good market for our beef and mutton we would have little encouragement for the improvement of our cattle and the cultivation of crops needed for feeding them. But as it is the products of our dairies and poultry yards, as well as our meat and breadstuffs, are all called for in England, the great market of the world, if in marketable condition. This is the prime necessity.

There was a considerable consignment of Canadian turkeys this week for our Christmas markets. Bristol, Liverpool and Manchester were the country markets that received supplies. London (Leadenhall market) also had a good many barrels. Unfortunately, the weather on the arrival of the birds here was very mild, and their condition was not good. A consignment of Turkeys from the Eastern Townships was spoiled by holes having been bored in the barrels. I saw the birds in Leadenhall market condemned as unfit for food. They were destroyed by order of the Sanitary Inspector. Another lot, sent by Mr. Dawson, of Brampton, Ontario, were packed in their feathers in barrels, and carried very well, but the weather was against them, and they had a bad smell, which prevented them realizing remunerative prices. I bought fourteen of these turkeys at six shillings apiece, but when cooked they were unsatisfactory, being rather "high" and smelling like game long kept. I have taken a great interest in the competition of Canadian poultry, as there is a great trade to be done, but the birds must arrive in "first-rate condition. English turkeys of the same size as these birds, 8 to 9 lbs. each, sold at double the price. Poultry from Canada must be packed in the feathers, the heads to be put under the wing, in boxes—not barrels—practically airtight. On arrival here the birds should be hung in a draught of air for twenty-four hours, and if the weather is cold their condition will be first-rate. There is an unlimited market in England for a good article at remunerative prices, but the condition must be nearly equal to that of home-fed poultry. I would strongly urge on Canadian consignors of poultry the advisability of feeding their birds fat before sending them. The Canadian geese in this market fetched a very low price, because they were lean compared with the home-fed birds displayed by their side. Messrs. G. Brooke & Co., of Leadenhall Market, received the Canadian poultry for sale, and they are very ready to promote the trade as much as possible, but of course they were unable to dispose of inferior poultry at good prices. In the first place the birds must be fat, and in the second place they must be in good condition when they arrive, if the trade is to be satisfactorily established.

Winter Management.

As a general thing when poultry of any description run at large, they are able to supply themselves with the necessary variety of diet which they require. We have no idea what an amount of garbage they hunt out and scratch over, finding something in each deposit that they desire or crave. They devour an immense quantity of what we might term uncleanly food, and yet the fowls do better to have their runs, and hunt out these morsels so choice to them. A large proportion of their food consists of vegetable matter. This latter is necessary and indispensable to health. Everything that feeds largely on grain requires something for bulk, to distend the stomach, and keep the digestive organs in good working order, otherwise the bird or the animal cannot thrive. Winter management of poultry is no small item if we are judiciously inclined, and have an eye to some income, no matter how small, from our hens. So long as the winter is open and the ground uncovered from snow, the fowls will in a great measure assist themselves, and if well fed and supplied with water, will give a fair yield in eggs, but it often occurs in our northern localities and the ground is covered with snow, for three and sometimes four months during the winter season. For the long period we must make some preparation.

An open shed, fronting the south, with gravel bottom, and where the cattle run, affords a pleasant scratching ground for them during the day, and is an admirable place, providing the roost be contiguous. The cattle trample the snow down, and beat out paths, which renders an easy footing for them