

steamship companies to meet the above requirements should be deemed sufficient reason for the withholding of the subsidy. Prof. Robertson said that this plan had already been adopted by the Government to a certain extent, but that our difficulty had been, the present season, that freight rates were so high and suitable vessels so scarce that steamship owners were not as amenable to this form of moral suasion as in ordinary years. Some of those present favored the abolition of all subsidies to steamship companies, while others thought that poor and dishonest packing was the great cause of the difficulty; but the great majority, while admitting that some of the first was not packed as it should have been, considered the steamships as largely responsible, and favored the appointment of an inspector for each port from which apples are being exported, who should have power to see that fruit was properly handled, properly stowed in the vessels, and to examine fruit which he had reason to suspect was fraudulently packed, and condemn it if necessary.

The subject of *spraying* was given an entire session for discussion, and even then the interest was not exhausted. No particularly new features were brought out, but it was evident that in many cases spraying had not given as satisfactory results in 1900 as could be desired. Yet every one who took part in the discussion expressed himself as determined to continue the practice; one man saying, in reply to the question whether he intended to persevere, "Yes, or go out of the fruit business." But it was very evident that during such a season as last year, when there is so much rainy weather during the early part of the season, the early spraying is all-important. An example illustrating this fact was given. Two men sprayed their orchards; one twice, the other three times. The first man sprayed once before the blossoms opened, the other not till they had fallen. The result was that the man who began early and only sprayed twice had better fruit than the man who sprayed three times, but didn't begin till after the blossoms fell. Doubtless different weather would have modified this result, but it seems probable that the early spray is always of great importance.

The subject of *agricultural education* came in for a good deal of discussion first to last. It was reported from what was considered a reliable source, that the Governments of the three Maritime Provinces had agreed to establish an agricultural college, and the Association passed a resolution congratulating the Nova Scotia Government on this movement, and urging that the new institution be of sufficient size to accommodate at least two hundred students.

One of the most interesting features of the meeting was the *fruit exhibit*, consisting of over two hundred plates, mostly apples, but a few pears and quinces. Besides a fine showing of all the standard varieties, there were several sorts new to the Province. Mr. Frank Kenney, of Gaspereaux, showed a fine plate of Gano, the red sport of B-n Davis, and it would seem that if Nova Scotia is to grow either of these apples, the Gano is preferable, since bright and attractive color constitutes a very large proportion of the desirable points of both varieties. Mr. J. Elliott Smith showed a plate of handsome Mackintosh Red, the fine appearance of which raised the question whether the Fameuse type of apples, which were driven out of cultivation by the black spot, might not again be profitably grown now that spraying has subdued the black spot. The prizes offered consisted of handsome diplomas, with a number of valuable books on horticultural subjects, for some of the most important awards. The prizewinners were as follows:

- 1—Best exhibit of apples, county west of Halifax (excluding King's, Hants and Annapolis)—1st, Yarmouth Agricultural Society.
- 2—Best exhibit of apples, county east of Halifax (including Halifax district, excluding King's, Hants and Annapolis)—1st, Durham Agricultural Society, Pictou Co.; 2nd, Antigonish Fruit Growers' Association.
- 3—Best exhibit of apples grown on one farm—1st, A. C. Starr, Starr's Point.
- 4—Best exhibit of 5 commercial varieties apples, grown on one farm—1st, A. C. Starr, Starr's Point; 2nd, A. C. Johnson, Wolfville.
- 5—Best plate Baldwin—1st, G. H. Starr, Starr's Point; 2nd, J. A. Caldwell, Gaspereaux.
- 6—Best plate Banks—1st, A. H. Johnson, Wolfville; 2nd, J. Elliott Smith, Wolfville.
- 7—Best plate Blenheim—1st, S. C. Parker, Berwick; 2nd, G. E. De Witt, Wolfville.
- 8—Best plate Ben Davis—1st, Chas. Fitch, Wolfville; 2nd, A. C. Starr, Starr's Point.
- 9—Best plate Fallwater—1st, A. C. Starr, Starr's Point.
- 10—Best plate Golden Russet—1st, D. Collins, Port Williams; 2nd, A. C. Starr, Starr's Point.
- 11—Best plate Gravenstein—1st, A. C. Johnson, Wolfville; 2nd, S. C. Parker, Berwick.
- 12—Best plate King—1st, J. A. Caldwell, Gaspereaux; 2nd, R. W. Starr, Wolfville.
- 13—Best plate Nonpareil—1st, Chas. Fitch, Wolfville; 2nd, G. H. Starr, Starr's Point.
- 14—Best plate Ribstone—1st, Chas. Fitch, Wolfville; 2nd, J. Elliott Smith, Wolfville.
- 15—Best plate R. I. Greenings—1st, Chas. Fitch, Wolfville; 2nd, A. C. Starr, Starr's Point.
- 16—Best plate Spy—1st, S. C. Parker, Berwick; 2nd, J. S. Martin, Wolfville.
- 17—Best plate Starks—1st, A. C. Starr, Starr's Point.
- 18—Best plate Wagners—1st, A. C. Starr, Starr's Point.
- 19—New commercial apple, Ontario—J. Elliott Smith, Wolfville; Mann—A. H. Johnson, Wolfville.
- 20—New dessert apple, Mackintosh Red—J. Elliott Smith, Wolfville; Cox Orange—R. W. Starr, Wolfville.
- 21—Plate pears—1st (Lawrence), Guy Goddard, Grand Pre; 2nd, (Vicar), R. W. Starr, Wolfville.
- 22—Collection cranberries—J. S. Bishop, Auburn.

Officers were elected as follows: President, J. W. Bigelow, Wolfville; Vice-President, Peter Innes, Cold Brook; Secretary, S. C. Parker, Berwick; Treasurer, Geo. W. Munro, Wolfville.

POULTRY.

The Turkey and its Management.

The raising of the turkey for marketing and exportation purposes, both dead and alive, is now becoming an important branch in the trade of this country, and is, I think, deserving of some notice.

First, the breeds, feeding and care of the breeding stock; next, the raising and care of the young. There are several standard breeds of turkeys, the Bronze, the White Holland, the Narragansett, the Black, the Buff, and the Slate. The first two varieties are the best known. Turkeys differ from other classes of poultry in many ways. The domestic turkey is but few removes from its wild ancestors, and much of that wildness still remains. They cannot be confined profitably, and the larger the flock the greater the disposition to roam. I have found them so at least.

I now come to the feeding and care of the breeding stock. The first thing to do is the selection of the stock. The breeding stock one starts with should be large, strong, and not related. Do not try to economize on the price of the first stock bought, for their offspring will grow up like them. Be very careful to guard against overfeeding the breeding stock. It is very important to keep the turkey in a healthy and vigorous condition. There is considerable loss occasioned each year by having the breeding stock diseased and not fit for breeding purposes. Most of this is brought about by overfeeding. What the breeding stock need is the bone and muscle rather than fat, and they should be fed with this object in view, being supplied with good, strengthening food, which will aid in forming a large, strong frame. In cases where this is neglected, and the turkeys are allowed to become very fat at the breeding time, the eggs laid are small and not always properly fertilized. If hatched at all, the chicks will not be strong and healthy. For new blood, it is well to procure from a distance. In procuring a gobbler, aim to secure one that is strong and vigorous. It is better to use turkey hens two years old than to depend on pullets. The hen likes a secluded spot for her nest, so those who are in this line should prepare a place where she can slyly make her nest and deposit her eggs unknown. It is their nature to nest on the ground, and the eggs hatch better if exposed to the earth's moisture. Place old barrels on their sides, put hay and leaves carelessly inside for them to lay on, and when the time arrives she will make her nest, and in such a way that the eggs will not get chilled. It not infrequently happens that the hen will not take to the nest prepared for her. She will likely seek a nest in the woods, if it is near by. It is dangerous to move the nest once the hen has started setting, as she is liable to leave it.

I now come to the raising and care of the young. The young chicks should not be disturbed for 24 hours after making their appearance. After that time they will be quite strong and hungry. I then remove them to a clean, airy, roomy coop, and give them their first meal, which is of boiled hen's eggs. Stale wheat bread and crumbs, just moistened with milk, can be given afterwards. This feed should be continued for two weeks, occasionally giving them curd. Make the food sweet and wholesome. All food must be cooked until they have thrown out the red on their heads. Feed them five or six times a day, just enough so they will eat it all up. Whole wheat boiled to bursting makes one of the best foods for young turkeys. They should also be given a little green food and gravel or other grit. After they are three months old they may be given cracked grain, wheat, corn, and such like, but no whole grain until they are five or six months old. The coops must be kept dry and clean and the young turkeys kept out of the dew and rain until they are full feathered. Dampness and filth will kill them as sure as a dose of poison. Many lose their turkeys by keeping them too closely confined. They must have a good range in order to become strong and active. Do not keep them shut up after the dew is off, except on rainy days. One thing you should always do is to encourage the mother to return early with her brood. This can be accomplished by feeding them at six o'clock every evening. A turkey looks upon home as a place to get something to eat. If they are not encouraged to come home early, the young become sleepy and often get lost or destroyed. Another essential point is to keep them clear of lice. Their worst enemy is the head louse. Look for these in the feathers of the head and under the throat close to the skin. When these are found, dust the mother and her brood well with good fresh insect powder and rub one or two drops of sweet oil well into the feathers of the head and neck. Do not use more than two or three drops of grease, for it is a dangerous article to use on young poultry of all kinds, as I have found out by experience.

I think the Bronze turkey is certainly the market bird. They are quick growers, excellent for table use, and immense in size. They will bring the same price per pound in the market as other breeds, and in a flock of, say, twenty-four you will get from twenty-five to seventy-five pounds more in weight from the same age and feed as from any twenty-five turkeys of any other variety.

I write this to give the farmers' wives an opportunity of knowing how they can make from five to fifty dollars more a year than they can do by breeding scrub or badly inbred stock of any variety.

FARMER'S WIFE.

Fertile or Infertile Eggs, Which?

I have seen and heard a great deal of discussion in reference to the keeping qualities of fertile or infertile eggs. Now, as the proof of the pudding is in the eating, I made up my mind that the best way to prove the right and wrong of the matter would be to put the theory to the test. Now was my chance—I had a hen wanting to sit. I took three infertile eggs, and with ten fertile eggs placed them under the hen. For fear there might be a mistake, I took care and marked the three eggs. After the hen had set the allotted time, I found the fertile eggs had turned to ten chicks, the infertile still remaining eggs. I examined them carefully by the aid of a lamp, and found them as clear as the day they were placed under the hen. Not satisfied with the test, I reset the hen and placed under her the same three eggs, and they remained under her for three weeks longer. At the end of six weeks I examined them, and found them as clear as the first day I put them under the hen. Still I was not satisfied. The eggs were carried to the house, and the goodwife was requested to cook them, with the request to be careful to break them in a dish before putting in pan to cook, as they had been under a hen. Soon breakfast was called. What about those three eggs? One had a streak of blood through it, the other two were all right. Well! Whew!! My resolution nearly failed me. I must confess, Mr. Editor, to a sickly feeling in the pit of my stomach. Well, men have died in the search for truth, and no scientific research has been made without a sacrifice. After fortifying myself with such thoughts as the above, and with a determination to do or die, I closed my eyes and bolted the first mouthful of egg that had been under a hen for six weeks. I must confess that though the thought was unpalatable, and the egg was eaten with the expectation of losing it and breakfast, I found it (the egg) was as pleasant as any fresh-laid egg I had ever eaten, so I ate the other without any squeamishness. I would like to know if any of the *ADVOCATE'S* readers have ever tried a fertile egg in the same way and could say that it tasted fresh. We know the results, from sad experience, of handling fertile eggs that have been under a hen for three weeks when it failed to turn to a chick. It is not necessary to stop and cook or taste them, the smell is enough!

One thing I am convinced of is that infertile eggs will keep when fertile will not. We do not pack eggs in the summer or fall, as we endeavor to have our hens lay all winter, but if I did I would separate my hens from the male birds and pack only infertile eggs.

Eastern Assiniboia.

J. B. POWELL.

Tender and Tough Turkeys.

Sir Courtney Boyle, permanent secretary of the Board of Trade, London, recently delivered a lecture on Method and Organization in Business, in which he told the following story:—

Not very long ago there came to a large poultryer's shop a gentleman who stuttered, and he said:

"I-I w-want to s-see some t-turkeys."

He was shown some.

"Some are t-tough and some are t-tender?"

The shopman admitted the fact.

"I-I s-suppose there is a d-difference in the price?"

He was assured there was none.

"I-I k-keep a b-boy's school: would you," with a wink of the eye, "m-mind p-picking out the t-tough ones?"

The tough ones were taken out and put on one side.

"C-can you m-make any d-difference in the price?"

This was refused.

"Then I will t-take the t-tender ones."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Legal.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

J. B., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"I. A bought a village lot some years ago for taxes, etc. He died without a will, and the lot is mentioned in widow's administration papers. She rented the lot for taxes and roadwork, and now people tell her that the man can keep the lot after a certain number of years (7 or 10 years). Can he?"

"2. A similar case in Muskoka, when a widow rented a small farm for roadwork and taxes, and people tell her the man can keep it after a number of years. Can he legally retain possession of it? In both cases there are no writings in way of lease."

[1 and 2. No. But while in neither case would the tenant be legally entitled to continue in possession after the expiry of due notice to quit, given him by his landlady, and certainly could not acquire title by length of possession as against her, she ought to have from him a written acknowledgment over his hand and seal of the fact and terms of the tenancy, and the same duly witnessed, as otherwise she might, after the lapse of years, find herself without the evidence necessary to protect her rights in the premises. A lease in the ordinary statutory short form ought to be executed by the parties for their mutual protection.]