

this season about 17 cents per barrel for packing, selling and shipping fruit, the barrels costing 33 cents each delivered. They shipped this season exactly 1,000 barrels, loading five cars. The fruit was sold f. o. b. at Ilderton Station at \$2.60 for No. 1, and \$2.20 for No. 2, thus the net returns to the growers were \$2.10 and \$1.70. The buyers in the section were paying \$1.00, and in a few cases \$1.25 for XXX, so the members have at least gained 70 cents and 85 cents per barrel for No. 1 and No. 2, respectively.

Some of the members sold the best of the culls on the local market at a fair price, and some went to the evaporator, but as the crop was light this year many kept the culls at home. It is believed they could have done better this year if the fruit had been shipped to England as heretofore.

Experimental Potato Yields.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I was very much amused when reading the reply by Mr. Macoun, of the Central Experimental Farm, to my enquiry regarding potato experiments. I suppose a horse travelling a mile in two minutes would mean he would go at the rate of 30 miles per hour, providing he could keep it up. So I can get 400 bushels of potatoes per acre in the same way. I read of a man in the Old Country who had a new kind of potatoes to sell, and to advertise them he said he had got as many as 30 potatoes in a hill; at that rate it would mean ten hills to the bag, providing there were 30 potatoes in every hill. I am perfectly aware that the dog would have caught the rabbit if he had not stopped to pick the bone. However, laying jokes aside, I want the address of a firm or firms who manufacture potato diggers and baggers, also potato planters. I am in the potato business, and am getting in it on a larger scale every year, and if there are any improved methods I would like to have them.

York Co., Ont.

E. FRENCH.

[Note.—Manufacturers of potato-growing apparatus would do well to at once place an announcement of the fact in the advertising columns of the "Farmer's Advocate" for the information of farmers and others who are steadily increasing their potato-growing operations.—Editor.]

POULTRY.

"How Many Hens?"

The number of hens to be kept by the farmer depends largely upon the care and housing he is prepared to give them. Feed, without care and management, will not make a success of the poultry business, no matter how plentiful the feed may be. Neither will management without feed be found sufficient. It requires feed, housing and care combined harmoniously.

At least five square feet of space should be given each hen. That is, a house 10x12 would accommodate 24 hens. But it is important that a roosting board be provided, and all nests, troughs, grit and water utensils hung on the wall, or more room would be needed. With this amount of room, and all their wants liberally supplied, 100 to 150 could be kept in a flock upon a farm, and they would be a source of a surprising large revenue, providing they were of superior laying strain (the lay bred into them counts as much as anything). But if this number were kept it is very essential that every detail be well looked after, else disaster will likely follow. Even if no disaster by way of disease from over-crowding occurred, there would be a very small profit per hen at the close of the year if neglected in any way.

Hens in large numbers, even on a farm, cannot be expected to forage all their grit, shell-forming materials and animal food—all of which must be procured in plenteous supply. It is poor policy to compel Biddy to search all day for a few pebbles to grind her food. She should be kept busy, of course, but should be able to help herself freely to grit and oyster-shell, then she has more time to seek other food.

No doubt where hens are compelled to rustle for themselves without any care or served rations, a small flock will lay more eggs (a great many more per hen) and maintain better health and vigor than a large-sized one. Under these circumstances, about 20 good hardy hens are quite enough. It takes a certain amount of food to maintain animal life, and if we want eggs, the hen must have food in excess of this requirement. Where nothing is fed, on the average farm that obtainable from forage suitable to promote the production of eggs is in too limited quantity to divide among a great many birds, and yet it is all necessary for a few. So the question of "How Many" must be answered by each farmer for himself. The fact must be kept in view, though, that whatever the number they must have a sufficient supply of all that goes to make eggs or they cannot give satisfactory results. A bank account will not permit daily withdrawals and no deposits. The hen is a machine which must be fed, or it cannot turn out fresh eggs.

Prof. Gowell, of the Maine Agricultural College and Experiment Station, is now conducting experiments with

flocks as large as 150 hens, and believes the system will work well in accordingly commodious quarters.
J. R. H.
Wentworth Co., Ont.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

To Our Readers:

We want any of our readers who are at any time dissatisfied with the treatment they receive from an advertiser in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE to let us know about it. If you answer an advertisement appearing in our columns and don't get what you pay for, tell us at once, and we will look into the matter. We do not propose to let our subscribers suffer through answering advertising in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE and not getting fair treatment. We will consider it a favor if you write us in such cases, giving full particulars.



Earl Carrington.

President of the British Board of Agriculture in the Campbell-Bannerman Cabinet.

Charles Robert Wynn-Carrington was born on May 10th, 1843. He was educated at Cambridge, became Captain of the Royal Body Guard in 1881, Governor of New South Wales from 1885 to 1890, returning home to become Lord Chamberlain of the Royal Household. He now occupies the position of President of the Board of Agriculture in Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Cabinet. His landed possessions extend over 23,000 acres.

Canadian.

The surplus from the Canadian Industrial Exhibition, Toronto, Ont., this year amounts to \$37,000, the largest in the history of the exhibition.

The Imperial Government of Japan is preparing an archaeological display for the museum of the Ontario Education Department.

The mining convention, held in Toronto, passed resolutions opposing a royalty or any special tax on the mining industry, and advocating a general mining law.

W. W. Dean, Senior Judge of Victoria County, Ont., died at his home in Lindsay, December 11th. He was a member of the Board of Regents of Victoria University.

A nugget, containing two hundred pounds of almost pure silver, has been found at Cobalt, near Groulx Lake. Two smaller nuggets, of thirty pounds each, were found beside it.

Dr. Kilpatrick, late of Manitoba College, gave an address before the Canadian Club, Toronto, in which he said that one great foe to education is denominationalism, and that an educational system contrived in the interests of any denomination is a profound practical and organic mistake. He was to be addressed by Methodists, Anglicans and Presbyterians, but not allowed to be Methodists, Anglicans or Presbyterians.

British and Foreign.

The Washburn's Trial, of 1878, has decreed

that its members shall ride to and from their work in their employers' carriages.

After an interval of twenty years, Lord Aberdeen has been sworn in as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland for the second time.

Prince Arthur of Connaught, who is at present on his way to Japan to bestow a decoration on the Emperor, will return from there by way of Canada. The exact date of his arrival is not yet known.

The huge wheat and oil-seed areas of the Punjab district of India are suffering from prolonged drouth, and great anxiety is felt for the fate of the crops.

Out of the nineteen members of the new British Cabinet, eight are of Scottish descent, and four others represent Scotch constituencies.

At a recent auction sale in England, the anvil used by John Bunyan, and inscribed with his name, sold for £255. At the same sale a first edition of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" brought £1,670, and a first edition of his "Midsummer Night's Dream" brought £480.

Three of the Chinese who were found guilty of the murders of the five American missionaries in China were beheaded, fifteen others received terms of imprisonment, and search is being made for others who took part in the violence.

The Brazilian Chamber of Commerce has devoted the sum of £400,000 as a prize to the discoverer of a really enduring method of curing cancer. An international committee is to be formed of six judges, chosen from London, Paris, Rome and Rio Janeiro.

Doings Among the Nations.

TURKEY.

The Sultan, considering discretion the better part of valor, has yielded to the demands of the Powers for the financial control of Macedonia.

RUSSIA.

No ray of hope illumines the darkness of Russia's night of horror. The situation changes only for the worse. Atrocities of the most terrible description are of hourly occurrence, and no section of the vast country is unaffected, but at present the greatest trouble is in the Baltic Provinces. The killing of a German nobleman in Riga has alarmed the foreign residents, who fear a general massacre. The mob has seized the city, and has set up a provisional government, and are being joined by many of the Czar's troops.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Dr. J. O. Orr, Manager of the Industrial Exhibition, Toronto, has had his salary increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.

The present season has been a record one in the sugar industry at Raymond, Alberta. The output from one plant alone will total 4,800,000 pounds.

The Calgary Colonization Company, Limited, purpose establishing an experimental farm on a portion of the Hull ranch, near Langdon, to demonstrate that the large block of land they own in that locality is productive. This ranch was bought by them a few months ago. It contains 38,000 acres, and about 1,000 of this will be under grains, grasses and vegetables next spring for the aforementioned purpose.

A Brant Co. correspondent, in renewing his subscription, expresses his delight with the Christmas number of the "Farmer's Advocate." "The article on dairying by Mr. John Gould, of Ohio, is, I think, the best I ever read on that subject. He manages to cover so much ground, and say so much in a small space. It certainly contains a great deal of valuable information."

Canadian apples are finding favor in France, where they are preferred to apples from the United States. A letter from Bodin & Sons, fruit dealers, France, to the Chief of the Fruit Branch, Department of Agriculture, says in part: "We are much better satisfied than two years ago, and if your packers will pay as much attention to packing XX fruit as they pay to the XXX fruit, there is no doubt that your apples will meet with a greater demand than those of the United States, which do not reach us in such good condition."

A reduction in rates on bee products and materials used in connection with the beekeeping industry was asked from the Canadian Railway Commission by the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, represented by Messrs. E. F. Holtermann, Brantford; T. E. Evans, Islington, and William Coise, Streetsville. They stated that wax was sold in a much higher class than tallow or lard, and that honey had to pay much more than syrup and similar products. Comb foundation was sent at a cheaper rate than wax, the raw material from which it was made. Decision was reserved.

At the auction sale of carcasses on the concluding day of the Winter Fair, Guelph, a very satisfactory