



AGRICULTURAL NEWS



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Clean and Fresh Nests

Many poultry keepers in the hot weather are unfortunately too prone to let the nest get foul and unclean. All runs should be kept as fresh as possible, and thoroughly limewashed if the birds are to be kept in the best of health. See to all cracks and corners, for it is in these that pests will lurk. Use plenty of lime to get rid of such trouble. For this work choose a nice sunny day when the walls will have a good opportunity of drying quickly. Nests should be kept clean and fresh and renewed much more often in summer than at any other time of the year. Protection from the sun's rays should be given to birds in close confinement, as otherwise, there is great danger of some of them being seized with apoplexy or some other dangerous complaint. Felling the natural shelter of trees or shrubs, a simple yet effective method of protection is to stretch canvas sacks affixed to four posts stuck in the ground adjacent to the run.

Kedgwick

Miss Aurora Savoy was in Dalhousie last week attending the funeral of her cousin the late Miss Letourneau. Miss Clare Theriault is visiting her relative in Charlottetown. Mr. Mike Broderick was in Campbellton on a business trip last week. Mr. Edmond Polier was visiting his relatives in Bonaventure East last week. Mr. William Paige was visiting in Bonaventure East last week the guests of friends. Mr. Andrew Savoy was in Dalhousie last week.

The Idea of Community Farm Machinery

Little argument is needed to show the advantages which a community may enjoy through owning machinery which it would be impossible for any individual to buy. Threshing, silage cutting, spraying, and saving are the big machinery jobs on the farm and they represent a considerable annual cash outlay. The total outlay of the community for a few years would buy the machinery outright and it would always be at the disposal of the members when needed—a consideration which is worth cash. It is unlikely that any one community would want all the machinery mentioned, and, in any case, it would not be wise to attempt so large a measure of co-operative ownership at one step. It would be preferable to make the experiment with the least costly implements and judge from the experience gained in handling it how much further the community should go, and what methods are best.

The main difficulties to be encountered are in financing and in apportioning the cost of operation and upkeep. In a comparatively closely settled community with a large number of members each member might make an initial payment equal to two or three years' average hireage. This would meet the first payment on the machinery. The balance would be secured by notes given by the payment. These would be taken up as members came in proportion to their first, convenient or could be reduced each year by the equivalent of each member's annual hireage. The joint responsibility of the whole membership would be simple security. The snag which was wrecked many such schemes has been unequal apportioning of the operating cost. Local circumstances will decide whether this should be done on the basis of work performed by the machinery—that is, by the acre of crop, by the bushel, by the cubic foot of silo space, by the cord, plus any demurrage charges—or according to the time the machinery is used by each member. If there is no very great difference in the distance between farms the question of road travel could be forgotten and a meet contentious point thus eliminated. In some places each farmer fetches the machine from its last year, but this would only be fair if the machine passed systematically from neighbor to neighbor and did not skip back and forth. A cash equivalent for and close account kept of each member's man and horse labor should be agreed on service during the season. In closing the accounts those who have not given their due share of labor would be charged at the agreed rate and this sum credited to those who did more than their share. It is essential, of course, that at least one member of the ring should have the necessary mechanical knowledge to run the machinery. In the all-time of work the care of the machinery would fall to him and he would be credited for any extra work involved. No matter what system may be devised, cost and labor will at times fall more heavily on some than on others, through weather conditions or routing of the implements. In the first respect nothing can be done. In the matter of routing, this can be equalized over a few seasons by starting out from a different point each year. In some communities co-operative threshers are now working successfully. These are usually twenty-two-inch cylinder machines and the membership of each ring is limited to the number of men required to handle a machine for a season. About eight. This limitation is designed to reduce the time each member will have to leave his farm to pay back work. Some of these machines were bought by individual farmers in the first place but these found that in order to get help they had to promise to thresh for those who helped them. An equitable arrangement had to be come to as to what each should pay and be paid, and the result was co-

The Outlook For Poultry

What is to be the future of the chicken business? That question is being asked every day. Will it pay to enlarge the plant? Will it pay the amateur to start? Will prices for eggs keep up? All along the Atlantic Coast there has been a "boom" in poultry. The commercial plants have increased, and the trade in day-old chicks, is beyond anything dreamed of a dozen years ago. Is it a mere "boom" that will collapse before long, like a windbag, or is it a solid growth and a substantial business? We find all sorts of answers to the question. There are some well-known poultrymen who are frightened at the outlook. They think the business will be overdone until eggs fall to a price below the cost of production. That will mean ruin to many plants that are being operated without sufficient capital. Others, and much larger number of breeders and feeders, take a more hopeful view. They see increased demand for both eggs and meat and better organization for selling.

There will always be a food of amateurs and enthusiasts people who will rush into the business and fade away when the pinch comes. In the future it will be no business for the inexperienced man. The "plungers" will embarrass the business at times, but in the long run poultry keepers will pay as well as any other branch of farming. That is the way the great majority of conservative men talk. They expect good years and bad years, and the surplus of the good years must be used to help over the bad ones. The business has never been one for the "plunger" or the man who expects to make a lot of money without work or experience. The man who knows how will have a good chance. It looks as if there will be a fair demand in the future for eggs and meat, but good salesmanship will be needed to put the market over. The ordinary farm flock, where hens of almost any breed run at large and eggs are gathered every two or three days, will not cut so much of a figure in the future. Egg production in the future will be largely in the hands of people who make a business of it. Formerly, as we know, a good share of the supplies in our markets came from small orchards not very well cared for. Now these farm orchards are mostly out of date and contribute but little to the apple supply. Markets are supplied from the well-kept orchards.

operative ownership. The successful operation of such a scheme will depend more on the presence of a true spirit of co-operation in the community than on any rigid and invulnerable articles of agreement. Economically as well as spiritually the letter killeth but the spirit giveth life.

Douglstown, Que.

Mr. J. Clive Brant leaves this morning for Dalhousie, N. B., to resume his summer's work with the P. Q. Lumber Company there. Miss Josephine Rooney of Gaspe Basin came here on Saturday to attend the funeral of her uncle the late Mr. Martin McCabe. Mrs. Peter Beaudoin has returned to her home in Seal Cove after an extended trip to Montreal, in the course of which she visited her daughter, Mrs. Arthur Ellement and son, Mr. P. E. Beaudoin who is a policeman in that city. Mr. Smith E. Baird from L'Anse aux Cousins spent Sunday at his home here. Mrs. Josephine Rooney paid a flying visit to Barachois last week visiting his sister, Mrs. McGregor and Mr. Hammond. We are pleased to welcome in our midst Mr. Alfred McCabe from Montreal, after an absence of four years. He was called here on the 8th inst. by the death of his father, the late Martin McCabe. Mr. Joseph Baird of Douglas West

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received news the other day that his brother, Mr. Alfred Bolduc was a patient in a hospital in Quebec, a victim of paralysis. He has friends here who will be glad to hear of his recovery.

Mrs. Jno. Carberry returned to her home in Grand River on Monday morning. Her many friends of former years were glad to meet her again.

Mr. Odell Rooney has returned to Cape Harbour to take up his work

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