

every turn ready to take up the chase. Now, if you stop to consider the matter could you possibly get a better example of the embarrassment of riches? Just like a man who has acquired a fortune, the hen in possession had to spend all her energy in protecting it and could not take time to enjoy it. And just like wealth, it was constantly changing hands—or beaks. What finally became of the crust we did not learn, as we could not spend the whole afternoon in watching, but at the last glimpse we got the Andalusian was still running strong. Probably the chase was kept up until roosting time. But though I missed the chance to moralize because I could not keep from laughing at the plight of the hen in possession, I may be permitted to score a point with poultry raisers. I understand that to do record laying hens must have plenty of exercise. From what I saw yesterday I learned that a whole flock of hens can be made to exercise to the point of falling from exhaustion by one crust of bread. Here is a scheme for giving hens exercise that beats the usual one of giving them their grain in chaff or straw so that they will have to scratch. One durable crust would keep a flock in motion for a whole day. So you see I learned something even though I missed the chance to enjoy the pleasure of moralizing.

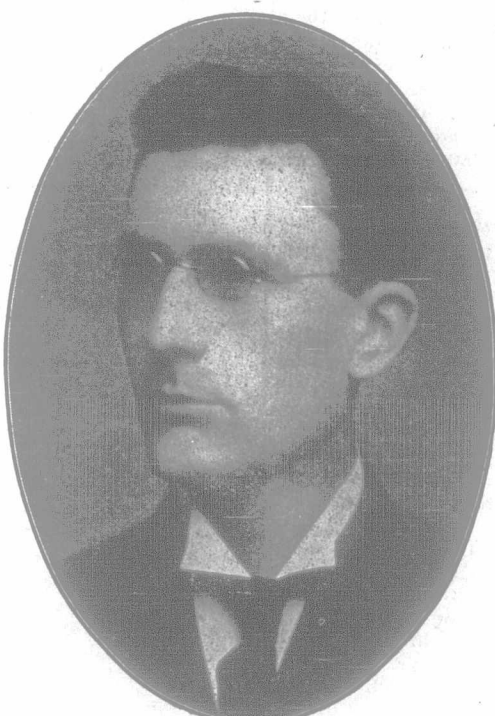
Having ventured to give a tip to the scientists about the best methods of exercising hens, I may as well unburden my mind of some more scientific suggestions. I have been watching with interest the wonderful work that is being done in the development of improved strains of grain by selection, and have been wondering if the scientists are not missing something. The work of natural selection is going on all around us, and haven't you noticed what vigorous weeds Nature is producing in spite of our efforts to destroy them. Many weeds seem to be like "The camomile" the more it is trodden the more it grows. Is it not possible that the scientists are coddling the plants they are favoring? They are doing wonders in the way of producing better yields of corn, wheat, oats, etc., and maturing them in shorter time, but all these better products only tend to fasten on us more securely the curse of labor that makes us earn our bread in the sweat of our brows. These improved products require unusually careful cultivation, and that is not Nature's method at all. Nature seems to aim at getting results without cultivation of any kind. Now why should not the scientists make some experiments along the same line. If they were to throw handfuls of corn among weeds and grass it is probable that a few grains would struggle through and mature ears of corn. If the best of these were selected and sown again under the same conditions, a hardier and more vigorous product could be secured. The process of selection could go on by constantly choosing the most vigorous and best-yielding products until in time we might produce a strain of corn that would not only be able to hold its own with the weeds, but would choke them out and still give a noble yield. By following this suggestion they would simply be aiding natural selection instead of developing strains that need artificial conditions to make them do their best. Think of what a boon it would be to have grains that would grow like weeds without cultivation of any kind and still yield good crops. With hired help so scarce this suggestion should not be brushed aside too scornfully. Besides it would make farming possible for amateur farmers who are obeying the impulse to get back to the land. I am afraid that scientific agriculture is suffering from the same defects as our educational system. There is too much coddling. What I want to see is self-producing crops. If we once get that, the farmers can produce more just as they are being urged by the editorial sages of the city papers. Trusting that the scientists will accept this suggestion in the spirit in which it is meant, I offer it for what it is worth.

What glorious rains we had last week, and what a world of good they did. The oats, barley, and corn seemed to grow six inches in a night—and the weeds and thistles at least a foot. And now we have to start all over again at breaking up the capillaries in the corn field. The rain pounded down the dust mulch until the ground is almost as firmly packed as it was before the cultivating and hoeing began. But no one is objecting—except, of course, the people who were caught with a lot of hay down. Before the rain came the world was hot and dusty, but now everything is clean and cool and purified. The sky seems more blue and farther away, and every breath of air is refreshing. After a flood of summer rain life seems better worth living than before, and yet if you take it in the right way it is good enough at any time.

## Hay Poor in P. E. Island, Too.

Editor of "The Farmer's Advocate":

The weather which was cold and dry all through June, turned warmer when July came in with some welcome showers. The hay is backward, and clover that promised so well early has not come up to expectations. Unless we have good rains with plenty of heat the next few weeks the hay crop will be short. Pastures are still rather short, but coming better now. Grain crops especially oats, are splendid. Potatoes and root crops have got a fine start, and promise a big crop. Orchards promise a bumper yield. Apples have set well as the blooming season was very favorable. Cherries promise well, and plums are making a good showing. Our co-operative cheese and butter factories are doing an average business with prices good. First-half-of-June cheese sold on board for 12-16 cents—a record price for first sales here. Prices of beef cattle have been soaring the last few months, and the price of the best cattle during June reached seven dollars per cwt. Eggs, which have become one of our largest and most profitable exports, are going forward in greater quantities than in other years, and the price here to farmers is about 20 cents per dozen. Our egg and poultry business has developed very fast during recent years since prices have been so good. We look for much to greater development in the near future as a result of the efforts of our poultry specialist, T. A. Benson, whose teaching is helping us along the lines of both production and marketing. The marketing of our eggs has been the weak point in the business here, but with the establishing of "egg circles" we hope to get eggs to the consuming centres in better condition, commanding a higher price.



Prof. J. M. Trueman.

Professor of Agriculture, and Farm Superintendent, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro.

Our local department of agriculture is very active in the interest of the farmers. Professor Reid, our Live Stock Specialist, is doing educative work by holding a large number of meetings, at which lectures are delivered, and demonstrations in dipping sheep, and judging stock are the principal features.

Another business which is being developed here is the cultivation of oysters. We have large areas in our numerous bays suitable for the production of the very best oysters. Surveys have been made of these grounds, dividing them up into claims which are rented to companies who plant them with small oysters, and after some three or four years large returns are expected. Prince Edward Island oysters have a good reputation in the large Canadian cities. This is expected to develop into an exceedingly profitable business. Many of our farmers living near these bays are organizing in companies to plant and care for these oyster beds, expecting a big harvest from them in the near future. Capitalists are also taking hold of the business, and we look for the development of another profitable industry that will rival, and perhaps surpass the now booming Black Fox business. Our people are beginning to find out that they have no need to leave home to find profitable and safe investment for their spare cash. A company is now carrying on negotiations with a view to establishing an oatmeal mill in Charlottetown of a 300-barrel-a-day capacity, if it can make satisfactory arrangements with the city in the matter of exemption from taxation and other matters.

The proposed investors have a very high opinion of the quality of Island oats for making meal. Such a mill with the output proposed

would take the larger part of our oat crop that is available for export. We are expecting a number of farmers from the British Isles to buy up farms here in the near future. Arrangements are completed for bringing out several parties to settle on farms, on which options have been secured by those who are promoting the matter.

Our experimental farm here has been enlarged by the addition of about 40 acres, and this year Superintendent Clark has added poultry and apiary departments. During a recent visit we noticed all field crops and grain plots looking well, and showing great care and neatness in cultivation. Some of the alfalfa plots have winter-killed, and clover is not so good as last year on account of adverse winter conditions.

WALTER SIMPSON.

## Calgary Summer Show.

The 1913 Calgary summer exhibition of live stock was one of the most successful ever held in Alberta. Fine weather brought an attendance of visitors totalling 100,000 through the gates, and an increased exhibit of stock. All the breeds were well represented in numbers and quality, and the management of the exhibition by Secretary E. L. Richardson was excellent.

For the most part the horse classes were exceptionally good. Clydesdales made a very strong showing. In the aged stallion section, John A. Turner, of Calgary, was first and second with Rubio and Charming Prince. The same exhibitor was first in three-year-olds with Scottish Crown, and first in two-year-olds with Lord Mersey, and he was awarded the male championship on Scottish Crown, and the female championship on Lady Bountiful.

Percherons were shown chiefly by four exhibitors, and the animals exhibited were of the top-notch order. In aged stallions, first place was given J. C. Drewry, Cowley, on Jureur, which was declared male champion. The female champion was Upper Bros. Rosine, which was first in aged mares. Shires were out in larger numbers than usual (six exhibitors competing) and were in excellent quality. In the aged stallion class, A. C. Shackerly, Pekisko, won with Lynn Laddie, and the same exhibitor had the male championship on Leos, the first-prize three-year-old horse.

The champion stallion in Belgians was Culshaw and Sons' first-prize aged horse Caesar de Machelen, and the champion Suffolk Punch stallion was Baker and Hunter's Trimley Prince.

Shorthorns and Angus were not as strong in numbers as usual, probably owing to several of the large herds being held back for the Dominion Exhibition. Dairy classes were never stronger in numbers and quality. The champion Shorthorn bull was Bryce Wright's first-prize aged bull Baron Robson, and the same exhibitor had the champion female.

Holsteins made a splendid showing, eclipsing any previous exhibition. The champion bull was Michener Bros. aged bull Sir Pietertje Riverside, and the same exhibitors won the female championship with their first-prize aged cow Hilda Wayne Johanna Lass. The line up in Ayrshires was as strong as the Holsteins, Rowland Ness of Dewinton won many honors, including first and championship for aged bull, Woodland's Prince Boy, first for two-year-old bull on Admiral Beau d'Eurle, first on aged cow, Ravensdale Countess, first on two-year-old heifer, Lakeside Clara, first on three younger classes, and first on herd.

## Hay a Failure in Huron.

If one crop were counted upon above another last spring it was hay, yet there is no other of which reports are now so unfavorable. In some sections there are numbers of very fair fields, but speaking generally, hay is light, and in various localities almost a failure. In the excellent farming county of Huron, conditions seem particularly bad. Thos. McMillan, of Seaforth, confirms this report to the Farmer's Advocate, and writes:

"In this locality, in many instances, hay is not half a crop. I know field after field where the clover was so frozen in the spring that with the unfavorable weather following, it has grown almost none, and scarcely covers the knife in cutting. Some old meadows too, are scarcely worth the cutting. Fall wheat looks to be a fair average, but the recent hot weather has so hastened its ripening that it cannot be a good sample. "Spring grains are a fair crop, and if the weather holds suitable it may yield an average crop of grain."

The Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion has asked the principal officers of the Live Stock branch of his department to confer, as opportunity presents itself, with the leading breeders of the various provinces in order to secure such information as will enable him to act upon the recommendations presented to him by the delegation representing the Live Stock Record Association regarding a national live stock show. The minister has taken this means of acquainting himself with the best judgment of the principal live stock men in the country.