PHEASANT CULTURE.

By T Shannon McGillivray, M D C M, Hamilton, Ont.

(Continued from last week).

Cost of Raising by New Method.

Let us now compare the new scientific method with the old. The result of the Massachussets commission experiments reports as follows:

"Not only is the feeding of the larvæ necessary, but it is much cheaper than the eggs and custard. Six sheep's plucks a day, costing from three to five cents each, (according to location) will produce food for 300 chicks until old enough to feed on scalded grain."

Six plucks will give from six to eight quarts of maggots. We will allow a cost of twenty-five cents, *i e*, to feed 300 pheasants one day. How much will feed them for thirty days? $7.50. That would be on an average of 2½ cents each for the first thirty days.

By an examination of the books of our own pheasantry (Canadian Pheasantry, Hamilton, Ontario), we learn that it just takes 25 bushels of corn to feed 300 pheasants for four months, when they are out on grass. Allowing the corn to be 40 cents per bushel—$10,—it costs on an average 3⅓ cents each per pheasant, for the four months after the change from maggot food.

The pheasants are now five months old and have reached maturity, and not counting the grass and the thousands of insects they have caught for themselves, have cost for actual feed about 5⅔ cents per bird.

Market for Pheasants.

From the most reliable sources we have obtained estimates on what it costs to raise pheasants in Europe to stock their preserves. The estimates range from $1 per bird to $2.60. This may be accounted for by the unscientific methods of the game-keepers, the damp climate and the diseases peculiar to the young pheasants there that are unknown here in America.

Now when we have shown that pheasants can be raised to maturity here for less than ten cents each in unlimited numbers, could not all the preserves of Europe be stocked from America, and that too at less than half the cost that the English noblemen now pay? With our fast line of steamers we can see nothing to prevent it, and the trade and profit therefrom will far exceed that of poultry with the Old Country.

Though pheasants can be raised more cheaply than hens, there is no likelihood of the price of the pheasant ever falling so low as that of the common hen. The flesh of the pheasant in delicacy and richness of flavor surpasses all other birds, and will always command a handsome price as the choicest and most nutritious flesh for invalids.

Pheasant culture in America is only in its infancy, and we cannot see where there can be a reduction in prices to any great extent for years to come. There will be good orders from every state in the Union (except those already stocked) to replace the native game birds which are fast disappearing. Canada also is to be stocked. New breeders will need a stock to start with and wealthy gentlemen will have their own preserves to stock.

We are informed that ex-President Cleveland has purchased eighty-five acres, which he intends for a game preserve, and which he will stock with English and Mongolian pheasants.

William Hendrie, one of our Canadian millionaires, intends to stock with pheasants several hundred acres of land lying five miles west of this city (Hamilton, Ont.), and no doubt there are other gentlemen of wealth who will catch the contagion and establish private game preserves. This with the demand by gun clubs will make pheasant-raising a profitable business for years to come. Mr. Horne, author of "Pheasant Keeping for Amateurs," informs us that pheasants are exposed for sale by the thousands on the markets all over the interior of China, and we look forward to the time when it will be the same in this country.

(To be continued)

POTATO CULTURE.

By A F Wilson in *Iowa Homestead.*

In raising potatoes the first thing is the selecting of the seed. I have no patience with the idea that little potatoes are as good for seed as any. Select your seed as carefully as you would your seed corn. A man who raised the best potatoes that I ever saw attained his success mainly by selecting his seed. He established a reputation and in an early day he often got 25 cents a bushel extra for his potatoes. Never plant scabby or diseased potatoes. It is a little maggot that plays all the mischief It leaves its eggs in the potato and if you plant them you will have scab, and it will get worse. Anybody can convince himself by taking a pen knife at digging time and examining them then. They can be killed by immersing in vitriol water or Paris green, but my plan is not to plant them. I always sort my seed, and the heaviest potato dealer in the state said that my potatoes were the freest from disease of any he handled. This disease is the worst thing potato raisers, dealers and buyers have to contend with, and it ought to be against the law to plant diseased potatoes. This disease was brought west from New York. The potatoes should be cut with about two eyes to a piece. If you cut too small, one eye on a piece, there is not substance enough. It does not give vitality enough to the sprout. Take an old case knife, break the blade in two about the middle, make it sharp and keep it sharp. Take a bushel basket, put a scoop full in the opposite side from where you sit. When they are cut, give your basket a little shake to level them and put in another scoopful. Pay no attention to the eyes, handle your knife lively and you can cut twenty-five bushels a day with ease. But if you take a dull knife and about as long reaching for a potato as you ought to be cutting it, look for every eye, cut in about half way and break out, you will do well to cut eight bushels, and will get left as a potato raiser. I have a potato cutter that I can cut one hundred bushels a day with. Plow your ground about six inches deep, take your cultivator, remove the two inside shovels, fasten the beams the right distance apart with a piece of scantling—about three and one-half feet—and go ahead of the planter and lay off the rows. After you get once straight through, let one horse walk in the furrow, so that one shovel will go twice in the same row, as you can't loosen up the ground too much right under your row. I use a potato planter, and can plant eight acres a day and do it better than anybody can do by hand. If you do not mark off with cultivator it is hard on two horses, but if marked off any team can step right along and do a better job and a more satisfactory one in every way. After planting a few days blind cultivate them, then just as they begin to come through the ground give them a good lap harrowing crossways, and they can get up a good height to plow. Now take your eagle-claw cultivator and it is just fun to plow them. Plow again a time or two, lay them by with larger shovels and you will have no weeds, without ever using a hoe. Let a potato raiser see a man in the field wearing his life out with a hoe and a broad smile will come over his face, and he will be sorry for his ignorance. In digging I use a digger. I can and have dug 1,000 bushels a day and hands will average 100 bushels each picking up after it. Potatoes should not be dug till they are ripe and should be handled with care—not skinned or bruised—and when sold they should be screened and all scabby, diseased potatoes sorted out. Many potato raisers stand in their own light in trying to crowd potatoes onto the dealer that are not merchantable. This is not as good a potato country as it was where we formerly lived, but for many things we like it better.

A Stone Crusher is needed on this road. There is stone for the fence but none for the roads.

INTENSIVE FARMING.

By T C. Wallace (Wallace & Fraser), St John, N B, and Toronto.

By intensive farming, as regards land, is really meant the production of the largest amount of material containing the largest amount of feeding value for either stock or human consumption. When we apply the term "intensive farming" to a stock farm, we mean that the greatest number of head per acre are properly fed from the land. We get our lesson in intensive farming for human consumption from the market gardener, who, by constantly employing all the soil, practically gets several crops off the land in one year. But there is an element in it which is not usually carefully taken into consideration, with the result that there is a greater percentage of failure among people who attempt "intensive" work than among the less ambitious farmers. I refer to the exhaustion of the soil by cropping and grazing. The more intensive your farming the more exhaustive it will be, and then you cannot obtain from the start the fullest possible feeding value in your crops if you do not manure in a rational manner. Since the discovery that legumes can be made to yield us an immense supply of nitrogen for crops, intensive farming is much easier and can more reasonably be made profitable. If we carry on a stock farm in an intensive way we are not likely to suffer much loss of the mineral element of potash from our land, but it may be much harder on the bone earth or phosphate which the animals, and particularly the growing ones, store up in the bony structure or give off in their milk. But even if we farm without stock, which we can do very well, the grains and ripened fruits and grasses sold carry away the bone earth very rapidly. If we sell straw, and the full product in fact, we must supply both the phosphate first and the potash in a few years. The nitrogen we can get from growing legumes to plow under.

The case you refer to in your issue of 26th August, that of Mr. D. M. McPherson, scarcely comes under this head, as he buys a large amount of his feed, and also, I understand, he does not produce his young stock, but buys them from his neighbors. In this way he saves a large amount of the bone earth of his own farm at the expense of his less astute neighbors, but even with all this care I venture the opinion that already the feeding value of Mr. McPherson's fodders and grains can be so largely increased by rational manuring of the soil that a large part of the "$2,180.50 hard cash" paid out for feed could be saved. I even venture to predict that Mr. McPherson will have this fact forced upon him by his own observation, for he fully appreciates what he is saving by letting his neighbors grow cattle for him.

An important point in intensive farming is maintaining or increasing the fertility or producing power of the soil. As Mr. McPherson's farm has been quoted in this matter, we may fairly take it into the discussion. He is adding nitrogen to his soil no doubt