

a door nail as far as the "Ontario" is concerned, at any rate. But with the energy characteristic of the man, Mr. Collins is now endeavoring to get support from the local associations. What success he meets with from that quarter remains to be seen. I know these associations are not unanimously in favor of it.

My own views on the question are these: The Government gives a substantial grant to the electoral district agricultural societies, which is to be applied in developing poultry as well as horses, cows, pigs, sheep, etc. If the poultry does not receive its share of these grants, that is the fault of the poultrymen in the respective districts. In this county (Middlesex) the poultry interest is well looked after by our local agricultural societies at the fall show. To make a winter poultry show a success, it is absolutely necessary to abolish the "gate." When the "Ontario" in 1898 was held here no entrance fee was charged, and the result was that the farmers for miles around, as well as the citizens, flocked to the show-room in thousands to see the chickens. Mr. Gilbert, of the Experimental Farm, estimates that 20,000 visitors were present during the week. A 25-cent entrance fee is a barrier the farmer does not get over easily, and it is the farmer we poultrymen are seeking to interest. A fee was charged at Peterboro' this year, and the result was very few farmers visited the show, and the main object the Government has in view in making the grant to this association was defeated. Now, no poultry show can be run on \$100, and even if the Government could spare this amount for each county annually, I doubt its utility. There is not room in Ontario for more than two winter poultry shows, and under careful management they could be made of untold advantage to the Province. Every inducement should be made to get the farmers to attend them, and ample provision should be made for their instruction as to the best breeds, methods of feeding, housing, preparing for market, etc. In this way, the country would get value for the grants it makes and Canadian poultry would soon take a long slide forward. I am happy to say that steps looking to this end are being taken by the "Ontario" Executive.

I notice one of your correspondents, Mr. R. C. Allen, takes exception to a few men winning the majority of the prizes amongst them. This is beside the main question, in my judgment. It matters very little to the farmer who wins—what he wants is to see as perfect specimens as possible and to learn about the breeds that will pay him best to raise. This is true, not only of poultry, but of all classes of live stock. It may be true that the bulk of prizes are won by a few men. Messrs. McNeil and Oke, of this city, win respectively a very large number of the prizes annually at the "Ontario"—more than anybody else, and they do it mostly on Bantams, Polands, etc. They also win as heavily at the Boston and New York poultry shows, and the result is they ship numbers of birds to the States that would surprise Mr. Allen. Both these breeders live in the city, and their birds are raised almost entirely by the farmers in the country surrounding. It would still further surprise Mr. Allen if he knew the sum these two gentlemen annually pay the farmers in Middlesex for raising for them Bantams alone. I think the receipts from his egg farm would look small in comparison. But I did not start out to defend these gentlemen—they are quite capable of that themselves. The fact is, the ability of these gentlemen, and others as well, to breed high-class, thoroughbred Bantams is a good-sized source of profit to the farmers of Ontario.

London, Feb. 17, 1900.

GEO. W. MILLER.

Sugar-Making in Vermont

To the Editor of FARMING:

I have been the happy recipient of your paper for some time, and permit me to say that it is one of the best of many farm papers that come to my desk. It is full of practical suggestions and common-sense articles that meet the needs of the farmers in your section, and is valuable to farmers everywhere. We who live in the border states

are interested in Canadian farming and the progress that Canadians are making in agricultural lines, because much of your farming is not unlike the farming in these states, especially in methods of dairying. Vermont dairymen have listened with no small degree of pleasure and profit as well to Prof. Robertson, Mr. Dillon and Prof. Dean at our state dairymen's meetings. All of these gentlemen left very favorable impressions with our people. Canadian farmers ought to be and doubtless are proud of such leaders and instructors in dairy thought and practice.

Vermont, as many of your readers well know, is not only a noted dairy state (especially in the butter line) but it leads all other states in the union in the maple sugar industry, both in the quantity and quality of its product. Many of our sugar makers take great pride in the quality of their product, and they are trying to meet the increasing and almost unlimited demand for the light-colored and fine-flavored pure maple sugar and syrup for which Vermont is famous. We have the only state maple sugar makers' association in this country, and it held its eighth annual session at Randolph last week, with the following programme:

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7.

Afternoon: 2.30—Opening of Meeting; Address of Welcome, D. H. Morse, Randolph; Response, Alpha Messer, Rochester. 3.00—President's Address, V. I. Spear, Randolph. 3.30—Tapping the Sugar Orchard, A. M. Foster, Cabot. 4.00—The Maple Tree and its Product, Timothy Wheeler, Moscow.

Evening: 7.45—Music; Appointment of Committees and Judges. 8.15—The Maple Sugar Industry of Ohio, W. I. Chamberlain, of the *Ohio Farmer*, Cleveland, Ohio. 9.00—The Future of the Maple Sugar Industry, Ex-Gov. Josiah Grout, Derby.

THURSDAY, FEB. 8.

Forenoon: 9.30—Caking Maple Sugar for Market, C. D. Whitman, Brattleboro; Discussion. 10.15—How to Prepare Maple Syrup for Market, Alpha Messer, Rochester; Discussion. 11.00—The Market Demands for Maple Goods, M. D. McMahon, Burlington; Discussion.

Afternoon: 2.00—Report of Judges; Report of Committees. 2.30—The Composition and Flow of Maple Sap, Prof. J. L. Hills, Director of Vt. Experiment Station, Burlington. 3.30—Reports of Secretary and Treasurer. 4.00—Election of Officers; Transaction of Business.

As a part of the association meeting we have an exhibit of the maple product, sugar utensils, etc., with a premium list of about \$200. The association is doing a grand work and its annual meetings are of much interest and value to our sugar makers.

While Canadians make a large amount of maple sugar, they may not be interested in all of the parts of the above programme, but they would be interested in the address of Prof. Hills on "The Composition and Flow of Maple Sap," a brief synopsis of which is hereby given. Prof. Hills said that the Vermont Experiment Station began investigations in this line in 1897 and they have been continued each year since, but the work is entirely new to science, and as the matter has only been touched upon the data is liable to be changed by further investigations.

Maple sap is changeable in quality during the season. The first runs are but little more than a weak solution of cane sugar. As the season advances the sugar crystals are less pronounced, the other organic ingredients increase, and there is a larger amount of malate of lime.

The maple tree draws its support from the soil and the sun. In the leaf minute cells are found, that assist to make the tissues that build up the tree. These cells contain starch grains, which by the action of the sun are converted into sugar, which is stored for the future use of the bud. In the winter these cells are full almost to bursting. The poor quality of the sugar of 1898 was probably caused by the excessive rains and lack of sunshine in the months of July and August of that year, during which time the starch and the sugar are largely developed. This is the reason why trees on the verge of the sugar bush, with