

being devoted to procuring food and other duties; but as the shades of evening gather in the silent woods, and the sun is sinking in the western sky, a farewell is sung to its departing rays. Through the hours of darkness he is silent, but again begins his song at the first dawn of the morning. The length of this bird is about nine inches; its colour on the upper parts is cinnamon-brown, beneath it is white, the breast being beautifully spotted with black. It feeds on insects, small berries, and occasionally on grain. The female builds her nest on a branch of a tree, or in the fork of an underbrush, generally not high off the ground. The outside is formed of dry leaves and stalks of weeds, plastered with mud, and lined with fine roots. The eggs are four in number, and of a light green colour. This bird is found in the woods of most parts of Ontario, but delights in deep, shady hardwood districts. It is a shy bird, and rather shuns than approaches the habitations of the pioneer, and is seldom seen in the open fields. It is a very affectionate bird, strongly attached to its nest and young, and should any danger menace them, will expose itself, and exert all the arts with which nature has endowed it in assiduous endeavours to protect them.

THE GROUND THRUSH.

In form and plumage this species is like the song thrush, but in size it is smaller, and its notes and nesting habits are different. It is seven inches in length, including beak and tail, the latter consisting of twelve feathers. The bill is of medium length, and tapering, the upper mandible being longer than the lower, and slightly hooked at the point. Its nest is placed on or near the ground, sometimes in the root of a fallen tree, or suspended among low bushes. It is formed of dry leaves and long strips of bark, and lined with small roots. The eggs, sometimes five in number, are of a light blue colour. It has no song. Its common notes are peculiar to its species, and it sometimes utters a call resembling the bleating of a young fawn. It feeds upon insects, and is more commonly met with in the low swampy woods than any other of its tribe. It arrives in this Province in May, and departs in September.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MANITOBA.

We understand that under the provisions of the Act passed at the recent session of the Legislative Assembly, it is the intention of the Provincial Government to at once organize a Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics, and to make it a live department of the Government. In addition to the collection of statistical information of an authentic and authoritative nature, the want of which hitherto has been much felt, the work of carrying out the provisions of a large number of important acts will also fall upon this Department, which, in this, the premier agricultural province of the Dominion, will doubtless soon become one of the most important branches of the Governmental machinery. As previously mentioned, the position of Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Statistics has been offered to Mr. Acton Burrows, who will at once enter on the discharge of his official duties, and proceed with the organization of the Department. Mr. Burrows is an old and experienced journalist, and possesses just the qualities to fit him for the position. — *Winnipeg Daily Times*.

There is always increased risk in curing the meat of extremely heavy hogs—risk of tainting, in the hams and shoulders, as it is hard to get the animal heat out of carcasses of the kind; but even if it would cure easily, few parties desire these extremely large hams or shoulders.

SHEEP AND SWINE.

YOUNG PIGS.

The first three months of a pig's existence is the most critical and, to its owner, important period of its life, for it is during this time that its constitution is either established, weakened, or destroyed. Every impediment to the growth and strength of the pig tells upon the future hog. Cold, damp, uncomfortable quarters at any time is a detriment, and is especially so while the pig is as sensitive as it necessarily must be at time of farrowing. Clean, comfortable bedding should replace that which may be damp and hard. It is the practice of good breeders to clean out the pen about every second day or so after the sow has farrowed, and put in new and clean bedding, increasing the quantity, for the pigs evidently enjoy snuggling up in the fresh litter. At no stage in the life of the animal, as above intimated, will good care yield better returns. That perfect comfort is the highest profit is well understood by every successful raiser of swine. If straw is used for bedding (and nothing is much better), it is best to pass it through a cutting-box; it is then much better than leaves, or anything else that we know of. If used the natural length, there is some risk that the pigs may get entangled, and be laid upon by the mother. If the sow has a warm, comfortable bed, she will lie quiet until she gets hungry. She should have all the food she wants, right along, so that she can supply her pigs with an abundance of milk. As during the first few weeks of the life of her offspring her milk is their only food, it is of course important that she shall supply it in ample quantity, and of a quality suitable to their digestion. She should have generous feed not less than three times a day. Slops of ground feed, grass or clover, as well as corn, together with roots sufficient to keep her digestion complete, will enable her to supply her young with sufficient food; but this point should be emphasized, and we repeat, that she must be well fed and cared for if she is expected to give an abundance of milk and keep up her own condition. It is far easier to do this than to build her up after being run down by the tax upon her, when not well fed, in suckling her young. Another thing: a hungry sow will eat any kind of slop or other food, however unwholesome, but she cannot consume such food and supply pure wholesome milk. On this point an intelligent writer and swine-breeder says:—"In seasons when millers are grinding poor and sprouted wheat we do not find mill feed safe or profitable. Mill feed at all seasons, and especially such seasons, is of uncertain quality, and we prefer to know what we feed if we expect to secure good results; consequently we have found our best results from mixing clean, sound corn two parts; clean, sound oats three parts; and having them ground very fine, and adding wheat, bran, and oilcake meal, according to the season. If we have no grass or roots, we supply more bran and oilcake meal. They are our regulators. Slop thus made and fed sweet has proven most satisfactory to us. After the pigs get to be three or four weeks old we arrange troughs and feed for them, where they may eat and not be disturbed by the sow, and so that they will not be teasing the mother for supplies, which she cannot always afford, be she ever so willing. The little fellows enjoy such a side table, and if they have a trough of milk, the better they like it. Milk for pigs, after four or five weeks old, until they are as many months old, will make a pound of pork for every gallon of milk consumed. And then to this value we may add the unknown but immense gain in improved condition of the pigs."

The sow should have grass, if possible, and

while she is enclosed out and feed it to her. In a few days, if she can have the run of a good pasture, it will be what she needs, in addition to her other fare. Thus cared for, your sow will keep in condition herself, and meet your wishes and reasonable expectations in rearing a thrifty, vigorous litter of pigs.—*Prairie Farmer*.

BELLS AS A PROTECTION FROM DOGS.

A correspondent of one of our southern exchanges answers the question, "How shall I protect my flock from sheep-killing dogs?" as follows:—"After much experimenting, the following has proven the most beneficial in protecting sheep from dogs. For a flock of from 20 to 100 and 150 head, put on from 14 to 16 bells of various sizes and tone, from the common little sheep bell up to a large cow bell. It is the variety of tone and sound that terrifies the sheep-killing dog. The flock should always be so situated that they can approach the house of the landlord through a lane gate or a gap in the fence, and if occasionally salted near the house will invariably approach it at night to sleep, particularly if disturbed by dog or person. No dog, I care not how much practice he may have had in killing sheep, can be induced, even under the most trying conditions, to attack a flock having from 14 to 16 bells of different sizes and tone. A dog severely pressed of hunger may be influenced to attack a flock while lying down at rest, or silently grazing; but the moment that doleful sound of 16 bells of different size and tone reaches his ear, his tail will be seen to tuck between his legs, and he is off for other quarters in a moment. Not one dog in one hundred can catch and hold a strong sheep in a run of 400 to 600 yards; hence the advantage of having a flock so situated that the sheep can at all times approach the house, which they will invariably do when opportunity admits.

"For over 20 years I have kept a flock of from 120 to 200 head, and although there are many worthless sheep-killing dogs around me in the neighbourhood, I have not had one killed by dogs. The tenants and help residing on my farm, within 100 yards of my residence (who are prone to be dear lovers of worthless curs), often have from two to three dogs each, from ten to fifteen dogs, upon an average, on the farm, and many of them known to be notorious for sheep-killing, though strange to say, yet true, they have never killed one sheep known to myself."

HOW TO DRESS A SHEEP.

As soon as life is extinct, skin the hind legs up to the hamstrings; then gambrel and hoist it up; make an incision, high up in the belly, about an inch and a half in length, then insert the stem of a big funnel into the incision, and pour into it one or two gallons of cold water, the colder the better. The application of cold water cools the intestines and the flesh, thereby preventing any contact of the parts, and at the same time cooling every part completely. It also drives out the gases at the incision, so that there is no possibility of the meat becoming affected in any reasonable length of time, which gives the operator time to dress the meat properly. This is done by ripping from hough to hough, skinning downward without further ripping, thereby preventing the wool or any outside filth from coming in contact with the flesh. This, of course, I do as quickly as possible. Then remove the intestines carefully, so as not to break any of them. By this mode of treatment you will find the tallow on the intestines and on the inside of the animal perfectly cool and rigid.