

fruit (though some witnesses expressly excluded fruit from the colonies from such duties). Another was a power of retaliation, to enable the Government to secure the same treatment from foreigners as is accorded them in Great Britain.

The committee recommend that, in addition to inspection by local health officers, there should be Government inspection of all perishable food at the port of entry. They express the opinion that if this had been done in the past, much foreign fruit which had found its way to some of the jam factories would have been destroyed as being unsound, with great advantage to the British fruit-grower and to the public generally.

Aim at Quality Rather than Cheapness of Seeds.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

We understand that an effort is now being made to establish throughout Ontario local Vegetable-growers' Associations, intended to work in conjunction with the Provincial organization—the Vegetable-growers' Association of Ontario. In this connection we wish to call attention to a report of the proceedings of the meeting held in Toronto in February last, at which the matter of organizing a Provincial Association was introduced. According to this report, the question of increased protection for market gardeners' products appears to have been thought of primary importance, and that which, in our opinion, is a matter of equal if not greater importance at present, as being more within our power to accomplish, namely, the means of procuring high-grade seeds, seems not to have been brought up at all. It is true that, in a short paragraph, a member of the Mimico local association is reported as stating that their association had accomplished a good deal, instancing the securing of a reduction in the price of many of their seeds. This is, however, we think, just a point where the market gardeners, and the farmers as well, have long been at fault. By constantly endeavoring to obtain cheap seeds, they have worked against their best interests. Now, our experience—and we think all careful and observant growers will bear us out—is that the greatest losses and most severe disappointments are annually caused by poor seeds—poor as to germinating quality, and poor because untrue to name. The cost of the seed for almost any farm or garden crop is so very small in proportion to the cost of preparing the ground and working the crop, and small compared to what ought to be the producing value of carefully worked land, that to ensure seeds of the highest germinating quality and absolutely true to variety, we, for our part, would gladly pay many times the present prices of many seeds. It is undeniable that very many of the seeds we all buy are poor—often very poor—and we have all experienced the losses mentioned above. When we go to our seedsmen, however, and complain, we are met with the statement that the fault cannot be justly laid at their door. Dishonest seed-growers, bad seed-growing seasons, and, above all, the constant pressure of market gardeners and farmers for cheap and still cheaper seeds, are given as reasons for their being unable to supply seeds of a better quality. We therefore think that one of the greatest boons the new association can confer, not only upon their own members, but upon the farmers and all who use seeds to produce crops for profit, is to raise the standard of all seeds sold. To accomplish this, the campaign for cheap seeds must cease. Our seed merchants cannot be expected to give the best seeds when a low price is always made a condition of the purchase. Let us unite to offer the seedsmen the best prices to obtain us the best possible seeds, and when we thus do our part, we should require the seedsmen to do theirs by—First, guaranteeing all seeds true to name (this is not necessarily guaranteeing the crop); second, testing all their seeds, and marking plainly on every package the percentage germinated in the test (the seedsmen all purport now to have trial grounds for this object); third, marking plainly on every package of seed the season of production. (All interested may then know at once how long the tests will hold good for, and both seed merchants and seed users can keep their stocks sorted out. The best English merchants give the season of production on their packages.)

Middlesex Co., Ont.

[Note.—The above, from the proprietors of one of the leading vegetable-growing establishments in Middlesex Co., is worthy of more than passing attention. It is well that the new organization should exert its influence, not in the direction of a parsimonious attempt to save its members a few cents in seeds, involving a loss of crop many times as great, but rather to work for improvement in the quality of garden seeds along the lines set forth. We would like further opinions on this subject.—Editor.]

My Clover Flower Garden.

I have been all my life a lover of plants in every form and in every stage of growth. This spring I had an idea in my mind to try an experiment with clover. Since taking up my life in Assiniboia, over twenty years ago, I have often wished for a glimpse of one of our old Ontario clover fields, and have tried to describe them to my children as they looked when in blossom. In March I sent to one of your best seed firms for seed; I got just two ounces each of nine kinds of clover seed. I wonder if anyone can tell me of more; if so I should like the names. These are the names of those I received: Bokhara, sanfoin, yellow trefoil, mammoth red, common red, alsike, white Dutch, alfalfa and crimson. I sent to Ontario Agricultural College for nitro-culture, and received some for common red, white Dutch, and alfalfa. Before it arrived the weather was open for seeding, and I had sown all my other varieties. They sprang up as soon as I could wish, and the three sown partly with culture and partly without did likewise.

My clover garden has been a source of interest to a number of people and a great source of pleasure to me. I sowed the seed in alternate rows, and some of the varieties have grown beyond my greatest anticipations. The three kinds late sown cannot blossom this year, for which I am sorry, but hope they will live over our next winter and show all their beauty next summer.

The crimson has been loaded with lovely blossoms, and so has the yellow trefoil. The Bokhara and alsike also have flowered, and, besides the pleasure, the experiment has been full of usefulness, for the pieces of land which are now covered with the pretty, tri-foliated greenness were formerly just spaces which all sorts of weeds delighted to call their own. If this summer is the finish of their glory and luxuriance my experience has paid for all the trouble in the pleasure it has conferred. I did not think a clover garden could be so full of interest and beauty, and can recommend the trial to others who are fond of plant life. I am in hopes, though, that the clover will live over winter, and prove useful as well as ornamental.

RESIDENT.

POULTRY.

The Moulting.

The price of eggs has been so satisfactory this summer that in all likelihood a great many poultry keepers have been feeding to maintain the supply, and not paying any attention to early moulting. When eggs are 20c. all through June and July, and even more, it seems unwise to break up laying to induce a moult, for, all things considered, the flock may not make money any faster for their owners in the fall and winter than they have done during the past few months. During the short days of autumn and winter it is not easy to procure a large turn-out of eggs, and, besides, more feed is required for this period. Nevertheless, he who would have his hens in the best condition possible to enter winter quarters must make some preparation, and in some instances make what appears, for the time being, considerable sacrifice, for any hens that have not moulted yet should be induced to do so at the earliest possible date, else they will go into winter with impaired vitality. When the moult is delayed until late in the season more time and more food are needed for the process, and often then the bird's constitution is well-nigh ruined.

The plans recommended by our experiment station experts have proven to be successful to a great extent, and it is beyond doubt now that the moult can be more or less controlled. The writer has proven to his own satisfaction that this period of the hen's existence can be influenced to a great degree, at all events. It would be a waste of time for anyone to attempt bringing a moult upon the hens which are not to be wintered. Let them lay all the eggs they can be forced to do. But where an insufficient number of pullets are coming on to take the place of all the old hens, the yearlings needed for keeping over should be penned by themselves for twelve to fourteen days and fed very sparingly, and after being released given full laying rations, care being necessary to make the changes in feed bill gradual, thus avoiding the possibility of upsetting the hen's equilibrium.

All hens of two years and over, especially of the American and Asiatic breeds, should be disposed of in the fall, and they will pay best if well fed and kept busy, and by this means they will be kept from moulting until late in the season. By this time the pullets should be laying and a constant supply of eggs kept up.

Wentworth Co.

J. R. H.

The winter production of eggs is the most valuable asset of the pullets. To secure this requires liberal feeding, not only grain, but of waste meat, or animal food and vegetable food. The pullets should be comfortably and permanently housed in the fall, transferring them to a strange pen defers egg production.

[Elford.]

Gapes in Fowls.

Gapes is one of the most common diseases to which poultry are liable, and any information that will impart a better knowledge of the parasite which causes the malady, and its methods of working, is likely to prove acceptable to farmers and others, who, to their own loss, have had experience of its depredations among their birds. Across the Atlantic, as nearer home, the disease proves of considerable trouble and loss to poultry keepers, and investigations have been undertaken at some of the experiment stations in the United States for the purpose of discovering further facts regarding the nature of the offending parasite. These observations have brought to light some interesting information, which we make no apology for passing on to our readers.

It is stated that "If the trachea of a bird affected with gapes be opened, a number (one to thirty) of reddish, forked worms about one-half an inch in length, will be found attached to the membrane and imbedded in frothy mucus. Each of these forked worms is a pair, a male and a female in union, the larger portion being the female, and the smaller the male. They are firmly attached by a disk-shaped sucking mouth, by means of which they draw the blood from the affected bird. The points to which the worms are attached are sometimes swollen into a small tumor containing a cheesy pus. These abscesses may become so large as to close the trachea and cause suffocation; or their presence in considerable numbers, by obstructing the air passages, may produce the same result. Their continual presence is a source of irritation, which in young birds exhausts their strength and may lead to death, although old birds may harbor the parasite and recover. Affected birds yawn frequently and open the beak, at the same time stretching the neck as if in the effort to expel something from the throat. Sometimes the mouth is filled with a foamy saliva which obstructs the breathing.

"The large female worms are greatly swollen and filled with eggs. These impregnated female worms are coughed up by the affected birds, and their eggs escape by the death and decay of the parent. Since each female produces thousands of eggs, it is easy to see how the ground over which sick fowls are allowed to run may become badly infested. The eggs develop in damp soil, in watering cups, etc., or they may be taken into the body of the bird and undergo their metamorphosis within the host. The embryos remain alive in the digestive canal of earth worms, and when birds swallow the latter they may become affected with gapes.

"The first step in controlling the trouble is to separate the sick from the well. These should be placed in a room having a clean, dry floor, and this should be disinfected every few days by wetting the floor with a five-per-cent. solution of crude carbolic acid. The bodies of dead birds should either be burned or deeply buried. The drinking vessels should be disinfected with the same solution, and then washed with clean water. If there is reason to believe that the ground of the poultry yard is infested with the worms, their eggs or embryos, sprinkle it with a one-per-cent. solution of sulphuric acid, and add two or three drams of salicylate of soda per quart of drinking water. Large numbers of chicks can be successfully treated by placing them into a closed box into which is blown a mixture of one ounce of powdered chalk and half an ounce of finely-ground camphor, so that the bird must inhale it."—[Farmer's Gazette.]

Egg-market Requirements.

Eggs to be palatable should be eaten in a strictly fresh condition; therefore, they should reach the consumer without delay. This requires, (1) that the eggs be collected regularly every day and stored in a cool room (temperature 40 to 50 degrees F.) until a sufficient number are on hand to deliver to a dealer; (2), that the dealer forward the eggs to the merchant at least once a week; (3), that the merchant should protect the eggs from deterioration while in his possession.

Some farmers are so situated that they can establish a city trade in fresh eggs throughout the year. Strictly fresh eggs, shipped from the farm to the city merchant weekly, are usually bought at a premium of several cents per dozen. For all farmers a most profitable branch of the business is the trade in fresh winter eggs. Every winter there is a demand for new-laid eggs; the supply of new-laid eggs is limited, and high prices per dozen are paid. Exporting firms buy greater quantities during the spring and summer months.

There is a growing preference on the home markets for brown-shelled eggs. The shells should be wiped clean, if necessary, and the eggs graded in size. For shipment to the merchant, the eggs should be packed into cases holding 12 or 24 dozens each.

F. C. ELFORD,

Chief of the Poultry Div., Ottawa.