

DOES LIBERAL FEEDING OF LIME MAKE THE SHELLS TOO STRONG?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As hens have no teeth by which to grind their feed, it would be a good plan to lay in a supply of good sharp gravel or ground rock, and keep the hens well supplied with this. Give fresh, clean water every day.

Many people advocate the liberal use of lime or oyster-shell, or both, but I am not in favor of either; that is, I am not in favor of the hens having free access to it, for, while it is a good addition to the hen's feed, I am of the opinion that the too liberal use of it is the cause of so many chicks dying in the shell, through being unable to break the shell, which is as hard as cement. This theory may be new to some of the readers, but my observation leads me to believe that. I have noticed that difficulty repeatedly, more especially with amateur poultrymen, who use all the foods, grits and oyster-shells on the market, together with old mortar and lime.

This calls to mind a young friend of mine who had an incubator with 100 eggs in it; he got only 15 chicks from the whole lot. He took me home with him and showed me the eggs. We opened them, and found a fully-developed chick in every shell. I noticed, particularly, that the shells were nearly as hard as the shells of duck eggs, so I asked him what he fed his hens, and learned they got all the lime and oyster-shells they could eat, in addition to their other food, which was mostly wheat. The hens and roosters were strong and vigorous, and came of strong and vigorous stock; and as my friend was expert at handling an incubator, I came to the conclusion that the chicks died in the shells, owing to the shells being too hard for them to break, and that probably the too liberal use of lime, etc., was the cause of the shells being so hard. Since that my friend has lessened the lime supply, and has been more fortunate in hatching a larger percentage of chicks with the incubator. This is not the only evidence of the kind that has come to my knowledge, so that the conclusion is nearly forced upon me. I would like to know if others have had the same experience. R. SEARE, Goshen, R. I.

(Note.—I am of the opinion that this man's lime theory is right and wrong. Our experiments tend to indicate that a large amount of lime is good for the vigor of the chick. If the proper chemical changes take place in an incubator, the chicks would get out and be good, but I can readily understand the opinion of the writer of the article, and his suggestion may be worth something to get the chicks out of the shell, but I would prefer all the lime in the chick I could get, hence would not care to advocate his method. A hen set on the earth has a large supply of moisture and of carbonic-acid gas. These, in common terms, rot the shell, the chick absorbs portions of the same, if not all that is rotted, and you get a good bird. Most incubators are low in moisture and carbonic-acid gas, and do not get the results in quality.—W. R. Graham, O. A. C., Guelph.)

THE FARM BULLETIN.

EXPERIMENTAL UNION ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural Experimental Union will be held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of December, starting Monday at 1.30 p. m. The co-operative experimental work of the Union has been conducted in 1907 in the departments of horticulture, agriculture, beekeeping, poultry-raising, farm forestry, and agricultural chemistry. In most of these branches, the work has been more extensive than in any previous year. Especially in the line of horticulture has the work been greatly increased. It now includes co-operative work with vegetables, as well as both small and large fruits. There were upwards of 7,000 co-operative experiments actually engaged in the work of the Experimental Union during the past year. The results of the successfully-conducted experiments throughout the Province will be presented and discussed at the meeting.

Interesting addresses are expected from Hon. Nelson Monteith, President G. C. Creelman, Prof. C. C. James, Mr. G. A. Putnam, Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, and others. Reports are expected from the six high-school agricultural instructors of the Province, Prof. W. P. Gamble will report on the work which has been done towards bringing about "Legislative Control of Commercial Feedstuffs." "The Future Development of the Field Crops Competition in Ontario" will be presented in an address by T. G. Raynor. It is expected that Mr. C. Nicholson, an ex-student of the College, an experimenter for several years, and the winner of first prize in the field competition in the Mt. Forest district in 1907, will be present, and lead in the discussion on Mr. Raynor's address. The Women's Institute Convention will be held at the College, and the Provincial Winter Fair will be held in the City of Guelph immediately following the Experimental Union meeting. Excursion rates are available.

TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE.

At a meeting of farmers and dairymen, held at Cowansville, Quebec, on November 16th, Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, delivered an address on Tuberculosis in Cattle, in which he reviewed the history of the health-of-animals branch of the Department of Agriculture, stating that there had been found necessary, in addition to the quarantine work at ports of landing and elsewhere, a good deal of work inside the country, which was relegated partly to the Provincial and partly to the Federal Departments of Agriculture, Dr. Rutherford, the Veterinary Director-General and Live-stock Commissioner, having been authorized to superintend the work as carried on at the present time. The increasing prevalence of the disease, he stated, had impressed the farmers of the Eastern Townships with the fact that soon they will be at the imminent peril of losing their herds, their principal source of revenue, and now some of them are clamoring for an Act of Parliament legalizing compulsory testing, and, in the event of the cattle being found diseased, providing for a reimbursement of seventy-five per cent. of the value of the cattle. Mr. Fisher stated that there is no general testing of cattle for tuberculosis in any part of America at present. Some time since a number of the States tried compulsory testing, but public opinion among the farmers became so strongly opposed to it that the system had to be abandoned, and a large amount of money was expended by way of partial compensation for the loss of animals destroyed, with no benefit derived. There is no law in Canada to compel the farmer to have his cattle tested, and, if such a law was proposed and put before Parliament, it would be defeated by an overwhelming majority of the farmers who would oppose it. The Minister said, "The best assistance you can give me and yourselves in this matter is in the way you keep your own barns and cattle, and he dared to say that three out of every four of the barns in the Townships are prolific breeders of tubercular germs." Cleanliness and ventilation and constant purification of stables are absolutely essential to the curbing of this disease.

Mr. Fisher favored the testing by owners of herds of their own cattle, for their own benefit, without compulsion.

The Minister also referred to the law which was put in force in the early days of September last regarding the inspection of meat at abattoirs. The meat-packing establishments must be inspected if they do an inter-provincial or export business. This is a Dominion law. "We at Ottawa have no right to interfere with the jurisdiction of the health boards, which are provincial. When we passed a law dealing with meat-packing, we had, therefore, to insert the words, 'inter-provincial or export.'"

Dr. Rutherford, Chief of the Veterinary Branch of the Department, who followed the Minister in an address on the questions raised, is reported to have expressed the view that compulsory testing was absolutely necessary, if the contagion was to be extinguished. He went on to discuss some simple methods of ventilating stables, stating that any simple method that was workable was efficient. He accentuated the need of ventilation and cleanliness in the stables.

HORSE QUESTIONS AT ONTARIO WINTER FAIR.

The following resolutions, expressing the opinion of the Board, were adopted at a meeting of the Directors of the Ontario Horse-breeders' Association, and will form a basis for discussion at the session held for this purpose at the Winter Fair, Guelph, Thursday afternoon, Dec. 12th:

1. That only pure-bred and registered stallions should be allowed to stand for service, except,

(a) That owing to one-third of the stallions in the Province being found by the inspectors to be unregistered, that for three years grade stallions known to be good sires, and, upon inspection, found to be of good conformation and free from hereditary unsoundness, should be granted a license to be known as "Grade 2."

2. That all stallions standing for service should be free from hereditary unsoundness.

3. That all stallions standing for service should reasonably comply with the standard of conformation for the breed which they represent.

4. That all stallions should be inspected, and that those complying with the above requirements, except those provided for in section (a) of resolution 1, should be given a license to be known as "Grade 1."

5. That no person should be allowed to accept a service fee for any stallion unless a license has been taken out for said stallion.

6. That all printed matter advertising any stallion should include a copy of the license certificate issued for such stallion.

7. That the inspection should be done by a county inspector or inspectors, appointed by the Government.

8. That the license fee should be \$10, out of which the expenses of the inspection should be paid, and that the surplus collected from each county should be returned to the county to be used for the encouragement of spring horse shows; no more than two of which shows should be held in any electoral district.

9. That local horse-show associations should be encouraged in each county; that the spring horse shows should be held under the management of these associations, and that these associations should be affiliated with the Ontario Horse-breeders' Association.

10. That educational meetings should be held in connection with the spring horse shows, held in each county, by arranging to have special lectures on practical subjects relating to the horse industry.

11. That "syndicating," under the generally accepted meaning of the word, should not be encouraged, and that some legislation should be passed to regulate it.

APPLE SHIPPERS IN TROUBLE.

The fruit shippers as well as the grain men are having their troubles of late. In view of the fact that a million dollars' worth of apples are tied up in the Province of Ontario for want of adequate shipping facilities, an emergency meeting of the shippers of the Province was held at the Walker House, Toronto, on November 27th. It was pointed out that the supply of refrigerator cars was far from equal to the demand for them, also that the shipments were held back because of the fact that all G. T. R. shipments have to go via Portland, at which point ocean steamer accommodation is inadequate to the requirements of the trade. It was felt that in times of pressure the shippers should have the option of exporting by way of St. John or Boston and New York if they choose.

During the meeting it was learned that the Canadian Freight Association was in session at the Union Station, and the shippers decided to descend upon them in a body. Mr. Dalrymple, general freight agent of the G. T. R., was also interviewed. In neither case, however, did much satisfaction come to the shippers, the railway men, while admitting the shortage of refrigerator cars, claiming merely that the matter would have to be referred to the proper authorities in Montreal.

Upon their return to the Walker House, the shippers decided to organize, and, accordingly, elected officers of the "Ontario Apple-shippers' Association" as follows: President, Mr. Samuel Nesbitt, Brighton; Sec.-Treas., Mr. John Brown, Executive Committee—Messrs. D. C. Mathewes, Colborne; R. J. Graham, Belleville; W. H. Mathewes, Trenton; F. L. Fowke, Oshawa; Frank Everist, Toronto; M. S. Schell, M.P., Woodstock; J. G. Anderson, Lucknow; M. Snetsinger, Thornbury; E. D. Smith, Winona.

If measures are not soon taken to relieve the congestion, a deputation will be sent to Montreal to interview the chief officials, and to Ottawa to present the case to the Railway Commissioners and the Dominion Government.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Dec. 9th to 13th—Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph.

Dec. 12th, 1 p.m.—Creamery meeting, O.A.C., Guelph.

Dec. 18th to 20th—Nova Scotia Fruit-growers' convention at Berwick, N. S.

Jan. 6th to 11th—Eastern Ontario Fat-stock and Poultry Show, Ottawa.

Feb. 12th to 14th—Ontario Horse-breeders' Show, Toronto.

May 4th to 9th—Canadian National Horse Show, Toronto.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR A FRIEND.

Christmas is coming, and people will be worrying what to purchase for their friends. Is there anything better than a good book? "Carmichael," the captivating story now running through our Home Magazine, is particularly well suited for this purpose, being handsomely bound and illustrated. How can you get it? In two ways: for \$1.25 (postpaid) from this office, if your local bookstore happens not to have it on hand; or as a premium for obtaining only two new subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" at \$1.50. Try the latter plan.

N. S. FRUIT-GROWERS' CONVENTION.

The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit-growers' Association will be held in Berwick, N. S., December 18th, 19th and 20th. Professors Waugh and Sears, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and other celebrities, are to be on the programme. A rousing convention is anticipated by the Secretary, S. C. Parker, this being the first meeting of the Association in his home town.

Friends of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" everywhere will confer a favor by promptly sending in their renewal for 1908.

PRESIDENT CREELMAN'S REPORTEE.

President G. C. Creelman, of Guelph, made a happy repartee at a recent McMaster University Literary Society meeting in Toronto. He had been invited to speak before the students at their annual opening of the Literary Society. His entrance to the platform was the signal for the boys to begin a series of cock-a-doodle-doo and other dialects redolent of the farmyard.

Without any apparent disturbance, the speaker opened his address thusly:

"Ladies and gentlemen, and old roosters in the gallery: I find I am not so far removed from the farmyard of Ontario as I had expected to be upon entering these classic halls."

Needless to say, the genial Simcoe boy captured his audience.