

# The Ontario Agricultural Gazette

The Official Bulletin of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders' Associations, and of the Farmers' Institute System of the Province of Ontario.

## THE DOMINION CATTLE, SHEEP, AND SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Annual Membership Fees.—Cattle Breeders', \$1; Sheep Breeders', \$1; Swine Breeders', \$2.

### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Each member receives a free copy of each publication issued by the Association to which he belongs, during the year in which he is a member. In the case of the Swine Breeders' Association this includes a copy of the Swine Record.

A member of the Swine Breeders' Association is allowed to register pigs at 50c. per head; non-members are charged \$1.00 per head.

A member of the Sheep Breeders' Association is allowed to register sheep at 50c. per head, while non-members are charged \$1.00.

The name and address of each member, and the stock he has for sale, are published once a month. Over 50,000 copies of this directory are mailed monthly. Copies are sent to each Agricultural College and each Experiment Station in Canada and the United States, also to prominent breeders and probable buyers resident in Canada, the United States and elsewhere.

A member of an Association will only be allowed to advertise stock corresponding to the Association to which he belongs; that is, to advertise cattle he must be a member of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, to advertise sheep he must be a member of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and to advertise swine he must be a member of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association.

The list of cattle, sheep, and swine for sale will be published in the third issue of each month. Members having stock for sale, in order that they may be included in the Gazette, are required to notify the undersigned by letter on or before the 9th of each month, of the number, breed, age, and sex of the animals. Should a member fail to do this his name will not appear in that issue. The data will be published in the most condensed form.

F. W. HOSKIN, Secretary.  
Parliament Buildings Toronto, Ont.

## SPECKLED TROUT AND BLACK BASS.

By EDWARD HARRIS.

Ontario is now far behind the neighboring states in all that relates to trout and bass culture. Twenty-five states have established hatcheries for the free distribution of trout, bass, and other game fish to re-stock the various streams, ponds and other waters. This is in addition to the regular distribution of fry for commercial or net fishing, and solely to provide rod fishing with hook and line for the amusement, health and recreation of the people of those states, tourists and visitors.

A good-sized volume could be written upon the subject of the destruction of the trout and black bass which once inhabited the streams and waters of Ontario. In that belt of high land running from the Lake Erie shore of Elgin and New York to the northern peninsula of Bruce and Grey, dividing the old settled portions of western Ontario in the centre, there are traditions of trout streams once as famous as the Nepigon, as well as rivers and streams teeming with black bass from end to end. It cannot be that our agricultural population are behind the same class in the neighboring states in intelligence. Still, no pressure has ever been put upon the Government to re-stock the streams and bass waters of the province. The money appropriation required for the purpose is fractional compared with the beneficial results to follow. Our Federal Government has done something for commercial fishing by making an effort to re-stock the great lakes and salmon rivers with whitefish, salmon trout and salmon. In the neighboring Republic this has not only been done by the Federal Government, but the various states have done even more to re-stock private as well as public waters with brook trout, bass and other game fish for recreation purposes, and that done not only free to applicants, but with free delivery. Take the State of Pennsylvania, the oldest settled state in the Union. Ten years ago their trout streams and bass waters were utterly depleted. From 1891 to 1896 that state distributed free to applicants and paid freight on 13,910,891 brook trout to stock the streams of the state, and did it with success. The distribu-

tion on this plan still goes on. The same thing is done in Michigan, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, etc.—in all twenty-five states. These states also distribute California trout, brown trout, black bass and other game fish.

The State of Pennsylvania has only forty-five miles out of nearly 800 miles of water frontage on Lake Erie, and from 1891 to 1896 they planted in Lake Erie 131,800,000 whitefish, and 223,900,000 yellow pickerel, and other high-class fish, the entire distribution of young fish for that one state in six years amounting to 502,025,517. It must not be forgotten that this is but the work of one state. Wisconsin, a new state, has done more, and has constructed one of the most complete fish hatcheries in the world. Neither the Federal Government of the States nor the separate states derive any revenue whatever from the fisheries, while the Province of Ontario alone pays our Government \$35,681.68 annually in license fees. That there is lethargy on the part of our people in this matter is plain. Governments no longer take the lead in matters of this kind. The modern legislator follows public opinion; he no longer leads. The people have been educated, and if they want any special legislation they must make the local representative understand that it is required. A depleted trout stream is not unlike an exhausted farm. Skill, care and proper husbandry are required to make it again productive. A trout stream once exhausted may give a few days' fishing every year to some of the local idle boys or to an occasional elderly "dead beat." The same stream stocked and cared for under proper regulations would give amusement, recreation and plenty of fish to the industrious classes in the country, both male and female, who best deserve a holiday. In Ontario our rivers and streams have become a desolation. The cities and towns are largely made up of men country-born and country bred, but the thousands of employees in financial, commercial, legal, medical, educational and various occupations and institutions, chiefly sons of farmers, leave the old homestead seldom to return. Amusement with rod and gun, the two great attractions connected with country life, are gone. Happily, if the people

desire it, all can be restored. The artificial reproduction of brook trout or speckled trout is so easy and now so well understood that it is waste of time to describe the process. With few exceptions any streams, ponds or lakes which once abounded in trout can be successfully restocked. The temperature of water can always be lowered by planting trees for shade at exposed points. Any streams having water too warm for trout are as a rule admirably suited for black bass, a fish equally attractive both for sport and the table as brook trout. Bass culture not being so well understood as trout culture a few remarks on the subject will be in order. It is now generally admitted by scientists that the proper way to reproduce black bass for restocking purposes is to take the parent fish, place them in artificial or open small ponds, and let them make their nests and rear their young. They may be allowed to spawn in ponds of a quarter of an acre to two acres. The bass mate and nest like robins. The nest is concave with a diameter from 2 feet to 3 feet 6 inches. The period of incubation is about nine days. The young are born, like most young fish, with a food sac which lasts about one week. After this is exhausted the young disperse in search of food and until then they are closely guarded by the parent fish. If there is any vegetation in the ponds the young will find plenty of proper food. When one inch long they will begin to eat smaller fishes if they can find them. When about two inches in length it is better to remove them from the smaller spawning ponds. It is easily done. Various plans are adopted, and none which cannot be improved upon. Successful bass culture makes it necessary to keep the larger and smaller of the young fish separate. A bass 3 inches long will swallow another of 1½ inches and prefer it to any other food. Brook trout are equally inclined to cannibalism and require classification. Bass fry can be safely handled for shipment when 1½ to 2 inches long. There is not an old-settled county in Ontario in which there are not streams, rivers, ponds or small lakes admirably suited either for bass culture or re-stocking. Muskoka and the northern counties are naturally a fisherman's paradise. Yet nothing is done except to continue the same process of destruction which is part of our history since the first settlement of the country.

The Commission of Industrial and Labor Statistics for the State of Maine, as far back as 1893, estimated that their summer visitors from out of the state left within it every year as the cost of their living the sum of \$10,000,000, and that fully \$3,000,000 of that sum could be directly attributed to the attraction of fishing and shooting. It is believed that since that date these figures have been largely increased. In the summer months from May until October for climate, fishing and shooting, the Province of Ontario is most accessible and should, if proper attractions were offered, be filled with tourists from end to end from

those rich but over heated states south of us.

## EXCITABLE HORSES.

The best and only thing to do when your horse is excited is to calm him down. This is best done by getting to the horse's head and talking to him gently, rubbing his face and otherwise diverting his attention from the subject of his fright. If the horse is sullen or angry the same treatment will be found beneficial. In a high state of excitement the horse does not comprehend what you want, and it is useless, worse than folly, to attempt to beat the fright out of a horse.

All men are excitable, more or less; some more and very many unreasonably so. What would be the effect of trying to abuse one of these red-headed, excitable men into being calm and considerate when under the influence of passion? It would certainly end in disaster to somebody, and this may explain the consistency in some horses kicking the front end out of the wagon, and otherwise demolishing things when the whip is laid on his back because he got scared or excited about something.

The best thing for the driver to do is to keep calm and use common sense at all times in handling the team. When a horse understands that he is not to be hurt, he will not be excited or unreasonable, unless of a devilish disposition. Such cases require special treatment, and the judgment of the driver will determine the success of his work in handling the horse. Always take time to quiet an excited horse.

When you get an animal to understand your commands there is not much difficulty in directing its course. Avoid, if possible, bringing the excitable horse in contact with that which unnerves him. *Australian Farm and Home.*

## SIMPLE REMEDY FOR SCRATCHES.

A simple and effective remedy for scratches is the following. Boil enough white oak bark (which can be procured at the druggist's) to make two gallons of strong juice, using 10 ozs. to the gallon; in this put one large tablespoonful of sugar of lead and two teaspoonfuls of alum; wash the legs with a cloth or a soft sponge, having the juice warm. In some instances scratches come from a diseased condition of the blood, and internal remedies such as mineral tonic, sulphate of iron, etc., will have to be given in conjunction with the local application described above.

Nature, taste, and the health of the horse all demand a clean, well-lighted, well-ventilated stable.

Young colts should be at school just now, as well as children. Begin now to train them in the way in which they should go. Teach them to be handled, halter-break them, and teach them ways of gentleness that will make them more valuable horses.