

Prospects.

crop report shows very the apple and tender untry. Conditions are report in June in the spects for both apples The apple crop of Nova neighborhood of 900,000 here will be sufficient handle this large crop. heaviest in well-cared-Gano, Ben Davis and prospects, with Graven-while Blenheim, Fallad Ribston are light. h and scab is not pre-t. In New Brunswick favorable and fruit has ppin, Golden Russet, full crop; Wealthy and River forty per cent.,

ry variable, the effects being very noticeable. and Rougemont district ring Fameuse orchards 18. From Chateaugay Fameuse and Wealthy erally speaking, St. and Russet will show

ow the most promising on all varieties very North shore of Lake the commercial apple ally speaking, in this t there will be an in-crop of from ten to y-five per cent. over Prince Edward Coun-ows a rather disap- crop; perhaps one-third of normal, many trees still dying the effect of winter The St. Lawrence promises a fair crop, o serious development as yet. In British bia, there are favor-ports from the Okan-Valley, Vancouver and the Kootenay but the crop on the mainland is light. viest set seems to King, Spy, Wagener, an, Ontario and y.

mming up the pros-or the fruit crop in, P. W. Hodgetts, or of the Fruit Branch, ment of Agriculture, o, says: "Early from the best sources most promising pros-or the fruit crops in Province. The mild was favorable and dant with the excep- But fruit growers h truth in the old ticksen till they are m does not always ing is a speculative e crops are necessary s. The weather and l, and while the latter on, the other is o combine, as in the means the difference was at first promised crop now estimated

variable according to ng from the Northern earier in all parts for sections are light, the Province would equal to 1918, with, position as to districts report is that from ough has apparently

mentioned has been Owing to continued ficult to get on the et of fruit was badly iage, many of the and plums, both loom, were affected proper pollination, a District orchards ow better prospects y somewhat heavier rowed the area of ably". With regard e Dominion Fruit ys:

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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"A decided change has taken place in the Niagara Peninsula since our last report was published. The excessive heat during the first three weeks of June and the exceptionally long spell of dry weather have had such a serious effect that prospects to-day are by no means bright when compared with the promise of four weeks ago. In the district east of Beamsville, where most of the commercial peach orchards are located, the crop will be far below average, many orchards having been seriously affected by leaf curl. There will be a good average crop in the Winona-Grimby district, but taking the Peninsula as a whole the yield will not exceed 50 per cent. of normal. Reports from St. Catharines claim that the crop will not be more than 30 per cent. Many of the older bearing orchards throughout the Peninsula are in an unhealthy condition, and severe losses of trees have occurred during recent years. There is great need for extensive replanting. Sweet cherries are a light crop, Richmonds less than medium and Montmorency about medium. The plum crop will not exceed 30 per cent. of normal; a few varieties, such as Bradshaw and Yellow Egg, give better promise. Grapes should be a full crop from present indications. Niagara and Concord are particularly promising. Pears are very light—about 30 per cent.—with few exceptions."

POULTRY.

Cull the Flock Now.

Recently an article appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate" urging breeders to put their flocks of poultry upon a money-making basis, and pointing out that now is the time of year when the poor hen in the flock can best be separated from the good ones. It was also mentioned that the poultry experts of the Department of Agriculture, in the Province of Ontario, are conducting culling demonstrations throughout the country in order to show farmers who are interested in poultry just how to tell when a hen is worth keeping or should be killed for market.

A short time ago a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" was privileged to attend one of these culling demonstrations, held in the County of Lanark, in Eastern Ontario, and see just how the man sent out from the Department went about this work. Thinking it over afterwards, it all seemed so very simple that we wondered why the various points which indicate an ability to lay well had not been noticed long ago, and why they had not become common knowledge by this time. However, that seems to be the way by which improvements are nearly always made. Once some improvement is made or some new knowledge gained, one always wonders why it took so long to find it out. Really, it is nothing short of remarkable that even the most expert poultrymen should be able to pick up a hen in the month of June, July, or August, and tell how many eggs she has probably laid in the last thirty days, whether she is laying steadily or is broody now, and whether she has had one, two, or three broody spells in the last sixty days. Nevertheless, it is quite possible to do all this, and it is fairly easy at this time of year, after attending a culling demonstration and listening carefully to the explanations made, to go over one's own flock and pick out the poorer hens, the ones that are sure to prove themselves boarders during the coming winter.

When a hen starts to lay in the fall, after having grown to maturity under proper conditions, she is in pretty good shape. Her feathers are all smooth and unruffled; the wattles and comb show a nice red; and her beak and legs will be very yellow, in all breeds with yellow legs and skin. In addition, the vent will be small and puckered up with a little yellow ring just inside. As the hen starts to lay, however, quite a few changes take place in her appearance. One of the first changes is that as egg laying proceeds the vent spreads out, and by the time a few eggs have been laid the yellow color just inside the vent disappears. By the time from three to ten eggs have been laid, the yellow color just inside the eyelid will have disappeared, and the hen will be getting into working condition. After the color goes from inside the eyelid, it begins also to disappear from the beak, beginning at the face. By the time the color is all out of the beak, leaving it rather pinkish instead of yellow, the chances are about thirty eggs will have been laid. Next, the color begins to leave the legs, starting at the front and at the body, until by the time about one hundred and twenty eggs have been laid the yellow color will practically all have disappeared. This loss of coloring during laying is nothing more or less than the utilization of the fat stored up in the body to form the yolk of egg. When the hen is idle, either because she is naturally a poor layer or is taking a rest, this fat multiplies under the skin and through various parts of the body, giving it a yellow appearance, and as laying begins the fat begins to disappear. As this occurs the skin underneath the body becomes looser and more or less papery, according as the hen may be an exceptionally heavy or low producer. With continued exercise through egg laying the pelvic sack between the pelvic bones and the keel bones becomes very flexible, loose and pliable. Moreover, the distance between the pelvic and the keel bones should be wide. Looking at the head of the bird, which perhaps should be examined first, one should see a clear, prominent eye, and a face that is not too fleshy. The head itself should be rather fine and show strength and vigor, although the long, narrow crown-head is to be avoided.

Generally speaking, if one sees a hen at this time of year with her feather all smooth and unruffled, with considerable yellow color on face and legs, a pelvic sack that is rather hard and unyielding, denoting a heavy accumulation of fat, and a thick, somewhat tight skin, one is quite safe in considering that that hen

would be more profitable on the market than as an egg producer. A hen that lays is always a worker, and, like most people who work hard, a hen cannot keep herself looking slick and clean when she is laying eggs nearly every day. Her feathers will all be dry and lustreless. She looks as though she wasn't much good, and, in fact, the average person would be very much inclined to consider that the best looking hen would make the best layer. Because she works hard, the toe nails of the layer will be worn off pretty well, and the chances are that if one examines the rough-looking hen and finds her to be a worker, he would find that the smooth, bright-feathered hen will have long toe nails and plenty of fat under the skin to show that she is not wasting much energy or stored up food in egg production.

When a hen stops laying after working for a considerable time and losing the color from the various parts of her body, in the order mentioned above, the color begins to come back again exactly as it went out; first to the vent, next to the eye, then the beak, and finally the legs. A hen that stops laying will occasionally lose a feather, starting at the last of the primaries. This feather will start to grow, and in the course of eight weeks it will have become full size. The second and succeeding primary feathers take from two to three weeks to mature, so that if a hen has two or three rests within a period of eight weeks or about sixty days, one can easily tell just about when they were by examining the primary feathers. Experience at the Ontario Agricultural College has shown that a broody period with the Barred Plymouth Rocks lasts about fourteen days, while a white Leghorn will rest about nineteen days.

Now is the time of year to cull the flock. Any old hen that has the proper instinct can lay eggs in March, April and May, but it takes the best type of hen to lay in June, July and August, and in November, December and January. Moreover, a hen that is laying during June, July and August will be fairly sure to lay in November, December and January when the price of eggs is highest. Pullets should be hatched early and should moult late, in order to lay well in the winter. Watch your pullets closely, cull out all the hens over two years of age, and cull very vigorously the yearlings and two-year-olds. If this is done, the production per hen, and consequently the profit per hen, will increase very appreciably.

FARM BULLETIN.

Parliament Prorogues

The second session of the thirteenth Parliament of Canada prorogued with the usual formality at 3.30 p.m., on Monday, July 7, after sitting forth ninety-three days over a period beginning on February 20. During this time over one hundred and seventy-five Bills were introduced into the House of Commons, and from such information as we have at hand now it is clear that about one hundred of these were actually passed by the House, in addition to Bills originating in the Senate. About sixty Bills were passed by the Senate during the session, of which over forty were divorce bills. It is probable that these figures need correcting, since the complete records of the House of Commons, and the Senate have not yet come to hand at the time of writing.

During the last two days of the session the principal matters up for discussion were the Prohibition Bill and the new Bill introduced by the Minister of Railways and Canals, based on the Toronto power clauses in the Consolidated Railway Act. As with the latter Act, a conference of the Senate and House of Commons was again required on the prohibition issue, but no agreement could be effected. When the report was received the House of Commons again insisted on its disagreement with the amendment made by the Senate, and the Prohibition Bill was abandoned for the present session at any rate. It is understood that the status of the present prohibitory measure under the Order-in-Council will be maintained, and the regulations will continue to be enforced until the Order-in-Council expires with the War Measures Act. It is expected, however, that the fall session of the House will be called before this Act expires.

The special bill to protect the rights of municipalities was evidently a joker inserted into the records of the session by the Government in order to appease the friends of the municipalities. Apparently, a matter which has been turned down by the House or Senate during one session cannot again be made the subject of debate or legislation by that body during the same session, and the Bill was immediately turned down on that score, so that the fight will have to be continued at the next session. In the meantime we have the spectacle of a large group of the Cabinet Ministers consistently fighting this principle of protecting municipal rights, in committee and in the House, and then apparently as a sop to the people, making the same subject a Government measure to square themselves, when they knew it would be defeated.

Enumeration of Principal Bills.

A brief enumeration of the principal bills passed by the House of Commons this session may be in order. Of those directly connected with agriculture there was, first, Bill No. 24, the Seed Grain Act, 1919, which provided, among other things, that the Minister of the Interior may enter into an agreement with any bank for guaranteeing the repayment of any advances made to entrants upon Dominion Government lands, for the purchase of seed grain. The banks may be allowed a commission of not more than one per cent. on these loans for collecting. The Government agrees to pay the bank five per cent. interest in addition to the com-

mission for collecting, but in no case is the settler to pay more than seven per cent. The next Bill of direct interest to agriculture is Bill No. 74, containing amendments to the Fertilizer Act of 1909. This Bill provides that every manufacturer or manufacturer's agent, before offering any fertilizer for sale in Canada, must mark upon each package sold, or set out in the invoice accompanying the goods, correct information stating the brand, name and trade mark, registration number, guaranteed analysis stating separately the ingredients, and the name and address of the manufacturer. Every brand of fertilizer must bear a registration number for which the manufacturer must pay two dollars, and in addition a license fee of either eight, sixteen or twenty-four dollars, depending on whether the fertilizer contains one, two or three fertilizing ingredients, must be paid to the Government by the manufacturer before he can sell any fertilizer in Canada. Provisions are also made for the inspection of fertilizers, the application for analysis by purchasers, and the taking of samples.

Bill No. 75, containing amendments to the Live Stock and Live-stock Products Act of 1917, was passed by the House of Commons on May 6, and one of the principal sub-sections reads as follows: "Nothing in this Act or in any regulation made hereunder shall take away or in any manner limit the right of any farmer, drover or other person to sell live stock at any stock yard, or the right of any farmer, drover or other person to buy live stock at any stock yards." One of the most important amendments made is that which gives the Minister power to prescribe regulations dealing with "the manner in which live-stock products imported into Canada shall be inspected, graded, branded or marked." The penalty for violation of the Act is increased from \$100 to \$400.

Other Bills of a more or less general nature, but nevertheless of direct interest to farmers, are, first, Bill No. 37 dealing with the creation of a Department of Public Health; second, Bill No. 52, containing amendments to the Immigration Act. Under these amendments the immigration laws of Canada are made more stringent with the idea of protecting the future of Canada from invasion by undesirable emigrants from foreign countries. The avowed policy of the Government with respect to immigration, as stated by the Minister of Immigration and Colonization, when the Bill was under discussion, is to encourage primarily that class of emigrants which will settle on the land and help to regain the lost balance between rural and urban population. There is also Bill No. 95, dealing with the settlement of returned soldiers upon the land. As stated by the Minister of the Interior at the time, this is distinctly a land-settlement bill, and not a means of rewarding returned soldiers for service overseas. There is also the Technical Education Bill, No. 131, which provides for a grant of ten million dollars for the provinces, to be distributed over ten years, and devoted exclusively to the promotion and assisting of technical education in Canada. Ten thousand dollars will be given to each province each year, and the balance apportioned on the basis of population, according to the last official decennial census. Bill No. 152 provides for the granting of twenty million dollars to the provinces over a period of five years for the purpose of, road building. Eighty thousand dollars is to be given to each province, and the balance apportioned on the basis of population each year. The grant will be at the rate of four million dollars per year. When enumerating bills of more direct interest to agriculture, the amendments to the Canada Grain Act should have been mentioned. This Act constitutes a Board of Grain Appeal, to consist of three members expert and experienced in the inspection of grain and appointed by the Government. This Board will be much in the nature of the Board of Railway Commissioners and the Board of Commerce. The Board of Grain Appeal will make final decision regarding the grading of grain by grain inspectors in cases of dispute.

Other Important Bills.

Other Bills which are important, of national interest but which space does not permit discussing here are: Bill No. 18, The Bankruptcy Act; Bill No. 19, Consolidated Railway Act; Bill No. 28, confirming the Orders-in-Council appointing a receiver for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway; Bill No. 29, providing the sum of \$200,000 each year for ten years to aid in the improvement of railway crossings; Bill No. 43, granting new charters to the Canadian Pacific Railway; Bill No. 68, authorizing the borrowing of \$350,000,000 for demobilization purposes; Bill No. 70, incorporating the Canadian National Railways; Bill No. 80, creating a Board of Aeronautics; Bill No. 142, revising the Customs Tariff along lines laid down by the Budget Speech; Bills No. 143 and 144, regarding the Business Profit War Tax and the Income War Tax Acts, respectively; Bill No. 158, providing pensions for Canadian naval, military and air forces; Bill No. 160, amending the criminal code with respect to persons proven to have spread seditious propaganda; Bill No. 164, authorizing a general-purpose loan of \$100,000,000; Bill No. 166, creating a Board of Commerce to enforce the law incorporated in Bill No. 177, concerning the investigation and restraint of combines, monopolies, trusts and mergers.

Bills which fell by the wayside include amendments to the Meat and Canned Foods Act; Bill No. 46, to create a Government-purchasing department; Bill No. 77, known as the Divorce Bill; Bill No. 82, providing for the substitution of electrocution for hanging in cases of capital punishment; Bill No. 91, providing for the disqualification of military defaulters; Bill No. 126, the Civil Service Act, and Bill No. 138, containing amendments and consolidation of the acts relating to British nationalities, naturalization and aliens.