

Timely Notes for April—No. 1.

EXEMPTIONS AGAIN.

I have had a couple of communications given me for comment, one from Arden and the other from Ralplton. The Arden gentleman takes me to task for advocating doing away with exemptions altogether. Well, I still hold to my opinion, and the reports of institutes and other farmers' meetings show that many good men in various parts of the province hold the same views. There is no method that I have yet heard or read of that will not work disadvantageously to *some one*. It is true, as this correspondent states, that a person hopelessly involved would be simply ruined and prevented starting again. And, he says, a merchant in a like case would suspend business, pay his creditors fifty cents on the dollar, perhaps—(aye, perhaps 5 cents)—and then start again in a year bigger than ever. Now, is there anything in the present law that prevents a farmer from declaring himself bankrupt? I don't think there is. Again, are there not plenty of judgments registered against merchants, &c., that will hold good as long as they will against any farmer? I quite agree with him, that it takes as much brains to run a farm as a store successfully; but is it not the case that very few farmers use their brains? What proportion of farmers take an agricultural paper? Do one in six take a farm paper? On the other hand, how many business men neglect to take one? Are there ten business men from Winnipeg to Moosomin that do not take a trade journal? Some of his other statements, as to merchants' profits, are rather wide of the mark. I don't know of many, if any, articles (except jewelry), that \$5 cost will bring in \$15 return!

I agree with him that implement men and other agents are a nuisance. I have said so in these notes before this. But what about the "drummers" that pester the shopkeeper, etc. Are they an unmixed blessing? And as to buying an article you don't need, just because you are talked into it—more than farmers do that. The correspondent strikes the nail on the head, however, when he says, "recognize us as business men, and give us an equal chance." I believe this will only be done when farmers assert themselves more. They are equal before the law, but they are worse educated, live isolated lives, read less on their own business, consequently are generally prejudiced, and narrow-minded, and ignorant of their strength and importance, and thus allow their more self-assertive brethren of the towns to take the cream while they are left the skim milk.

The Ralplton gentleman mourns the difference in implements between Ontario and Manitoba, instancing a roller costing \$35, F. O. B. at Seaforth, and costing \$75 here. There is no doubt that the middlemen do fleece the farmers; but the Patrons of Industry are improving this state of affairs, and if we could only do away with the tariff on implements the prices would soon come down. I quite agree with him in desiring to see law costs, especially for mortgages, be reduced to something like a reasonable rate. But how can you hope to reduce law expenses as long as you return so many lawyers to the Legislature, and allow them to form "close corporations" like the "law society," etc.? If farmers will not look after their own interests, especially at election times, they may rest assured the lawyers, veterinary surgeons, grain dealers, storekeepers, etc., certainly will look after their own interests first, and then they may, if they have time, give a "spare hauf-oor," like the Scotch volunteer, to the farmers.

THE POULTRY SHOW.

I went up to Winnipeg to see the Poultry and Dog Show, and was well repaid for the visit. The exhibits were on the whole very good, especially the Plymouth Rocks, Langshans, Cochins, etc. There was one Langshan cockerel that was simply perfect. A good many of the exhibits were rather under weight. With very few exceptions, the birds were all *useful* sorts. The score cards are a decided success, and the judging could hardly be better. The turkeys were very light in weight, with one exception. The dogs included too many toys and terriers to be very attractive to a farmer, but there were some good collies and cattle-dogs. The deerhounds seemed to be looked upon as the most likely wolf killer, after the bounty and the rifle. A couple of good St. Bernards were there, and some undersized mastiffs and a good pair of foxhounds. One or two decent bull-terriers and a couple of good Newfoundlands include about all that a rural resident would care to own.

GENERAL.

Lots of money in sheep with wool at 7 to 8 cents a pound!

A few hours' work with a spade will make those low-lying fields fit to sow soon. Don't sow any seed until the land is dry enough to work freely. About 20th April is usually early enough for wheat.

Be sure to try and see if you can not put your crop in the ground with more care and skill than usual. You may just as well try for 40 bushels to the acre as be satisfied with 18 or 20. Don't neglect your garden seeds till too late, nor the fodder crops.

INVICTA.

Seasonable Hints:

BY J. DALE, GRUND.

WOOD ASHES FOR PIGS.

As I hear of quite a number of young pigs from three to four months old dying this spring, I will give you some information which I think will be valuable to parties losing pigs, as they all seem to die of the same disease, viz., paralysis. In answer to question No. 2 in the report of the Swine Breeders' Association of Ontario for 1892, we get the following answers:—

C. W. Neville says:—"I have observed that when pigs get paralysis, wood ashes is very beneficial to them, and I think they would never have paralysis if they had been given the ashes from the first."

C. A. Zavitz:—"Prof. Henry, of Madison, Wis., in carrying on an experiment with three lots of pigs in 1890, gave to one lot corn alone, to another lot corn and charcoal, and to the third lot corn and wood ashes. He found that wood ashes and charcoal were about equal in their effects, and that those which received charcoal and wood ashes consumed 28 per cent. less of the corn than the others to produce like results. He also found that the bones of the animals which had received charcoal and wood ashes were about 45 or 50 per cent. stronger than the bones of those which had received corn alone."

Mr. Simmons:—"If you feed heavily on any concentrated food, I care not what kind, even shorts, unless you have wood ashes or coal fed to your hogs, or give them outdoor exercise, they will become diseased in a very short time. If we see that they are becoming diseased, we commence feeding the coal and wood ashes, and they recover."

A CURE FOR FOWLS EATING EGGS IN WINTER.

Mrs. W. A. Card, having hens addicted to this practice, adopted the following expedient, which was quite successful. She took two or three eggs, making an opening in each end, taking all of the egg out. Then she made a medium thin mixture of cayenne pepper and mustard, ran it into the egg, closed up the openings by pasting paper or cotton on them, and put these into the nests. One dose effected a cure.

The Manitoba Poultry Show.

The first annual exhibition held under the auspices of the Manitoba Poultry Association, in Winnipeg, on March 6th, 7th and 8th last, was an unqualified success.

Every department was well arranged and ably managed, considering the short notice from the time it was first decided to hold the show. The entries were numerous, numbering 313, including fowls of all varieties, and 100 entries of dogs, which proved quite an additional attraction.

The poultry entries were all good, and the scoring averaged high. Of course the keenest competition was in Light Brahmas and Barred Plymouth Rocks. Many other popular breeds were represented by birds scoring from 93 to 96 points, and the many visitors were loud in their expressions of delight and surprise that so many beautiful specimens could be got together in Manitoba.

His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor Schultz, officially opened the exhibition on the first evening, and in the course of a very neat speech said:—

"The lesson which this exhibition teaches should be of the greatest value as showing:—(1.) That we have a climate suitable for the raising of the many beautiful varieties of poultry on exhibition here to-day. (2.) That inexpensive sod or sun-dried brick buildings, well lighted, furnish ample and secure winter accommodation. (3.) That cheapness of transportation in proportion to value places us in favorable competition with Ontario and the adjoining States, and almost entire immunity from disease gives our poultry, as our cattle and horses, an advantage which will be more appreciated when our birds and our animals take that rank for excellence which is accorded without question to our butter and cheese, as well as our barley and oats, to say nothing of that bakers' and millers' wonder and delight, our No. 1 hard wheat."

Mr. E. L. Drewry, honorary president of the Association, in conveying the thanks of the Association to His Honor for assisting in the opening of the exhibition, referred to the magnitude of the Canadian poultry and egg industry, and pointed out the stimulus exhibitions of this sort would give the industry in Manitoba.

It is a very common thing to hear it said that no exhibition judge can give entire satisfaction to all, no matter how conscientious he may be in performing his duties. But this does not apply to Mr. Sharp Butterfield, Windsor, Ont., who performed the task of scoring every bird in the show to the perfect satisfaction of every exhibitor. Nothing but praise was heard for him, and Mr. Butterfield seemed never weary of furnishing information as to the scoring, mating, care and feed of birds in order to obtain the best results. He claimed that breeders here need not be discouraged at the long winters, for in several of the classes were birds bred in Manitoba that equalled in every particular any he had seen on the continent, and he should know, as he has been judging at all the leading poultry shows for the past three months, coming here almost direct from Madison Square Garden, New York. From the appearance of many of the birds, he judged that they had been fed too exclusively on a wheat diet, and he recommended more variety,—

oats, barley, vegetables, etc. This was the first time home-bred birds have been properly scored, and the many valuable pointers Mr. Butterfield gave the exhibitors will doubtless be made good use of in future. Many sales were made and orders booked for eggs, and several breeders who did not exhibit regretted it, but availed themselves of the opportunity of studying what others were doing.

Financially, the show was a complete success, the expenditure amounting to about \$600, which was met with the \$300 grant from the Local Government, gate money and subscriptions, leaving a small balance in the treasury.

It would be impossible for us to give a complete report of all the exhibits, but we notice among the principal exhibitors the following:—

H. A. Chadwick, St. James, undoubtedly made the largest and best display, winning besides many class prizes the following specials:—The Lieutenant-Governor's medal for best exhibit, with 55 birds, representing nine or ten varieties; E. L. Drewry's silver cup for three best cocks and three best hens (to be won twice before becoming winner's property); W. B. Scarth's cup, with Partridge Cochins scoring 93 points, and which was pronounced by the judge to be equal to anything in America, which remark also applies to his Langshan cockerel, which scored 96 points and won the medal offered by W. J. Hinman, V. S., secretary of the association. A Langshan hen belonging to Mr. Chadwick tied with M. Maw's White Wyandotte, both scoring 95 points, and a Langshan pullet tied with Mr. Lawrence's Silver Wyandotte, scoring 95. In both cases Mr. Chadwick waived his claims, allowing the others to win the medals. Among other high scores made by him were:—A Buff Cochins pullet scored 95, a Barred Plymouth Rock pullet scored 93, and a Dorking hen 94.

M. Maw, North Main street, Winnipeg, exhibited many varieties of fowls, winning: On Bronzed turkeys 1st on a cockerel weighing 20½ pounds, 1st on a hen weighing 19½ pounds, and 2nd on a pullet weighing 16½ pounds. Also first on Pekin ducks, young and old pairs. He also owned the sensational Barred Plymouth Rock cockerel, Hero, scoring 93½ points. Also winning F. W. Sprado's cup for highest scoring hen, with a 95-point White Wyandotte. Mr. Maw's White Wyandottes are bred from birds imported a few years ago by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

S. Ling, Fort Rouge, Winnipeg, made 18 entries and captured 13 prizes, among which was one of the most important on the list, being a medal given by F. W. Drewry for the best breeding pen. This was won by a pen of White Wyandottes, all raised by Mr. Ling in Manitoba.

Thomas Reid, Lizzie street, Winnipeg, also had some high-scoring birds—a Golden and also a White Wyandotte cock each scored 92½, besides winning prizes with Black Minorcas (hen 92½) and Light Brahmas.

W. D. Lawrence, Morden, showed Silver Laced Wyandottes, and they are a grand lot, imported from Dr. Beckett, New Jersey, and the 95½-point pullet, winner of the association's medal, could not have been beaten at the New York show, according to Butterfield. His first and second prize cockerels scored 92½ points each.

W. Rutherford, Garry street, Winnipeg, carried off eight firsts, his Light Brahma cock proving invincible; he scored 91½. Also first on pullets; first on Barred Plymouth Rock cock Octimus 2nd, 91 points, and on breeding pen; first on White Plymouth Rock cock, 91 points, and also on pullet; 2nd on Silver Wyandotte breeding pen.

Andrew Ourlie, Fort Rouge, Winnipeg, exhibited some Bronze turkeys, Light Brahmas and Black Minorcas, all his own breeding, and all worthy specimens of which he may well feel proud. His first prize Minorca cockerel scored 92½ points.

C. M. Richardson, of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, had the first prize pen of Light Brahmas, scoring an average of 90 points, and headed by a Manitoba-bred cockerel.

S. Wise, Winnipeg, showed Golden Wyandottes, winning firsts on cockerel, hen and pullet, cockerel scoring 94 and hen 93½. These are wonderfully high scores for Golden Wyandottes, and all the more credit is due to Mr. Wise as they are all home-bred birds, but he has got the birds.

W. Pettit, Winnipeg, showed high-scoring single-comb White Leghorns, two scoring 92 and 91, pullet 90½.

J. Lemon exhibited fine Indian and Black Red Games.

Geo. Deitz, Bronze turkeys, 1st on cock weighing 34½ pounds; 1st on pullet, 17½ pounds; 2nd on hen, 19 pounds. Also showed prize-winning Plymouth Rocks and 1st prize pair of Embden geese.

D. F. Wilson, Brandon, Brown China geese, 1st prize.

George and Jackson Hanby showed Light Brahmas, Brown Leghorns, White Leghorns and Black Red Game Bantams.

A. Williams, Black Spanish and Brown Leghorns. A pullet of the former scored 94 points.

R. Dolbear showed some good Light Brahmas, taking 2nd on cock and on breeding pen.

We must not forget to mention the cocky pair of Pile Game Bantams that came all the way from Nanimo, B. C., to the show.

Mr. Chadwick also exhibited some very handsome English Golden Pheasants, which were much admired. The display of pigeons was excellent, and the dog show fairly good; some very fine Coolies, one owned by A. Smith, Winnipeg, being a particularly beautiful dog.