

weeds as possible before the potatoes come up. With this end in view they are often covered with the horse hoe shortly after planting, and a few days later levelled down with a spike-harrow turned upside down. Just as the young plants are coming through, the cultivator is run between the rows and the potatoes are again covered. In two or three days they are through again; after which they are cultivated several times and hilled. The covering of the young potatoes is an effort to destroy the weeds between the plants in the drill. Those growing between the rows fall an easy prey to the cultivator. In all the grower goes through his potatoes about seven times with the horse hoe and cultivate.

Spraying is another operation which must be attended to. Equipment for this work is not commonly owned by individual growers in Westmorland County, but they employ someone with some type of power sprayer to do the work. Fields are sprayed three or four times and usually not less than twice. This year, strange to say, potato "bugs" were scarce. Some had them and had them bad, but the growers say that they actually appear to be getting fewer in that locality. In some of the districts visited no arsenical was used in the spray material on account of the absence of the "bug."

The potatoes are lifted usually with a machine digger that separates the tops and tubers. The crop is then picked up and dumped in bulk in a shed or barn to swat. After that they are sorted and stored. Many farmers in Carleton County have their own potato storage houses, and quite a few may be seen dotted about in the section under consideration. The greater part of the marketing is done in the fall, but some of the crop is stored and moved in the winter. By way of cleaning up the field and preventing the establishment of any disease, the tops and vegetation are raked from the field and burned.

POULTRY.

Pin Feathers From the Poultry Park.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Hens will make money for us or cost us more than they are worth according to the care, feed and treatment we give them. That throws the burden of winning out on you. It belongs there, too.

The hen that shed her feathers quickly and all at once is not as thrifty as one which takes her time about it. Watch this and weed out the quick moulters.

Green feed, a generous supply of animal feed and a good variety of grain are needed to put the bird back into feathers.

Young hens do not need to be put through their paces as vigorously as do the mature laying hens. Give them something to do every day, but do not overwork them.

Skimping pullets hampers them in their body growth. They ought to have a liberal supply of good feed, a warm house and plenty of room to get around in.

Sweating at night leads to colds. Plenty of room and lots of pure air are the remedy for this.

Look out for ptomaine poisoning from dead rats lying round. It is plain shiftlessness to leave the decaying rats about to breed disease.

Grit mixed in with wet mash or other soft feed is pretty sure to cause bowel trouble and may cause a lot of fatality among the birds. Give grit in a place by itself.

Good plan to get some new catalogues of poultry supplies and not depend on the old ones. New methods and new machines of all kinds keep coming. And the up-to-date man will begin early to think and study along these lines.

A hen that sits around a good share of the time ought to be made to work hard. If that does not live her up, nothing but the axe will. You have no use for her.

N. Y.

A BIRD MAN.

Comparisons in Cost of Producing Eggs.

In the report of the Superintendent of Poultry at the Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B. C., the results of several experiments are given showing the comparison between the cost of producing eggs from early and late-hatched pullets, from selected and unselected pullets, and from pullets versus hens. A number of early hatched White Leghorn pullets were taken off the range September 12 and the late-hatched pullets of the same breed on October 11; a difference of practically a month. About fifty birds were put in each pen, and accounts kept of feed consumed and egg production. It was found that early hatched pullets required 9.72 pounds of grain; 1.47 pounds of green feed, and 6.26 pounds of skim-milk to produce one dozen eggs, at a cost of 21.5 cents per dozen. The late-hatched pullets consumed 16.48 pounds of grain; 1.15 pounds of green feed; 6.43 pounds of skim-milk per dozen eggs, at a cost of 34.9 cents, or a difference of 13.4 cents per dozen in favor of early hatched pullets. The same experiment was conducted with Barred Rocks, and, while the early hatched pullets gave more profitable returns than the Leghorns, there was not so much difference between the early and late-hatched birds. The early hatched Rocks produced eggs at a cost of 23.98 cents a dozen, and the late-hatched at 25.62 cents. Early hatched White Leghorn pullets were compared as to performance with their mothers, two years old. The pullets produced eggs at a cost of 21.5 cents per dozen and the hens at 41.7 cents, and there was a difference of five per cent. of fertile eggs in favor of the pullets. These figures show that pullets are to be preferred for winter egg production. A comparison was also made between selected pullets and those of mixed strains of the same age. The selected birds produced eggs 11.74 cents per dozen cheaper than the mixed strains, showing that it pays to cull a flock and keep only those which are known to be of egg-laying strains.

FARM BULLETIN.

Re Fur Bearing Animals.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S-ADVOCATE":

In "The Farmer's Advocate" of November 2, page 1826, in your answer to the queries of G. H. re the closed season for fur-bearing animals, you give the closed season for muskrats December to May. This was correct for 1915, but there is a new regulation for 1916. Section 11, clause 2, of 1916 regulations reads: "No muskrats shall be hunted, taken or killed, or had in possession of any person in that part of the Province lying South of the French and Mattawa Rivers, except from the first day of March to the 21st day of April, and in that part of the Province lying North of the French and Mattawa Rivers from the 1st day of April to the 21st day of May. No muskrats shall be shot or speared at any time, nor shall any muskrat house be cut, spread, broken or destroyed at any time, except in defence or preservation of property." You will notice the season in this part of Ontario does not now open until the 1st of March, 1917, and closes the 21st day of April. Section 9, clause 2, reads: "No person shall hunt, or trap fur-bearing animals except under the authority of a license, but this shall not apply to farmers or farmers' sons trapping on their own lands." You will notice that anyone hunting or trapping anywhere except on their own property must take out a license to do so. Section 48, clause E, states that a resident of Ontario to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals must pay a license fee of five dollars.

OBSERVER.

[Note.—The answers published in the issue referred to were not taken from the latest Game and Fisheries laws. A number of changes have been made in the 1916 laws which hunters and trappers would do well to bear in mind. Section 10, clause D, states that "no person shall hunt, take, kill or destroy grouse, pheasant, prairie fowl, or partridge except from the 15th day of October to the 15th day of November, both days inclusive. No person shall take or kill more than ten partridges in one day, and no grouse, prairie fowl or

partridge shall be hunted, taken or killed before the 15th day of October, 1918." Open season for woodcocks is from the 15th day of October to the 15th day of November, both days inclusive, and for quail, wild turkeys, black and grey squirrels, from the 1st day of November to the 15th day of November in any year, both days inclusive, and no person shall take or kill more than six quail in one day, or twenty-five in a season. Hares may be taken by any means at any time, between the 15th day of October and the 15th day of November and between the 23rd day of December and the 2nd day of January following, and may be taken at any other time by any other means than shooting.—Editor.]

A Question of Dignity.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

I am not sure, but I think I must have sprained my dignity yesterday. Only in that way can I account for the rusty and creaky condition of my anatomy this morning. You see it was this way. A man came along in a big automobile last summer and envied a plump heifer in our pasture field—a granddaughter of Fence-viewer I. He asked if I would sell her and as we are short of stable room I named a price. He accepted at once, merely asking that I should keep her until the cattle were taken off the pasture. Yesterday I received notice to ship her to him by freight and as there was no one else to do it I had to lead her to the railway station myself. The job was not nearly so bad as I expected for she was fairly well halter-broken. After a preliminary struggle in which I convinced her that I was boss and that she could not get away from the rope that was placed around her neck and her nose she started down the lane towards the road. It was then that my dignity began to suffer. I have found by experiment that I can walk along the road in a dignified manner at the rate of about three miles an hour. But the heifer's gait was five miles an hour and as she weighed about half a ton and I weigh something less than twelve "stun" I was the one whose gait had to be changed to meet the circumstances. In spite of myself I had to stretch out at the rate of five miles an hour and as I had to pass many houses and pass through part of the village I naturally tried to look dignified. But a three-mile-an-hour dignity speeded up to five miles an hour is likely to suffer from over strain and that is probably why I am feeling so stiff this morning.

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Speaking about a sprained dignity reminds me that our government seems to be suffering in the same way just now. Sir Robert Borden, a gentleman of easy-gaited dignity, had been leading Sir Sam Hughes, whose impetuosity exceeds all speed limits, and a crisis developed. Sir Robert found that he could not hang on to his dignity and Sir Sam at the same time, so he finally let go the rope. It is what loyal party papers call "an unfortunate occurrence," but I noticed that the general public shows a tendency to grin. For some time past people have been wondering how long the government would continue to be dragged behind Sir Sam's chariot, and now that Sir Robert has thrown him loose and Sir Sam is kicking up his heels in the open they expect stirring times. It is easier to let Sir Sam go than to catch a competent successor. His headlong energy was invaluable in the early days of the war and his scorn of red tape pleased the plain people, but when he began going in for the pomp, pride and circumstances of war, the glories of ceremonial parades and posturing in the limelight the people began to weary of him. But let no one suppose that because he has been removed from the cabinet his political career is ended. He is still a member of parliament and whenever it seems good to him he can still give the welkin an earache. Anyone who tries to pronounce a political funeral oration over him will probably find himself in the position of Mark Twain's meditative spider that stepped on a hot griddle. "He first exhibited wild surprise and then shrivelled." Personally I have a warm spot in my heart for Sir Sam. While I cannot say that I love him because of the enemies he has made I love him for some of the rows he has made. Not only has he sassed back aristocratic officialdom, but I am told that on one occasion he quarrelled with a bishop. Now, it has always been my ambition to quarrel with a bishop. They are so austere and dignified that as a poor, weak, fellow human being I resent their



Pioneer Pride.

A new variety selected from about 300 seedlings originated from potato bulbs.



Irish Cobbler.

A popular variety in New Brunswick.