

exhibition managers introduce into poultry shows some features of general interest, something the public may be attracted by or interested in.

This criticism, if it can be called such of poultry exhibitions, does not apply to any show in particular. It is applicable to any and all held on this continent. There is something fascinatingly interesting in them for poultrymen, but very little the average individual can interest himself in. Poultry shows are educational as they now exist, but educational within too narrow limits. The people standing most in need of instruction cannot be induced to attend. Stock exhibitions would be tame affairs if only those owning the stock were attracted to them, horse shows of little educational worth if only those breeding or owning the exhibits gained anything from them, or grain fairs of small value if the great body of grain growers did not derive some benefit. Poultry shows, likewise, can serve the largest interests of the industry they represent, only when they are organized to reach out to the average poultry raiser, and besides being of interest to those engaged in the business in a special way, be of direct value to the average poultry-keeper of the country. How they are to be made such can hardly be explained, but our larger exhibition managements in the country are considering the problem and something of value should evolve.

Better Prices for Poultry Wanted

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I wish to bring up in your columns, which are so widely read, a subject for discussion, viz.: Why is it that farmers living some distance from the city, are forced to take such low prices for their poultry, which they are obliged to ship into the Winnipeg market, to a middleman, who seems to get the profit, while the producer, after paying the freight and counting up the cost of raising fowl, is "a sadder and wiser man," wishing he had kept his chickens at home and eaten them.

On this account many farmers are getting discouraged, therefore, it is no use preaching "more poultry raising" to them as long as this condition of things exists. This, I have noticed for years, and again this season it has been brought to my mind by a somewhat savage letter which I received in December, shortly after I had written an article to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE in which I had spoken of higher prices being paid in Winnipeg for poultry this season. My correspondent, living less than one hundred miles from Winnipeg, complained bitterly of the low prices he has just received for a consignment of prairie chickens shipped into the city:—10 cents for spring chicken and 8 cents for good fowl.

The very day this letter came, the *Free Press* market report drew attention to the prevailing high prices for all poultry in Winnipeg. When in town the following day, I asked the price of some *boiling* fowl, displayed in one of the best shops: "16 cents per pound, lady, for fowl; our spring chicken is higher, of course," was the reply.

I quite sympathize with this man as I well know his is only one case in many.

It is a shame to let all the profits in poultry go to the middleman while the producer is almost out of pocket, and I fear unless the farmer lives near enough to the city to market his own output, he is often the loser, when the heavy "express rates" are paid.

I know all farmers must rejoice that the express companies have not been allowed to maintain the heavier charges. The present high rates are more than enough. Judge Maybee has earned the gratitude of many for the stand he has taken regarding express charges. The express rates on eggs and fowl are decidedly high, 45 to 50 cents on one setting of eggs for hatching, from Winnipeg to points in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

One man to whom I shipped eggs wrote of paying 60 cents on one setting, and the following week he was only charged 45 cents on an identical basket. The worst of it is, these eggs sometimes arrive at their destination in a damaged condition, though packed in the best and most careful way, i. e., in a Morgan egg basket. I have shipped eggs for hatching, so cased, across the continent, without injury enroute, hearing of good hatches therefrom, while at other times, news has come of damage to eggs shipped only 50 to 100 miles, done up in the same way. Sometimes, the whole end of the package has been smashed. In showing rough usage in transit, I have seen most careless handling in Winnipeg, at the stations, of all sorts of express parcels; packets jolted off of trucks piled up too high, onto a stone pavement—this is easily explained. No matter what happens, there seems no redress.

Crates containing purebred live fowl have been opened, and one or more fowl taken out, by some thief in the express office or train while in transit.

Now my grumble is finished. We will hope for an improved condition of things during 1909; that the hard working producer will get fair play and better prices, as Winnipeg people never eat *cheap* chicken as many can testify.

"Littlecote," St. Charles.

H. E. VIALOUX.

FIELD NOTES

Professor of Chemistry Appointed

At a regular meeting of the Advisory Board of Manitoba Agricultural College held on Tuesday, February 16, it was decided to offer the Professorship in Agricultural Chemistry to W. O. Walker, M.A., Science Staff Queens University, Kingston, who has since accepted and will assume his new duties on May 1st, next.

Prof. Walker was born and brought up on an Oxford County farm near Ingersoll and is a graduate of Toronto University. During the past two years he has been a member of the Science Staff Queens University as Lecturer in Chemistry.

Having had an inclination to favor the more practical aspects of the Science of Chemistry, Prof. Walker has been able to conduct a considerable amount of investigational work of agricultural importance. He is at present conducting investigations connected with an attempt to solve the problem of the infertility of some Ontario soils. He is also conducting work of an important nature concerning the chemistry of butter fat.

While at Kingston he has been lecturing in Chemistry to the students of the Kingston Dairy School, and was associated with Prof. Mitchell in the originating and perfecting of moisture test for butter, an apparatus described by the Ontario Department of Agriculture in a special bulletin.

Debate on Elevator Question

A debate took place on the 27th ultimo, at Hamiota, between representatives of the Hamiota branch of the Grain Growers' Association and the Blaris branch.

The subject was, of course, the one which is before all grain growers, namely: "Should the government own and operate the elevators." The Hamiota representatives took the affirmative. The hall was full as Hamiota has about one hundred members in her association.

The merits of the question were left to the audience to decide by vote, but the responsibility of expressing an opinion was assumed by only 31 men present, 22 voting for the affirmative, and 9 for the negative.

Scottish Stallion Show

The dead season is pretty well over, and we are again entering on the days when there is life and motion. The event of the past week has been the Scottish Stallion Show, at Glasgow. The show was well up to its usual standard. The three-year-old class has probably never been excelled. The quality of the animals exhibited in that section was unusually high, and both the great trophies of the show, the Cawdor Cup, open to all ages, and the Brydon Challenge Shield, open to three-year-olds and horses above that age, were won by the three-year-old horses. The winner of the Cawdor Cup was Mr. Robert Brydon's Bonnie Buchlyvie 14032, the male champion last year at the Royal and at the Glasgow Summer Show. This horse is a model Clydesdale. He is very showy when on parade, has beautiful feet and limbs, and excellent action. There is a wealth of refinement about him this season which was rather lacking a year ago, and he is likely to hold the triumphant position to which he has thus early been exalted. His sire, Baron o' Buchlyvie 11263, was first at the H. & A. S. show last year, and has proved himself one of the pick of the sons of Baron's Pride 9122. Three out of four of the first-prize winners at this Glasgow Stallion Show were got by him, viz., Perfect Motion, which was first in the aged class, and last year was first in the same class, as well as second at the Highland, where he was beaten by his sire; Bonnie Buchlyvie, and the first-prize yearling, Dunure Footprint (strictly speaking, he is only ten months old, and very good at that). The winner of the Brydon Challenge Shield was Mr. Kilpatrick's St. Clair 14347, an amazingly thick, well-ribbed colt, with good feet and legs. He was second to Bonnie Buchlyvie in the open class. Mr. Brydon's horse would have won the Shield as well as the Cup, but Mr. Brydon did not show his horse for his own trophy. The third three-year-old was Mr. Pollock's Montrave Viceroy 14278, a very bonnie, gay horse, got by Hiawatha 10067, out of the Cawdor-cup mare, Lady Victoria 14582. The fourth three-year-old was Mr. Guild's Sam Black 14348, in some respects—size, substance, quality of bone, and great back and ribs—the best colt in the class. Mr. W. S. Park's Laird of Erskine, to which the Glasgow district Junior Premium of £80 had been awarded, was placed fifth. The aged class was not nearly equal to the three-year-old class. The winner was Mr. Kilpatrick's Perfect Motion, already named, a horse of immense substance and magnificent action. The others in the

prize list were capital animals, second place going to the black horse Ganymede 14130, from Mr. Marshall's stud, Stranraer. Mr. Taylor had third and fourth with a pair of grandsons of Sir Hugo, namely, Sir Dighton 13760, and Sir Spencer 13211, very fine, sound horses, the former big and cart-horse-like in every line, the latter a typical Clydesdale. We had a choice class of two-year-olds, and John Leckie, Inchwood, Milton, of Campsie, had the honor of breeding the first and second, from a mother and daughter. The first was High Degree 14703, owned by A. M. Simpson, East Killin; and the second, Royal Salute 14826, an own brother to Royal Review, the H. & A. S. champion stallion of 1907.

A remarkable feature of this show was the extraordinary number of high-class animals claiming Baron's Pride as their grandsire. The first and second aged horses; the first, second, third and fourth three-year-olds; the first yearling, and the third two-year-old, are all in this category. Many of the best are out of Baron's Pride mares. The cross between Hiawatha and these mares is still proving most successful. But the most notable feature of this show, has been the recognition by owners of the value of a veterinary examination. Hitherto, the rule has been that the two great trophies, the Cawdor Cup and the Brydon Challenge Shield, could only be won by horses which had passed a veterinary examination for soundness, and, in the case of the Shield, for height as well. But there was nothing to hinder a horse which was unsound, entering the arena and competing for the trophies. This year the rule was not altered, but it was made known that only sound horses could win these trophies, so only sound horses should be allowed to compete for them. This led to quite a number of exhibitors bringing forward their horses to be examined by Principal McCall on Tuesday afternoon, and many more would have been sent forward had the Society given a certificate of soundness to those which passed. As it was, fifteen were examined, and all of these but one passed, on a schedule which included the following disqualifying diseases: Roaring, whistling, ringbone, side bone, unsound feet, navicular disease, spavin (bone), stifle-joint disease, stringhalt, shivering (chorea), and cataract. Of the fourteen which passed, eight appeared to compete for the final trophies, viz., Bonnie Buchlyvie, Perfect Motion, St. Clair, Montrave Viceroy, Sir Dighton, High Degree, Royal Salute, Black Douglas. All these horses had, therefore, an implied guarantee that they were free of these diseases, and this must greatly enhance their value. The pioneer in this movement in Scotland was Mr. Brydon, who owns the champion, Bonnie Buchlyvie. He made "a veterinary pass" a condition of winning the Shield.

SCOTLAND YET.

Events of the Week

CANADIAN

Spring plowing is reported to have started in the Claresholm district, Alberta, on February 27.

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Members from British Columbia, in the Dominion house, are asking for an additional experimental farm in that province.

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A number of candy dealers in Montreal have been fined for selling brandy chocolates to boys and girls. The candies contained sufficient brandy to produce results as quickly almost as the pure liquid.

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A professional baseball league has been formed in Western Canada, consisting of Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Edmonton and Lethbridge.

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Speculation in veteran scrip is very active just now. Scrip that could be bought two months ago for \$50.00 or \$75.00 has advanced in value to \$650.00 to \$750.00 and prices are reported as high as a thousand dollars.

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Trouble has broken out in Methodist circles in Toronto, which threatens to spread and divide Methodism into two separate camps in the Dominion. The superintendent of the church, called a minister in Toronto sharply to account, for his interpretation of certain scriptural passages, claiming the minister was preaching atheism. Prominent ministers and laymen are lining up on each side for the fray and it looks as if a war in the church of some magnitude will be precipitated.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN

Jeffries, the retired heavy-weight champion, announces that he is prepared to meet Johnson, the present champion, if he can train into fighting form.

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Trouble is expected to follow the expiration of the working agreement on April 1st between the miners and operators of Pennsylvania anthracite mines. Another long and costly strike may result.

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A new record was established in wireless telegraphy last week, when a message was flashed from Glace Bay, Newfoundland, to Paris, France. Wireless achieved another success in transmitting the report of the inaugural ceremonies at Washington, when all the wires running out of that city were down in the violent gale that was sweeping over that part of the country.

Theodore Roosevelt executive of the Unit William Howard Taft countrymen affection as President of the F preparations had beer monies, but a blindy morning of the 4th, ceremony, being perfo Roosevelt left the Wh

Report on Ro

The engineer in cha the survey of the lin his first report to the

The report opens country surveyed by having encountered 1 feet of logs immediate the possibility of m streams, and at the s of timber suitable for p route. Rich agricult Mitishto and Grass ri along both sides of th From Split lake to Ch tive, the open country timbered and needing from The Pas there limestone available, s Further to the north, v ian, richly mineralize in many localities.

Water power sites: rivers and streams, n development at a mi power which is availa Nelson river is enorm railway in a very favo for the operation of its

The Nelson river, is rivers of the world, a water discharged to t proximately four hu area is tremendous. of Manitoba, the gre atchewan, North Dal great lakes, while they sota. Its discharge f five times that of the Falls at Ottawa.

The engineers, so are inclined to favor I instead of Fort Churc situated, at the moun and from informati Hudson's Bay Comp the season of navigati to two months a yea

The comparative ta of opening and closi Nelson, which are cor Tyrell and Dr. Bell are Fort Churchill—

Average season—C 18; time open, 5 month

Earliest opening— Nov. 1, 1837.

Latest opening—Ju 4, 1861 and 1885.

Longest season—F Shortest season—F Port Nelson—

Average season—O time open, 6 months.

Earliest opening— Nov. 3, 1878.

Latest opening—Ju 9, 1851.

Longest season—Si Shortest season—F

MA

The week-just clos wheat markets of A upward movement option afforded the b new high levels for t cago was the storm following, intent on f serious opposition to and it has since trans bear side of the mar smash prices and colle

Armour is reported wheat now visible in ator in the grain mar of practically the ent Fort William, and h wheat for the past changes. At the sar in unlimited quant