"Profitable Dairying," the keynote of which was better cows, better fed, fewer cows and more milk. Don't milk two or three cows for the same quantity you can get from one by properly caring for and feeding her. He said that where people were intelligently carrying on dairying, he always noticed the best homesteads and the richest farms. After all, most of the success depended on the "man behind the cow."

He would recommend only two breeds of cattle for success in dairying—the Holsteins and the Ayrshires. The cow must give quantity in order to pay, especially at the cheese factory. He said we should get away from the idea that we were only ordinary farmers. Do some special work. Be a specialist in dairying, and you will succeed. He recommended cow-testing associations as an education to get clear of poor producers and to educate patrons to produce milk more cheaply. We make a mistake in not selecting our breed, and then following line-breeding. This was good advice to our farmers, for there has been terrible mixing of different breeds here. The worst patron was not the rascal that watered his milk, but the man who sent overripe or dirty milk to the factory; both lessened the cheese product, but the latter did most harm by injuring the quality also. Mr. Barr said, also, that a great deal of the trouble in cheesemaking was traceable to rusty cans. If this excellent address could be put in the hands of every cheese-factory patron on the Island, it ought to do a great deal of good.

Lieutanant-Governor McKinnon then delivered a short address, which was a plea for more co-operation in the dairy business, and also along other agricultural lines of efforts. He also appealed to the farmer to give the boy that was going to stay by the farm a chance to get a good, practical education, as well as the one that was to be a lawyer or doctor.

The programme of the evening meeting opened with an exceedingly practical address by Judge Fitzgerald, who, by the way, does some very successful dairying on a small scale.

Theodore Ross, Secretary of Agriculture, also delivered a forcible address, in which he tried to rouse up the farmers to make a strong effort to place our dairy industry on a higher plane, and make it a better paying business. He warned the farmers not to let it go down, as we had no other industry to replace it that gave promise of being nearly so profitable. He said our soil and climate were well suited to the cheap production of suitable feed for the dairy cow. "Feed the cow well, and she will return you a profit."

F. S. Haszard, Premier of the Province, gave an address in which he spoke very encouragingly of our dairy prospects. He thought that even if some of the weaker factories did go down, that the business would not suffer much. Mr. Haszard is interested in the condensing factory, and is interested in keeping up the supply of milk, as it could profitably handle much more milk than it is getting. It is one factor in lessening the output of our butter and cheese, but it pays much higher prices for milk than the dairy stations can.

A resolution was introduced and unanimously adopted asking the Government to introduce and extend the teaching of agriculture in the common schools, and to cut Latin and French out of the curriculum to make room for it. This resolution was spoken to by the Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition, and a number of others. All were favorable to making the teaching in our schools more in a line with occupation of farmers, but the Government had no definite policy in the matter to announce just now.

The old Board of Directors was re-elected, as was the President and Secretary.

This was a profitable meeting, but the time (one day) was all too short to do justice to such a big subject. Many thought it could be profitably extended to another day.

A BANKER'S SUGGESTION.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd ult., also copy of "The Farmer's Advocate," and have read the article on "Safeguarding the Interests of Cheese-factory Patrons."

With regard to the matter of payment for cheese shipped, I am of opinion that the chance of loss would be at a minimum if the custom were adopted of attaching the sales account and bill of lading for the car to a draft on demand signed by the buyer upon his firm, draft and bill of lading to order of the salesman, documents to be delivered on payment of draft. This draft could be immediately mailed to their bankers, and, if negotiated at once, no delay would be occasioned, as draft would reach consignee before arrival of car.

C. A. ROSS.

London, Ont.

DEAL ONLY WITH THE BEST FIRMS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In answer to your favor of Feb. 20th, I cannot say much more than to advocate your suggestion, No. 1, for the safeguarding of the interests of cheese-factory patrons. In fact, if the policy had been followed, a great many would have benefited, for the reason that, during the 32 years I have been in the butter and cheese trade, every failure has been foreseen by members of the trade six to twelve months ahead.

Montreal, Que. J. A. VAILLANCOURT.

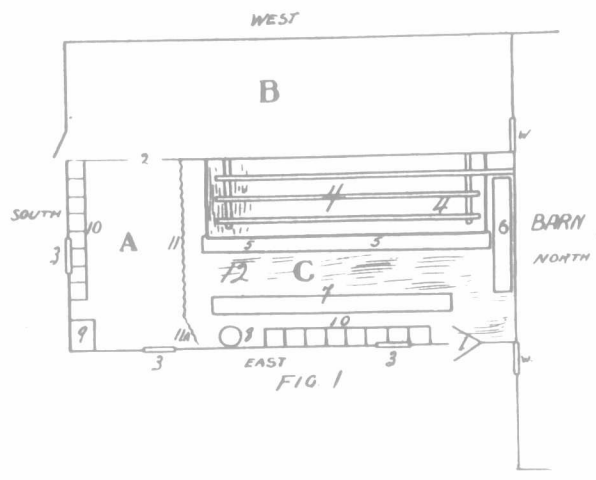
POULTRY.

A POULTRY-HOUSE DESCRIPTION AND PLAN.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

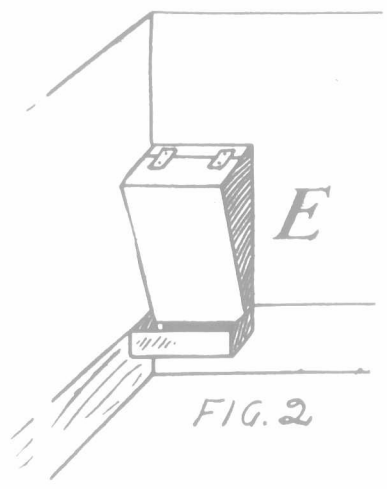
In a recent issue of your valuable paper, you request the experience of the readers in poultry-house building, breeding, feeding, etc.

Having built a new poultry house last season, I thought I would send you the plans of it, as it is giving good satisfaction. It is built at the south end of the barn, as you will see by fig. 1. Therefore, only three sides were necessary to be built. The walls are 18 x 12 x 18 x 8 high, and consist of a cement wall, 1 foot high and 6 inches wide, on which a plank sill is bolted, the bolts being placed in the cement before it became hard. On the sill was placed 2 x 4-inch scantlings, with a 4 x 4-inch plate; the studs being placed 1 inch from the outside edge of the sill. The siding consists of hemlock sheeting, nailed crosswise on the studding, over which tar paper was tacked, and then matched and planed hemlock was nailed perpendicular



over the tar paper. Tar paper was also stretched on the inside of the studding, and old lumber was used to side it in, making a wall 7 inches thick, with a 4-inch air space. The roof is sheeted with dry hemlock and covered with Flexible roofing.

The following is description of the different parts of the pen: No. 1 is a double door, the inside door being one, while the outside is divided into two parts, there being a small trap in the outside under door. No. 2 is a small trap door to allow the hens to pass from A (the hatching-room, which is only closed during the hatching season; during the winter months, the laying hens have free access of this room) to B, an enclosed run. No. 3 is the windows, each consisting of four 8 x 10-inch lights. No. 4 is the roosts, which are fastened to the wall, while the outer edge is supported by wires from the joist in the ceiling. Under the roosts is a board platform, sloping down to the front of the roosts, on which the droppings fall. No. 5 is a trough, hung by wires from the ceiling, into which the droppings are scraped with an old hoe. The trough is easily taken out of the wire loops, which are close to the ends, and can be carried out to the manure heap and emptied. No. 6 is a plank walk for the hens to ascend to the roosts. No. 7 is a trough



used for feeding mash. No. 8 is a galvanized drinking fountain. No. 9 is a grit hopper made of lumber, and has a capacity of a wheelbarrow of fine gravel. The hopper, as you see by fig. 2, is placed level with the top of the cement wall, being 1 foot from the floor; therefore, it does not take up any floor space, and prevents the hens from destroying or wasting their grit. No. 10 is the nests. No. 11 is a wire-netting partition. No. 11A is a wire-netting door between A and C. No. 12 is an earth floor. On the plate, and spiked to the rafters, are 2 x 4-inch joists, on which rough lumber is laid, and the space above filled with straw. As to the cost, I am unable to give the exact figures, as we got most of the lumber sawed at the sawmill from our own logs, and we did the building almost all ourselves.

As to the breed, number and feeding, I might say that we only have thirty pullets, one cock and one cockerel, pure-bred Barred Plymouth Rocks, as we disposed of all our old fowl last fall. The following is the ration given this winter; two feeds each day; each feed consisting of three quarts of mixed grain (oats, barley, peas and wheat), always fed in a litter. Every second morning, the following mash was fed instead of the grain: Two quarts milk, 1 quart warm water, three quarts chop, meat scraps, and poultry food as per directions. Two medium-sized mangels were given each day, and plenty of fresh water was always kept before the fowl; the results being very satisfactory, as during January they laid 93 eggs; February, 366 eggs, which sold at 23c. per dozen, a total of $8.80.

Perth Co., Ont. GEO. S. HAMMOND.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

STRAWBERRY NUBBINS.

During the strawberry season of 1907, many people complained of the unusual quantity of nubbins produced on their strawberry patches. These malformations are the result of imperfect fertilization, which might be caused by one of the following:

1. Frost at blossom period.
2. Continual wet weather with low temperature.
3. Scarcity of insects.
4. Imperfect flowers.

In order to find out why a strawberry has a green nose when it ought to be ripe, we must first understand the construction of the flower and the fruit. If we examine a cluster of strawberry flowers, we shall find that some of them are expanded, while others are closed tight like a baby's fists. These tight, green wrappings are called sepals, and serve to protect the fruit to come. In the open flowers, we see five white leaves called petals, which are not only a protection to the essential parts, but serve as flags to attract insects.

Ordinarily, we shall find within the floral envelopes a fringe of yellow, pinlike structures called stamens; these organs bear the anthers which produce the pollen or fertilizing dust. Within the center of this ring we shall find a group of structures called pistils. On the top of each pistil is a sticky receptacle for pollen, known as the stigma.

All these organs together make a complete flower; but many strawberries do not produce perfect flowers; therefore, they cannot produce perfect fruit. Some strawberry plants bear pistillate or female flowers, while others are bi-sexual.

Botanically speaking, the berry is not a fruit, but a swollen flower stalk; really the receptacle of the fruit which the farmer calls "seeds," but the botanist says that they are not seeds, but true fruits, called akenes, which contain one seed each. An akene is evidently a ripened pistil.

The berry is not produced for the sole pleasure of man, for the wild strawberry, like all other things, is spending its energies to reproduce its kind. With this end in view, it gives rise to a luscious berry, whose color attracts the birds, which digest the pulp, but void the seeds at a distance. Thus the birds aid in the distribution of seeds in a new soil, which is necessary for the welfare of the race of berries. Seeds dropped around a plant, crowd each other in the struggle for existence, and plants that live continuously in one place tend to exhaust the soil.

If a frost strikes the patch when the flowers are expanded, we shall notice, in many of them (though a few for some reason are hardier than others), that the central column of pistils, or female organs, have turned black, which means that they have been killed, and, therefore, cannot produce fruit.

If the frost was slight, perhaps only a few pistils will have suffered, probably the top ones on the cone, which, when the strawberry ripens, will be at the bottom of the fruit.

In course of time the berry enlarges, but the growth of the point will be arrested, because the pistils connected with each "seed" at the point have been killed, and the resulting berry will be a nubbin.

Last season we not only had frosts, but a continual wet and cold season, which, I believe, did much towards the formation of the unusual number of deformed fruits on strawberry beds.

Insects fly less frequently in rainy weather, so they could not work the blossoms as usual last season. This is proved by the fact that our bees were unable to store a big harvest, although they began well.

Pollen is produced in larger quantities during bright, dry days, and it is also more easily discharged from the anthers. Rainy weather prevents the proper distribution of pollen, and probably causes waste by washing.

It is now easy to understand that unless a strawberry blossom receive the proper amount of pollen, a nubbin will be the inevitable result.

Lastly, imperfect flowers produce imperfect fruits. Purchasers of plants this spring should bear in mind that such varieties of strawberries as the Crescent, Enormous, Downing's Bride, Mark Hanna, Sample, Bubach and President bear pistillate flowers; i. e., their flowers have pistils but not stamens. In order to expect a crop of perfect berries, it is necessary to mate these plants with such bi-sexual varieties as the Wilson, Lovett, Wolverton, Texas, Climax, etc. Unless there are alternate rows of these pistillate and bi-sexual plants, the flowers will not be properly pol-