

Our Poultry Corner

If you have some things you do not understand in connection with your poultry and want some information, state your case briefly and to the point, writing on one side of paper only, and address it to THE MONITOR PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED, and we will submit it to Prof. Landry, and when his answers are received we will publish them withholding your name if you so desire it.

THE POULTRY RAISER'S OPPORTUNITY

The Present Market Outlook Warrants Greatly Increased Production During 1916

From present indications, Great Britain will require all the eggs and poultry Canada can produce during 1916. Last year, as a result of greatly increased production, Canada was able to ship to Great Britain the largest quantity of eggs exported since 1902, and at the same time reduced her imports for home consumption by nearly a million dozen.

Canadian eggs have found favor in the British market, and the prospects are that, providing they are available much larger quantities will be shipped this year. The unusually high prices prevailing at the present time are largely due to this anticipated export demand.

Prices for poultry are also high, and will likely continue so for the rest of the season. Last fall and winter all the surplus Canadian poultry was exported at highly profitable prices. Between fifty and sixty cars of live poultry were shipped from Western Ontario to the Eastern States alone, and in the Maritime Provinces, particularly in Prince Edward Island, the export demand for canned poultry has greatly enhanced prices to producers.

Although some uneasiness has existed on the part of the trade as regards transportation facilities in view of the high freight rates and the shortage of boats, it is now reasonably certain that an even greater demand for Canadian poultry and eggs will occur this year. It is important therefore, that every poultry producer take steps to profit thereby by hatching as many chickens as possible this spring.

Now is the time, by hatching early, by hatching everything possible in the month of May, to guard against the marketing of so much small, under-sized, poorly finished poultry, which annually becomes a drug on the market in the fall of the year. Again, it is only by hatching now and giving the chickens every possible chance to thrive and grow, that a maximum supply of eggs can be obtained in the winter time.

Given their proportionate amount of attention the growing of poultry brings quick and profitable returns to the farmer. With the increasing cost of meats, milk, butter, etc., there is a constantly increasing demand for poultry and eggs. The labor problem is not critical, as the boys and girls on the farm can readily take care of the poultry. The cost of feed is nominal, prices for poultry and eggs are high—the highest in fact, for many years. It is obvious, therefore, that Canadians have a patriotic as well as an economic duty to perform in making the year 1916 the banner year for poultry production in Canada.

MARKING POULTRY

Many farmers have no definite way of knowing the ages of their hens. Consequently the flock is too often composed of hens from two years to five and six years and sometimes more. An easy way to overcome this difficulty is to mark the birds. One of the best methods for the purpose is to leg-band the hens, then when the summer comes there is no difficulty in distinguishing them from the pullets.

MAKING A HEN'S NEST

Next time you find a nest of eggs which a hen has stolen away, take a lesson in the proper architecture of such a structure. It may save a few broken eggs or a poor hatch the next time you proceed to set a hen in your own clumsy human fashion.

The Farm

DIVERSIFIED FARMING ON EIGHTY ACRES

Mr. D. R. Nicholson, of Eastern Nova Scotia Produces Milk, Pigs and Potatoes, and Does it at a Profit.

(By A. S. Campbell, of Nova Scotia, in the Canadian Countryman.)

Within the past decade, Sydney, in Eastern Nova Scotia, has grown from a village of 1,500 persons to a city of over 20,000 population. This growth is due to the development of the coal mines in the neighborhood and the establishment of a large steel manufacturing plant within the town. The land in the vicinity is fertile enough, but many of the farmers flocked to the mines and steel works when the industrial boom began, and those left on the land did not produce more than a quarter of the products required by the townspeople.

Such were the local conditions when Mr. D. R. Nicholson purchased a farm of eighty acres about five miles from Sydney and began to specialize in dairying and also in the culture of early potatoes. He has a herd of thirty grade Holstein cows. He selected the Holstein because of her excellent profit-making capacity.

"I find," he said, "that the Holstein suits local conditions here very well. She will eat anything that a cow can make any use of, and this good quality is seen even in the calves. It seems to me that this point is not always borne in mind by dairymen in selecting a breed. If you look upon the cow as a manufacturer of milk, however, you will see the distinct advantage of possessing an animal that will cheerfully turn all sorts of cheap fodder into a large supply of nutritious milk. Moreover the Holstein is almost invariably healthy. The calves are generally of good size and develop rapidly, without any coddling. Holstein veal and beef are unexcelled, and this fact also increases their popularity as an all-around purpose cow. My Holsteins have great feeding capacity, and their digestive and assimilative powers are remarkable. They are blessed with gentle dispositions and always yield their milk rapidly and easily. No other cows that I have kept were their equals as persistent milkers. If allowed, my Holsteins would keep up their flow of milk through a period of years.

"People often tell me that Holstein milk is not rich and hence is inferior to that of some other breeds. I don't need to enter the lists in defence of the breed I have, selected as I don't raise Holsteins to sell. My experience has been however, that persons who raise this objection are not aware that the nutritive quality of milk lies rather in the solid content than in the fat. Everybody knows that the products of some other breeds is higher in butter fat, and it is often pointed out that dairymen who sell milk to the public should keep these breeds. Now, as a matter of fact, milk that is abnormally rich in butter fat is not the best for general use. Holstein milk averages about 3.5 per cent. butter fat. Physicians recommend it for the use of invalids and children. The natural food of infants contains about 3.6 per cent butter fat. Thus it can be claimed upon authoritative grounds that Holstein milk is properly balanced and therefore suitable for general diet.

"What the Nova Scotia dairymen needs as much as anything else to make his business more successful is better cows. What is the use of keeping a cow that only pays for the food she eats? Indeed some of our farmers really don't know whether all of their cows even do that. What these men must do is to discover without delay which members of their herd are money-makers, and which are lazy boarders. The best care possible will not turn a natural boarder into a money-maker. I am steadily building up a herd of pure-bred Holsteins from grades. I keep a pure-bred Holstein sire and in-breed occasionally."

Lets the Sunshine In.

Mr. Nicholson's dairy has a southern exposure and the windows are so placed that the sun will shine into every portion of it at some time during the day. A lighting space of twelve square feet of glass is provided for each cow so that every animal receives the full benefit of a sun bath.

"No dairymen worthy of the name will deny nowadays that fresh air, light and warmth are essential to animal health," said Mr. Nicholson. "It really does not matter whether a stable is made of brick or stone or wood provided that certain conditions can be maintained at a minimum cost. Personally I prefer wood, as it is cheap and can be used with less skilled labor. Moreover, most farmers have their own supply. Wood is a poor conductor of heat and cold and therefore makes a warm wall. A wooden barn is generally free from that damp chill feeling that one sometimes finds in stone or cement buildings."

The structure measures 84 by 38 feet, and has ties for 35 cows and four boxes 10 by 12 for calves and bull. It is fitted with concrete floors throughout and can be cleaned conveniently. A complete hot and cold water system has been installed throughout. The boiler is heated by the engine that runs the separator. Water is provided by means of a windmill connected with a spring situated 150 yards from the barn. It is pumped into a tank with a capacity of 1,200 gallons, from which it flows through the barn and into the dwelling.

The ventilating inlets are small and uniformly distributed. The fresh air, as it enters, is directed so that no draft strikes the animals. There are wall ventilators for intake and roof ventilators for the escape of the foul air. The outlets are large and direct. The system adopted is simple and efficient. The walls and ceilings are regularly given a thorough coat of whitewash.

Doesn't Follow set Rules

When asked what rules, if any, governed him in feeding his cows this dairymen said: "I don't know that any set of rules has ever been of any very great help."

When asked what rules, if any, governed him in feeding his cows this dairymen said: "I don't know that any set of rules has ever been of any very great help. The milk from his Holsteins is disposed of directly to the consumers in Sydney at ten cents the quart retail, and from seven to eight wholesale. On an average all the year round, he sells milk to the value of \$500 every month. One man delivers the milk to the customers. He keeps five men in summer and two in winter. His summer wage bill is \$150 a month and board of five men; his winter wage bill is \$80 a month and board of two men. He sells yearly about 6,000 bushels of potatoes. For the earliest ripening he obtains \$1.80 per bushel.

NOVA SCOTIA'S PRODUCTION OF APPLES.

(J. A. Macdonald, "Hermanville Farm P. E. Island.)

The apple industry of Nova Scotia has probably advertised the province abroad more than any other of her products. By the exports of apples we are able to show exactly what advance has been made during the last thirty-five years. Dividing this period into seven divisions of five years each, we find the average number of barrels exported during each period to be as follows:

Table showing Nova Scotia's production of apples from 1880-1885 to 1900-1905.

These figures are significant. It is further estimated by the railway authorities that during the last few years 150,000 barrels per year have been consumed in the province. These might be added to the above to show actual production. When it is considered that other farm products, roots, grain, hay, beef, etc., have not increased for many years this gain is the more noteworthy. In spite of the increased production the good paying figure of \$2 to \$2.25 average has been well maintained. Greater confidence is left in the ability of the grower to control insect and fungoid enemies. The coming and going of little scales about San Jose scale and Brown Tail Moth—which pests are now being regarded by many as blessings in disguise—are inducing a steadiness of faith that man is to have dominion over these enemies and have tended to lead growers to settle down to real business in enlarging their output.

Why do we send to Europe annually for breeding horses? The principal reason is that the European horse breeder learned a long time ago to appreciate the value of good, sound purebred sires for breeding purposes. In the horse breeding countries of Europe grade and scrub sires are a minus quantity.

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St. John - Digby

DAILY SERVICE (Sunday excepted) Canadian Pacific Steamship "Yarmouth" leaves St. John 7.00 a. m., arrives Digby 10.15 a. m., leaves Digby 1.50 p. m., arrives at St. John about 5.00, connecting at St. John with Canadian Pacific trains for Montreal and the West.

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Table with columns: Accom. Time Table in effect, Stations, Read down, Lv. Middleton, Stations, Read up, Ar. Port Wade.

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