

the Utah Experiment Station, part of which is published in the Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner's report for 1897, contain information of value to every poultry raiser. Four fowls were placed in each pen; half were given exercise, and half no exercise. The old hens were three to four years old; the early hatched pullets about seven months old, and the late hatched pullets about five and a half months old. The fowls were Rose-Comb Brown Leghorns. All pens were fed alike except in the matter of quantity. The food consisted of a mash composed of two parts bran and shorts and one part each of chopped corn and oats, which was fed in the morning; about 10 o'clock a little grain was fed; then grain again in the evening. The quantities and varieties of grain varied at different periods during the experiment, which was continued for a year. Cut bones and meat were fed three times a week. The green food was cabbage till 1st of March, after which cut lucerne leaves were fed dry. During the summer green grass was thrown into the pens. The grains fed were wheat, oats, corn, and barley. Corn was fed sparingly, and barley was discarded after a few weeks because the fowls did not relish it. No prepared poultry and egg foods were fed. The aim was to so feed as to induce the largest possible consumption of food of the right kind. The cost of the different foods were. Bran mash, $\frac{3}{14}$ cent per lb.; wheat, 70 cents per bushel; bones, $\frac{3}{4}$ cent per lb.; oats, 70 cents per cwt.; barley, 70 cents per cwt.; corn, 75 cents per cwt.; and cabbage, $\frac{3}{2}$ cent per lb. The tables show that old hens are unprofitable, and that the early hatched pullets with exercise gave the largest per cent. of profit:

WEIGHTS OF FOOD PER FOWL IN POUNDS, AND COST OF SAME FOR THE YEAR.

Pen.		Mash.	Wheat.	Bones.	Corn.	Oats.	Barley.	Lucerne.	Cabbage.	Cost.
	<i>No Exercise.</i>									Cts.
1	Old hens.....	10 22½	10	6	11	1	5	13		53½
2	Late hatched pullets.....	10 23	10½	6	13	1	4½	4		56½
3	Early ".....	10 25	10½	6	14	1	4½	7		61½
	<i>Exercise.</i>									
4	Early hatched pullets.....	10 27	10½	6½	14	1	4½	4		62
5	Old hens.....	10 27	10½	6½	14	1	4½	4		62
6	Late hatched pullets.....	10 27	10½	7	14½	1	4½	6		63

SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

The following table gives the yearly food cost per fowl, the number of eggs laid, the value of those eggs at market prices, the food cost per dozen of eggs, and the per cent. profit on food:

SUMMARY.

Pen.		Cost of Food.	Number of Eggs Laid.	Value.	Food Cost per Dozen.	Per Cent. Profit on Feed.
	<i>No Exercise.</i>	Cts.		\$ cts.	Cts.	
1	Old hens.....	53½	64	0 56	9.9	5
2	Late hatched pullets.....	56½	137½	1 32	4.9	135
3	Early ".....	61½	157½	1 68	4.6	174
	<i>Exercise.</i>					
4	Early hatched pullets.....	62	181½	1 88	4 1	203
5	Old hens.....	62	106½	1 20	6.9	61
6	Late hatched pullets.....	63	150½	1 51	5.0	124

Mr. A. C. Hallman, the well-known breeder of Holstein cattle and Tamworth swine, New Dundee, Ont., writes under date of Oct. 31st last: "I notice a great improvement in FARMING of late. The articles are of a spicy, practical, and up-to-date character, and ought to be appreciated by every thoughtful reader."

A Valuable Suggestion for Farmers' Institutes

The South Bruce Farmers' Institute is offering five prizes of \$10, \$8, \$6, \$4 and \$2 each for the best essay on "The best method of cultivating and managing a 100-acre farm in all its branches with a view to profit." The essayists are also requested to make a few suggestions as to the better protection of sheep from dogs, etc. The contest is open only to farmers and farmers' sons in the South Riding of Bruce.

This is a scheme that should commend itself to every institute in the province. There is nothing more needful in Canadian agriculture to day than something that will bring the farmer out of his "shell." We have as intelligent a class of farmers in Ontario as is to be found anywhere, but the trouble is they are seemingly reluctant about putting what they know in print or making it public, and anything that will tend to draw out our young farmers especially will be a blessing to any agricultural community.

Too many institutes depend upon outside talent for the success of their meetings, though we are pleased to note a growing tendency towards utilizing more local talent. Outside talent should not be ignored altogether, but we believe there is room for greater development of the local talent in every institute and using it at the regular meetings. In fact, the regular work of the institute might, with advantage, be supplemented by a series of smaller meetings held in its district at which only local talent should be utilized. As many as twenty meetings of this character might be held every winter by each institute if the local talent were developed. It would not be necessary to make elaborate preparations for them. They could be held in some schoolhouse, or for that matter in some farmer's home, when some person in the locality or from some other part of the district might give a short address on some practical farm topic which might be discussed with profit by those present. A series of small meetings of this kind held throughout each institute district every winter would reach many farmers who never attend the regular meetings, and at the same time make it easier to get a crowd at the larger gatherings where outside talent could be heard. These small meetings might form the nucleus for a local farmers' club which could meet for mutual benefit every fortnight during the winter.

By adopting some plan of this kind there is room for very profitably extending the good work which our Farmers' Institutes are now doing. But it cannot be extended very well until there is enough local talent in the institute to take hold of the work. The plan which the South Bruce Institute has adopted will tend to bring local talent to the front. The farmer who can prepare an essay for a prize competition can prepare one to be read at a farmers' meeting. No institute could expend its surplus funds in a better way than in giving prizes for essays on farm topics, and therefore we would heartily commend this plan to every institute in the province.

Southdown Sheep

By John Jackson, Abingdon, Ont.

The Southdown breed of sheep is believed to be indigenous to the Downs of Sussex, and to have existed there for centuries, even before the conquest. It is without a doubt one of the purest and most unmixed breeds in Britain. Like most other breeds of live stock they have been greatly changed and improved during the past hundred years. A description of the breed by an English writer about a century ago was very different from a correct description of the up-to-date Southdown sheep of the present day. They were described there as being speckled-faced, long and thin in the neck, high on top of shoulders, slack in girth, high and narrow on the loin, low at the rump sharp on the back, flat-ribbed, narrow in the fore-quarters, and generally, though with little space between forelegs.