

APIARY.

Marketing of the Honey Crop.

BY J. L. RYER, YORK CO., ONT.

Next to securing a crop of honey, the most important matter is the selling of the same. Some beekeepers (specialists) are adverse to giving any encouragement to farmers or others to keep a few bees, on the ground that the small producers are the ones who usually hurt the honey market. For instance, a farmer with half a dozen colonies in a good year may possibly have five or six hundred pounds of honey. This will seem like a prodigious amount to him, and he will jump to the conclusion that "honey is a big crop this year, and the sooner I get rid of mine the better." Consequently, he rushes it off to the nearest market, put up in any and every shape, and possibly takes whatever he is offered for it, thus demoralizing that market for the large producer. Just last year I knew of a man who had 1,500 lbs. of honey, which he sold for 6 cents retail, when the prevailing price was 9 cents wholesale. Needless to say, that man couldn't afford to spend a dollar for a bee journal or any other periodical. While two or three cents a pound does not mean much on a few hundred pounds, it does amount to considerable to the specialist, who may have anywhere from five to thirty or more thousand pounds, so it is not to be wondered at if some of the large producers are opposed to encourage others to keep bees, who will then sell their honey for 6 cents when it is worth 9.

In selling honey for the retail trade, in stores or other places, the package is quite a consideration. A glance over any grocery counter at the different attractive labels on canned goods, soaps, baking powders, etc., will convince anyone that manufacturers of these different articles know the value of handsome packages, and it will certainly pay the beekeeper to put his product up in a neat and attractive form. For the wholesale trade it is not so particular as to what kind of a container the honey is in, the square 60-pound tins probably being the handiest and most satisfactory. For retailing, the five- and ten-pound, slip cover, lacquered pails, nicely labelled with quality of honey, your name and address, etc., are the best packages I know of; for smaller amounts, one-pound glass jars are mostly used.

By all means label your honey intended for the retail trade—i. e., your clover and basswood honey. Better sell buckwheat and other dark grades wholesale, as the general public think all honey alike, consequently if they have had a pail of choice clover honey and then should happen to get a pail of buckwheat honey, they will be very apt to accuse the producer of the latter of adulteration. It pays to label your honey for different reasons, the chief one being that it advertises your product, as you certainly will not put your name and address on anything you are ashamed of. Last year I had two thousand pounds put up in five- and ten-pound pails, nicely labelled, intending to sell it at the stores. However, a wholesale firm made me an offer which I accepted. In a couple of months I received letters of inquiry from different parts of Ontario, asking me for quotations on honey like that they had recently purchased from Mr. H—, the wholesale man, of Toronto. The moral is obvious: Produce a good article, put it on the market in an attractive form, letting the public know where it comes from, and you will have no trouble to dispose of your product at a fair remuneration. For a number of years, with beekeepers in this section, the cost of pails was a dead loss. However, five years ago the members of the York County Association unanimously agreed to sell by gross weight—i. e., a five-pound pail weighs five pounds, including weight of pail. By this arrangement, price of pails is reduced to a minimum, and there is nothing unfair about it, as the customer knows precisely what he is buying, as each pail is labelled five pounds, gross weight. In selling hundreds of pails have yet to hear the first complaint from dealer or customer, so have good reason to believe that the system is satisfactory to all concerned.

If your honey is in large storage tanks, be sure and have it put in smaller packages before granulation sets in. Personally, I like to have it put in pails right away—i. e., as soon as any foreign substance has had time to rise to top of tanks—believing that the natural aroma of the honey is better preserved by so doing. Some say they leave it in the tanks to ripen (?). Better let it ripen in the hive, and so prevent any uneasy feeling in that line.

Good cattle from ten good Canadian Shorthorn herds will be offered at the Hamilton, Ont., sale, Aug. 13th.

POULTRY.

Fattening Chickens on the Farm.

It is surprising how much better chicken do when put in the fattening crate as compared with those running at large. Only yesterday, a farmer from whom I purchased some chickens came in and was looking over the birds in the crates. After looking them over, he asked where the chickens were I had purchased from him about two weeks previous, and when told that he was then looking at them, he would scarcely believe they were the same chickens. "Well," says he, "it certainly brings them along." This is what everybody says who has an opportunity of seeing the fowls. It would certainly pay the farmer to fatten his own. If it is profitable for us to buy the birds from the farmer and buy his feed to feed the chicken, why does he not feed them himself? I often suggest to the farmer to feed his own, but the general reply is: "I could not sell them as well as you, nor yet have I the buildings." Such answers amount to nothing. It requires no new buildings, and as far as selling is concerned, there are a number of buyers only too anxious to get the stock at good prices, not less than 10 cents per pound for well-fattened stock. The birds certainly want to be fasted at least 24 hours before killing, and need to be dry-picked.

What is required to make a success of fattening fowls at this season of the year is an open shed or cool stable, or a lean-to as seen in the picture. Any one will protect the fowls from the rain and sun. Of course, one must avoid a direct draft, otherwise some of the chickens may take cold and will then do poorly.

Our experience is that generally the chickens do much better in crates than when confined, loose, to a small pen. The crate is easily built,



FEEDING CRATE FOR FATTENING.

being made usually 6 ft. 6 in. long, 18 in. high, and 16 in. wide. The crate is divided into three compartments; each will hold four or five chickens, depending upon the size of the bird. The crate is made of slats, those on the top, bottom and back run lengthwise of the crate, while those in front run up and down. The slats are usually 1½ in. wide and ¾ in. thick. They are placed 2 in. apart to allow the chickens to put their heads through for feeding. The slats on the bottom are ¾ in. apart; this admits of the dropping passing through to the ground. Care should be taken not to have the first slat at the back fit tightly against the back, but should be at least 1 in. away from the back. This prevents the droppings collecting and decomposing. A small V trough is placed in front for to feed and water the birds; also small doors in the front or on the top to admit of taking the chickens in or out. (See photo.) Old shoe boxes or packing-cases can be used in making crates.

We get very good gains by putting the chickens up to fattening when weighing from 2 to 3 lbs. each; in fact, they gain more economically at this size than at 4 lbs. and upwards, providing the birds are healthy and thrifty and of a suitable breed, such as Plymouth Rock, Wyandottes, or Orpingtons. Our plan is to feed the chickens lightly the first week and then for the next two or three weeks give them all they will eat, but no more, and if any is left it is taken up within fifteen minutes after being fed.

We are feeding at present a mixture of finely-ground grains and milk, composed of as follows: 2 parts corn meal, 2 barley meal, 3 shorts, 1 oats (finely ground), 1 animal meal. This is mixed with an equal weight of skim milk. Water is given after each feed. No doubt other feeds would give good results. We have had very good results from corn meal, shorts and potatoes wet with skim milk. We calculate that the mixture

as used cost us \$1.40 per hundred for the grains, and the skim milk is figured at 10 cents per hundred.

We have just weighed 15 chickens that we put in the crate July 5th, weighing in at 33 lbs., and to-day (July 22nd) they weigh 51 lbs., making a gain of 18 lbs. This can be done by anyone. During the 17 days they have consumed 55 lbs. 10 ounces of grain and about an equal weight of milk. This would cost about 83 cents, or a pound of gain for a little more than 4½ cents. Surely it has paid to fatten these birds, as they can be sold to-day at 10 cents per pound, live weight, or 12½ cents, dressed. Of course, these prices will decline, but the chicks would probably do better in a little cooler weather.

W. R. GRAHAM.

Poultry Dept., O. A. C.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore, we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest, or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity.

3rd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessarily for publication.

4th.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

Veterinary.

FATALITY IN COLT.

A yearling colt, that had grown well but did not keep in good condition, was turned out on grass in the spring and did well until the last of June, when it became dull and gaunt and did not feed. I put it in the stable, and it became stiff in hind quarters, stopped eating, and showed symptoms of diarrhoea. I sent for a veterinarian and he treated for diarrhoea, with apparent success, as the diarrhoea was not so great, and it showed a slight tendency to eat. I left it in this state, and, returning in twenty minutes, found it dead. I sent for the veterinarian and he arrived in about five hours and held a post-mortem. We found some inflammation in the lining of the digestive canal, but not enough to cause death. The lungs considerably engorged with blood and the carotid artery filled with a white fibrous material resembling a sinew. The heart contained a cone-shaped mass of like material as large as a hen egg.

Lanark Co.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Your colt died from exhaustion caused by diarrhoea and the absence of nutrition. It evidently was congenitally weak, and it might have been improved by tonics and extra good care during the winter. The digestive organs being weak, diarrhoea was easily produced. The veterinarian evidently did all that could be done, and while he succeeded in checking the diarrhoea, vitality of the colt had by this time become so low that even while he appeared to want to eat he suddenly collapsed. The whitish, cord-like structure found in the arteries and the mass in the heart were the fibrin and serum of the blood. The congestion of the vessels of the lungs is always found when an animal is not bled. There may, as you suspect, have been an excess of fibrin in the blood, but I do not think it was either the cause of the disease or of death.

J. H. REED, V. S.

LAME COLT.

A yearling colt that was weak and crooked on one hind fetlock when born and has always gone lame when trotting, has hurt or sprained the joint and now goes quite lame.

Muskoka Co.

R. W., Jr.

Ans.—Your colt will always be weak in this joint. For the present lameness, treat as follows: Put in a box stall and keep quiet; bathe the joint with cold water long and often and apply a cotton-flannel bandage. After the acute lameness and tenderness has disappeared, blister in the usual manner. Repeated blisterings will have a tendency to strengthen the joint.

J. H. REED, V. S.