

of material 2 x 2 inches, dressed. A good size for a case is two feet wide, fifteen inches deep, and four feet high. The egg trays consist of a frame made of very light material, and the bottom covered with wire gauze. Small triangular pieces of wood are run across the frame of the trays as a division for each row of eggs. The gauze is also tacked to these strips to keep them in place and strengthen the frame. Strips of wood an inch thick and two inches wide should be nailed on the inside of the 2 x 2 uprights, so as to slide the trays in and out. This also enables you to put the trays one above the other. By having one more tray than you have trays in the case, a few minutes each day would enable you to turn the eggs. Place the eggs in the trays in full rows, with the large ends all pointing the same way. In turning, place the extra tray over the eggs; grasp the sides of the trays firmly with both hands, and turn end over end, allowing the large end of the eggs to pass downward and underneath.

#### SELECTION OF LAYERS.

As the breeding season approaches, select out from your flock the hens which you know, by observation, to be your best layers, and mate them to a thoroughbred male bird, of the same variety, from a well-known egg producing strain. The result of such selection will be that year after year you will be improving the size and number of eggs obtained.

When the breeding season is over see that all the male birds are either disposed of or shut up.

#### Health on the Farm.

Farming is generally considered to be one of the most healthy occupations. People in the cities in search of health usually flock to the country where the pure air, fresh breezes, and wholesome foods are believed to be health producing. This is true enough, and many persons who have been without good health in the large cities have fully recovered after spending a comparatively short time in the country; but in many cases we believe the improvement has been due more to the mere change of environment than to anything else.

However, the condition of things in the country should be more conducive to health than conditions in the city, but very often they are not. If those living in rural districts observed the laws governing sanitary conditions to the same extent that they are observed in the cities the country would be a regular paradise of health. In every well-ordered city the laws governing sanitation are very strict and are enforced by competent officers. Of course, such regulations are more necessary in the city than in the country, but if those living in the country would pay more attention to sanitary laws the standard of health would be very much higher than it is at present. People engaged in farm work deceive themselves very often by thinking that there is no need of regarding sanitary conditions so long as they have the pure air and fresh breezes of the country, and frequently people are found living in the midst of the most unsanitary conditions and who wonder why they are not blessed with good sound health. Unsanitary conditions are conducive to bacterial development, and nearly all diseases have their origin in germ life, and consequently sickness results, in many instances, where it is least expected.

One of the chief sources of disease in the country is to be found in the water. Frequently wells, from which the water used for drinking purposes is taken, are near some polluting source that makes the water anything but healthy. Frequently decayed vegetable or animal matter may be found adjacent to many farm dwellings, the germs of which are inhaled by those living on the farm. Farmers do not give as much attention to these things as they should. If every detail connected with the sanitary arrangements on the farm were well looked after there would not be as much sickness in the country as is found in some sections at the present time.

#### The World's Wheat Supply Increasing.

The world's available wheat supply is steadily gaining upon that of a year ago, so says *The Montreal Trade Bulletin*. This is rather surprising in face of the fact that the visible supply in the United States and Canada east of the Rockies decreased 1,345,000 bushels last week and that there was a falling off of 560,000 bushels in the quantity on passage to the United Kingdom. The total amount of wheat in sight has now increased to 71,528,000 as compared with 69,717,000 bushels a year ago. These facts refute the claims of some statisticians that there would likely be a wheat famine. There is now eight months of the cereal year provided for and only about four or five months between now and harvest, so that there is not much danger of many people being deprived of their usual amount of bread.

It is true, however, that there are not the large surpluses stored up of former years. Speculators have tried to take advantage of this condition of things by buying up large quantities of wheat and diverting them from legitimate channels by keeping them off the market. Leiter and his followers have done this and are now trying to take advantage of the situation by putting up prices. Leaving out the speculative element the situation is more favorable than a year or two ago, and prices have been raised to a profitable basis. In view of the fact that reports regarding the coming season's crop so far are favorable there is not likely to be any great advance in prices unless it be through speculation.

#### Sugar Bounties.

There is some agitation in England in regard to the continental export sugar bounty system. A conference was recently held in regard to the matter, when various remedies were suggested. One was to give a bounty to sugar manufacturers in the colonies; another, to put on a sufficient amount of duty to prohibit the importation of bounty sugars. The matter appears to be very difficult to regulate, and the bounty sugar from Germany and elsewhere almost prohibits the manufacture of sugar in countries where a similar bounty is not given, or where the sugar interests are not sufficiently protected. Many people in England are interested in sugar manufacturers in the West Indies and other colonies, and consequently the cheap bounty sugar affects their interests directly.

If it were not for these bounty sugars there would be no difficulty in the way of successfully operating beet sugar factories in Canada. The Germans, by sending out their cheap sugar, have almost secured a monopoly of the sugar trade in many countries, and are seriously injuring the manufacture of sugar in other places. True, it is all right as far as the consumer is concerned; but we believe that if beet sugar manufacturing could be made profitable to our farmers it would add very much to the value of agriculture in this country.

#### Does the Rooster Increase the Egg Yield?

*The Rural New Yorker* has been sending out a number of inquiries in reference to this subject. We do not know whether Canadian poultrymen have given this matter any attention or not. Some of the leading authorities on poultry matters have advocated producing non fertilized eggs, as they would keep longer than those fertilized. It has also been stated that hens lay better when kept away from the rooster, but in some recent contests all prize-winners who won a prize for the largest number of eggs from a given number of hens, had a rooster in the pen with the laying hens. The question now is, how do poultry authorities reconcile the facts with the theory?

The correspondents of *The Rural New Yorker* do not seem to agree in regard to the matter. The weight of evidence seems to be against the rooster. While some are strongly in favor of keeping the rooster separate from the hens, there are others who are just as strongly of the opinion that the

presence of the rooster is an advantage. However, should his presence increase the yield of eggs, it is altogether probable that the gain in this respect would be overbalanced by the extra feed it would take to keep the rooster. We should be pleased if some of our poultrymen would test this matter and give us the results for publication.

#### NOTES AND IDEAS.

Recently the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association urged upon the Dominion Minister of Agriculture that the Government should prohibit the importation of foreign fruits into Canada, because of the danger from bringing in the San Jose scale. The Winnipeg Board of Trade took the matter up and has received word from Mr. Fisher that the prohibition of the importation of foreign fruits is practically impossible. Such a prohibition would be manifestly unfair to the people of Manitoba, who depend largely upon California for fresh fruit. No pears, plums or peaches are grown in Manitoba and the North-west, and nearly every attempt to bring fruit from British Columbia or Ontario has resulted in loss, therefore the prohibition of foreign fruit coming into the country would almost deprive Manitoba of these luxuries.

In answer to a question from Mr. Davin regarding the Northwest creameries, the Hon. Sydney Fisher told the members of Parliament at Ottawa, the other day, that there were some creameries being operated at a profit at the present time. A sample shipment of Northwest butter had been sent to China and Japan, and had been so successful that a cable had been received asking the Government to send as much more as they could of the same kind. Northwest butter had been successful in England also, so that there were two openings for the butter, besides the demand that is sure to come from the gold regions.

A farmer on Long Island has gone into the growing of sunflower seeds and raises 100 bushels to the acre. These seeds are made into oil which sells for \$1.25 per gallon, and it takes two and one-half bushels to make one gallon of the oil.

#### CANADA'S FARMERS.

##### Alex. Hume, Burnbrae, Ont.

The firm of Alex. Hume & Co. is well known to breeders of fine dairy stock. For years some of the finest types of Ayrshires have been produced at Burnbrae.

The head of this firm is Alex. Hume, the subject of this week's sketch. Mr. Hume is a comparatively young man, and was born on the farm on which he now lives, less than forty years ago. His father, the late Thomas Hume, was a school teacher, and consequently saw the necessity of his children receiving a liberal education. Mr. Alex. Hume therefore received a good education at the common and high schools, though his ambitions in this regard were hindered somewhat by being compelled to take a special interest in the work of his father's farm than he otherwise would, owing to the delicate health of his father.

The Burnbrae herd of Ayrshires was founded twenty-four years ago by the late Thomas Hume. Eight years ago Mr. Alex. Hume became more intimately connected with the business, and the herd was largely increased from some of the best breeders in Canada. Owing to an inherent desire to be at the top, Mr. Hume imported a young cow and calf in 1893, from the well-known herd of Andrew Mitchell, Scotland. In 1891 he purchased a purebred Clydesdale mare in foal to MacNeillage. In 1890, Yorkshires were added to the list of purebred stock, and were the first to be brought into the township in which he resides.

Animals from the Burnbrae herd have been exhibited at Toronto and the leading fairs during the past three years, and have succeeded in capturing many of the best prizes. The special prize for the best dairy herd has been taken frequently at a number of the local fairs. Many high-priced animals have been sold, and are to be found at the head of some of the leading Ayrshire herds in Canada. Over fifty Ayrshires and thirty grade cows are kept at Burnbrae, besides over thirty purebred Yorkshires.

Mr. Hume has been honored in many ways by those who know him best. In his own locality he is a leader in local matters, a successful Sabbath school teacher, and takes a leading part in local educational affairs. He is a director of the Seymour Agricultural Society, and a director of the Dominion Ayrshire Breeders' Association.