

## Good Crop, but Reduced Acreage of Peaches.

Newspaper reports of an abundant crop of peaches in the Niagara district this year have elicited the fact that while the trees are well loaded, the hard winters of late years, and the San Jose scale, have thinned out the trees considerably, and the demand from the increased number of canning factories also goes far to prevent a glut. Consequently, growers expect but a moderate supply, and a good demand at a remunerative price.

## POULTRY.

### The Moulting Period.

It is now high time to help the fowls through their moult, as at this period the great drain upon their bodies calls for extra support to keep them up to normal condition. A careful rule in regard to food elements should be adhered to, as the hen that is through moulting earliest will start laying first. By a little force, feeding and special care you can greatly aid her in getting a full suit of feathers. I have found feeding corn and wheat at night, with a light feed of millet seed about 8 o'clock in the morning, and a feed of mash, composed of two parts bran and balance of ground oats, seasoned with some good poultry tonic, to be very helpful. Keep before them at all times a quantity of fresh water, and if possible milk should be given once each day, and grit of the very best kind should be provided in abundance. Fresh meat should be given every second day, and none should be allowed to lie before them under any circumstances after they are fed. Fresh ground bone is very valuable in the moulting period. The feather quills are mostly all composed of nitrogenous and mineral matter, which bugs, insects, etc., furnish. Green foods, such as beets, cabbage, mangels, etc., are very good in sustaining the general healthfulness. See that fowls do not get chilled in any manner while moulting, as they are very liable to take on a disease, such as roup, which is the worst ailment fowls are heir to. The sooner the fowls are over their moult and fed for laying, the sooner they will begin to yield a profit. J. W. DORAN.  
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### Size of Eggs.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I was much interested in an article in your issue of July 20th, re "Increasing the Size of Eggs," and was much surprised at the "expert" who concluded that the treatment and feed the hens in question were receiving were all that could be wished for. While I do not believe a change of methods would result in noticeable improvements immediately, yet I am quite satisfied that in this particular case the treatment had a great deal to do by way of impairing the usefulness of this flock. From experience, I find that decidedly different treatment from that described has given large-sized eggs, and when I have fed adequately of green bone and lean meat, my hens have given best returns, both as to size and numbers; providing, however, they did not become overfat, as with this condition they would become inactive, morbid and sluggish, when they would lay less and smaller eggs, a condition sure to be reached by those hens mentioned as being fed on boiled potatoes and barley meal (given hot). Nothing could be more depressing to the hen's spirits than a load of this mixture. They would simply gulp it down, and huddle themselves into some corner, from the fact that their desire or need for food had been satisfied. When handled in this manner they become too indifferent to take the necessary exercise to give good circulation, and if this condition is allowed to continue there will follow diminished, shrunken organs throughout the entire system, and, of course, the productive organs as well, and the product will be undersized.

Now, if this party would feed grain in the morning in some litter, so that Biddy would require to exercise to procure it, and at night when she is going to roost fill her crop well up with soft, easily-digested food, there would, in a few weeks, be a great change in the nature of the returns.

Hard grain should be given in the morning. If the hen is compelled to exert herself to procure it she increases the circulation of blood to such an extent that she thoroughly digests it, and at night, when she sits quietly on the perch, she will be able to manage soft, bulky foods. In this way the digestion is improved, and she becomes so robust and full of vitality that improved results are sure to follow. Also, I find it better to give animal food at night, for I notice that as soon as fowls have received sufficiently of it they are less active, and in all my feeding I strive to keep up a full day's activity, and have no difficulty in getting satisfactory returns. I think these hens lack a supply of animal food. The time for most effective foraging is very early in the morning, when insects are less alert, and before they have hidden away for the day. The old adage, "The early bird gets the worm," is verily true. When the hens are confined to the yard during the morning, and served with a mash, which could not act otherwise than to cause indolence, they should be furnished with a liberal amount of animal food.

Some breeds naturally lay larger eggs than others, and also some strains of any breed are superior in this

respect, yet the fact remains that by increasing activity, and, consequently, digestive capacity, together with supplying abundance of a properly-balanced ration, the product of any breed or any individual hen can be improved.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

J. R. H.

## APIARY.

### Spacing Extracting Frames.

Wide spacing, says a writer in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, accomplishes three purposes: It takes less time to work a super; you have fewer combs to uncup and extract; and you have more wax, which means more profit.

An apiary of ten-frame hives can be run with but seven combs to the super—seven frames to a ten-frame super, understand. Now, I do not mean to go and space every super to seven frames. The frames have to be spaced according to the strength of each individual colony, and also according to the honey-flow.

If the colony is weak the combs will have to be spaced close together, taking care to have them over the brood. If the colony becomes strong before extracting time, replace the combs wider; if none of the combs are being capped, insert uncapped combs between them. Do this at the time you go over the yard to do the swapping.

Now, as to swapping, there are always strong and weak colonies in a yard. The stronger a colony is, the more work it is capable of doing. The extra-strong colonies are full some time before your yard as a whole is ready to be extracted, and your weak colonies have combs to spare. Take a wheelbarrow with a super of empty combs. As you go along lift the cover to each hive. When you come to one that is full, exchange some of the heaviest combs for the one on your wheelbarrow, reversing the process when you find a weak colony.

It takes but a very short time in this way to go over a yard of two or three hundred colonies; and by so doing you make your extracting as large as possible, and nothing is lost, as would be the case if the strong colonies were not relieved.

I will further add that, to practice swapping, you must also practice wide spacing. When supers have their full number of frames you cannot tell by a glance if the colony needs relieving, or exchange the frames as easily as where they are wide apart and comparatively loose.

### Unripe Honey.

It is interesting and encouraging to note the attitude that is being taken in regard to the extracting of honey before it is properly ripened. The great injury that has been done to the honey market by placing upon it an inferior article is apparently recognized as it never was before. It used to be taken quite as a matter of course that a comb need not have more than about a third of its surface sealed when extracted. Nowadays it is pretty well agreed that it is better for the honey to remain on the hive for several weeks; and if it is all capped over, so much the better. The question, "What proportion of a comb should be sealed before it is extracted?" always sounded very much like asking, "How much poor honey can you add to good honey without spoiling it?" Why not leave the honey in the hive until it is ripe, and have it all good? Of course, under some circumstances, unsealed honey may be ripe; but usually a part, at least, of the unsealed honey is very poor stuff; and the man who puts honey on the market containing much of this is not only foolish, but often wickedly dishonest.—[*Bee Culture*.]

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

### Canadian.

Mr. Lucas, a farmer near St. Thomas, Ont., while hitching his team to a binder was attacked by a swarm of bees, and was so badly stung that his life is endangered. One of the horses died.

A press despatch says that experiments in raising fall wheat in the Swan River Valley have proved successful. One fine crop, sown Sept. 27th, cut August 9th, will yield about 50 bushels to the acre.

Prince Louis of Battenburg, who married one of Queen Victoria's granddaughters, has arrived in Quebec on a visit to Canada. Six war vessels brought the Prince and his party. Great preparations were made in Quebec for his reception and entertainment, including an immense ball at Government House. Prince Louis has been invited to visit Toronto during the Industrial Exhibition.

Charles Durand died August 16th in Toronto, at the age of ninety-four. He was born near Hamilton, Ont., in 1811. He joined with William Lyon Mackenzie in denouncing the Family Compact and its methods. When the rebellion of 1837-38 broke out, he was arrested and imprisoned. The following year he was brought before a jury, convicted of high treason, and

sentenced to be hanged, but his sentence was afterwards changed to banishment and loss of property. He lived in Chicago for six years, then, receiving a pardon, he returned to Canada, where he remained until death closed a long and interesting career.

### British and Foreign.

A part of Kipling's great poem, "The Recessional," has been given by the U. S. Methodist Episcopal Church a place in their new hymnal.

American surgeons, in connection with the Board of Health of Manila, declare that they have discovered a positive cure for leprosy, by a treatment of X-rays. Of twenty-five cases, all have improved, and six have completely recovered.

How are the mighty fallen! Samuel Grice, a hero of the Afghan war in 1877, was sentenced the other day to twelve years in a Western American prison for burglary. Grice won the Victoria Cross for bravery, when, in a fierce fight with the Afghans, Lord Roberts was thrown from his horse. Grice ran 600 yards through the rain of bullets, rescued Lord Roberts, and returned. When later in the day volunteers were called for, to go back and spike the guns, Grice alone responded, and did the dangerous work successfully.

It is said that a warning has been sent from the United States to China, that the U. S. Government will insist on a strict observance of article 15 of the Tientsin Treaty of 1858, which says that citizens of United States shall be permitted to import and sell, purchase and export all goods, the import or export of which is not prohibited by the laws of the Chinese Empire, in each of those Chinese ports which are open to commerce. The warning is the result of a rumor that it is the intention of those managing the Chinese boycott of American goods, to interfere with the landing of American vessels in Chinese ports. A cablegram states that enquiries have been made in China about Canadian flour, and it may be that the supply of flour usually obtained from United States may be sought in Canada.

### The Peace Conference.

Several points of the demands made by Japan from Russia have already been discussed by the Peace Conference at Portsmouth, and disposed of, but the points over which difficulty is anticipated seem by mutual consent to be left until last, the question of the indemnity particularly. The Japanese demands have turned out to be much more moderate than interested outsiders had thought probable, but it is certain that Russia will not accept all, and in the field the Japanese are preparing to continue the conflict. One point at least which has been conceded by Russia is that China is to be recognized as the sovereign power in Manchuria, and the rights which she lost by Russian military occupation since 1900 are to be restored to her. The Chinese Eastern Railway, running north from Port Arthur to the trans-Manchurian Railway, is also to be transferred to China through the Japanese, who will arrange for retaining a certain measure of control over it.

## THE FARM BULLETIN

The wool clip from the N.-W. T. is extra heavy this year, totalling about 700,000 pounds.

The Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., reports that the wheat crop of the United States will be larger than last year, and will amount to about 424,400,000 bushels, or an average of 14.8 bushels per acre.

After careful examination of the Nova Scotia fruit crop by persons interested, it is announced that the apple crop is very light, yielding only 250,000 barrels, instead of 600,000. Frost, early in the season, injured the blossoms.

Mr. Kitson, Canadian agent to South Africa, has written the Trade and Commerce department that there is a market in South Africa for Canadian apples in October, November, December, but that all apples spotted or scaled will be confiscated and destroyed.

R. J. Shrimpton, in an article in the *Monthly Review*, finds fault with the Canadian Government for granting free homesteads, and thinks that a small price per acre should be charged. He contends that the land belongs to the people, and the Government is only a trustee, without power to give away the people's land. Even at a low price the income from the sale of the lands would be great, and this sum could be applied to the expenses of the Canadian Immigration Department, and to the national debt.

The following letter, received by Messrs. Crawford & McGarry, of St. Paul St., Montreal, from the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, may help to explain why fault is sometimes found with the Canadian butter shipped to Great Britain: "Dear Sirs,—For your information, I beg to advise you that our Liverpool Inspector, in his report on the SS. 'Bavarian,' which arrived from Montreal on the 2nd ultimo, states that this ship landed her butter on the 24th, and that at 11 a.m. on July 27th, 90 boxes shipped by you, and marked 'C. & McG.' were still lying on the quay. When the butter was landed one package in your consignment was tested, and gave a temperature of 26