

POULTRY.

Winter Layers.

The winter layer is the profitable bird; and it is now that the preparations are made for successful winter egg production—in fact, the preparations began last spring when the chicks were being hatched, or we may say several years ago, when one began breeding up his strain of egg producers. But it is now when the birds will be brought together and everything got ready for the winter's work. It is necessary that extra care be taken in selecting the birds that shall fill the pens for the winter. A few drones among them will cut down the profits quite a lot. Any deformed birds, or any which do not come up to the point of being "good" birds for the purpose for which you are keeping them should be thrown out. It certainly does not pay to keep any which do not show by their looks that they might make layers. There are enough poor ones among those which look all right. Perhaps a number make the mistake of trying to keep too many birds, thinking that the more birds they winter the greater will be their profit, and so they go ahead and keep a lot of undesirable birds, that will not pay for their feed through the winter, forgetting that it takes the profit of one of the best birds to pay the feed bill of one that does not lay any eggs at all, and one that only lays a few eggs will greatly diminish the profit of another good one. Thus a few non-layers will greatly lower the general average of the whole flock. Of course, we cannot tell exactly which will prove to be good layers, but we can throw out those which seem to lack the appearance that goes to mark the "excellent" layer. It is not the number of birds that we keep, but it is the quality that counts. A few really good birds will pay better than twice as many with a number of drones mixed in. It pays to throw out the unprofitable ones as soon as they are found out. Sometimes the best appearing ones fail to make good egg producers.

In arranging the interior of the poultry-house the very best plan is to make all the fixtures movable. Have the nests, roosts, dropping boards and all the dishes so they may be taken out when you wish to have a general cleaning up of the poultry-house (which should be one of the items of your fall work in preparing for winter); you may have an easier job of it, as the fixtures may be taken outside for cleaning and leave only a bare coop inside, with nothing in the way to prevent a thorough cleaning. It pays to have everything as simple as possible, and still furnish the necessary advantages. Why unnecessary fixtures will only be in the way. A whole lot of study is needed, and should be given before one begins to build. This might save the changing of the building later.—[Percy W. Shepard, in American Poultry Advocate.]

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Canadian.

Fred J. McLeod, formerly of Charlottetown, P. E. I., has been elected Senator for Massachusetts.

Miss Laura Rose, who has just finished her summer's work conducting a travelling dairy school in Nova Scotia, has returned home to Guelph.

Major Frederick Dixon, formerly of the Q. O. R., who had served in the Fenian Raids of '66, was found dead in his chair at his Toronto home.

Large crowds on the Halifax wharf witnessed the departure on the Dominion Liner, Canada, of the Fifth Royal Garrison Regiment, which sailed at midnight, November 14th, for England.

The failure of the fisheries and the consequent dullness of trade has caused great destitution among the six thousand inhabitants of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, in the St. Lawrence. Many are emigrating, some coming to Canada, and some returning to France.

British and Foreign.

Queen Alexandra has made an appeal for the unemployed poor of England, and has herself given \$10,000 toward their aid.

An anvil used by John Bunyan when he was a tinker has been found, and will be sold by auction. It is stamped with Bunyan's name, residence, and the date 1647.

The Government employees at the dock, and in French ports have struck. About 6,000 men are out of work, but there is hope the strike may be ended quickly.

On the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Indore, India, one motto ran, "Tell father we are

happy." The Canadian mission, which was passed immediately after, bore the words, "Canada is, too."

The prize offered by the League of the Empire to the school children of the Empire for the best design for a cover for their magazine was won by a Natal girl. In the best dozen selected were two from Canada.

Eleven whaling vessels, which sailed from San Francisco last spring, have been caught in the ice in the Arctic, and will have to remain there until next August. The U. S. Government has asked that the Canadian Mounted Police Department forward letters to the imprisoned crews.

Once the manufacture of paper was a tedious process, but it is no longer. Some time ago at Elsenenthal, in Norway, three trees were felled as an experiment in the presence of a notary, who was charged to certify the time taken. The cutting began at 7.35 a.m., the wood was reduced to small pieces, converted into pulp, and at 9.24 the first sheet of paper was finished. The sheets were then driven two miles to a printing office, and just after 10 o'clock a paper was printed, so that in two hours and twenty-five minutes the wood of a standing tree was converted into a journal ready for delivery.

Doings Among the Nations.

RUSSIA.

Poland is now the center of the disturbances in Russia, the Poles having taken advantage of the disorders to urge again their claims to national independence. The Russian Government has refused to entertain the idea of a separation, and martial law has been proclaimed throughout Poland, to be enforced by 600,000 soldiers stationed there. The pitiable condition of the Russian Jews is calling forth much practical sympathy. In England £65,000 has already been subscribed for their relief, American contributors are responding liberally, and a Russian Relief Fund has been started in Ontario.

TURKEY AND THE POWERS.

The patience of the European nations with the cruelty of Turkey to the people of her possessions, and the evasiveness with which the claims of other countries are treated, has seemingly ended. The particular demand that the Government of the Macedonian Provinces, where so much oppression has reigned, should be given into the hands of the European powers has met with no response from the Sultan; and as a result of his delay in replying, a joint naval demonstration is to be made against Constantinople. Warships from the various nations will compose the fleet, which will be commanded by Admiral Ritter von Jedine, of Austria.

THE FARM BULLETIN

A report of the meeting of the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association, held in Toronto, November 15th to 16th, will appear next issue.

Japan's flour imports are creeping up to the \$10,000,000 mark. She has now thirty ports open to foreign trade.

A Prince Edward Island farmer has shipped over 5,000 lambs into United States markets since the middle of October.

A. P. Stevenson, of Morden, who has proved that many varieties of apples may successfully be grown in Manitoba, has had a crop of seventy barrels this year from his orchard.

The Railway Commission finds that the complaint of the Dominion Millers' Association against the G. T. R. for discrimination in the matter of providing cars for grain carriage was well founded. The Commission has issued an order to stop the injustice.

Mr. Harry C. Airth, Capetown, S. A., writes us: "South African trade is improving, and the recent heavy rains have made the whole country look very well indeed. The outlook for the farmers—both stock, grain and fruit growing—is better this season than it has ever been since the late war."

To the cattle-breeders of Lincolnshire, the President of the Board of Agriculture in Great Britain announced his firm determination to oppose to the uttermost the repeal of the embargo on Canadian cattle, and deplored the possibility of someone taking his position after the elections who favors the removal of the restriction.

Our Ottawa correspondent writes: "Mr. F. W. Hodson, Dominion Live-stock Commissioner, denies the report that he had resigned his position. A few days ago it was reported on reliable authority here that Mr. Hodson had sent in his resignation. He was in Toronto at the time, and could not be seen regarding the matter. When seen, since about his reported resignation, he stated emphatically that he had not resigned."

The farmers of Canada are thirty million dollars richer by the exports of butter and cheese from Canada this year. Never in Canada's history have there been such immense shipments, nor such sustained high prices of cheese. 2,631,767 boxes were shipped, which at the average price of ten cents a pound means \$26,317,667.

The butter shipments amounted to 701,803 packages, which at the average price of 21½ cents means \$8,412,000.

The Association of Farmers' Institute Workers.

[Specially reported for the "Farmer's Advocate."]

The tenth annual meeting of the American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers was formally opened in the City of Washington, on Thursday, November 9th, by an address of welcome by Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture for the United States. The meeting was the most successful held by the organization since its inception ten years ago, 55 States and Provinces being represented by over 100 delegates.

Five-minute reports from the several States and Provinces were read, which contained a synopsis of the work of the past year, and indicated the progress that is being made in this phase of agricultural education.

Among the principal subjects discussed were "Institute Organization and Methods," "Institute Lectures," "Co-operation with Other Educational Agencies," "Boys' and Girls' Institutes," and "Co-operation with the National Department of Agriculture."

The President of the Association, J. C. Hardy, President of the Mississippi Agricultural College, discussed Federal support for Farmers' Institutes. He considered that the time had come when the value and importance of this work should be brought to the attention of the National law-makers. He urged the adoption of permanent committees to do continuous work from year to year, as it was infinitely more important that the work as a whole should be put upon a broader and more permanent foundation by being unified, nationalized, and supported by federal appropriation. Congress had to a limited extent recognized the claims of this work, and for several years past included in the agricultural bill an item for the salaries of our Farmers' Institute specialists, and he (Mr. Hardy) felt sure as they had once recognized the claims of the work, no difficulty would be experienced in showing them how inadequate is this help. He recommended that the association appoint a strong committee to present this matter to Secretary Wilson, and to urge that he ask Congress for a sufficient appropriation to place the work on a progressive basis; that a committee be appointed to consider the advisability of asking for affiliation in the Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations. The plan to assist in widening the scope of the work and placing it on a more progressive basis, by a requisition from the States for the necessary funds, was favorably received by the meeting.

EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS.

Prof. F. H. Hall, of Aurora, Ill., and Supt. of Farmers' Institutes for that State, addressed the association on the "Co-operation of Farmers' Institutes with Other Educational Agencies." He said that the true measure of value of an institute did not depend so much upon the amount of teaching done as the degree of interest aroused. There must be teaching, but its main purpose must be first to create the desire to learn, and, second, to point to the sources of information. For the purpose of arousing interest, one interesting newly-discovered fact, of unquestioned economic value, so presented as to challenge attention and convince the listener of its importance, is worth a hundred commonplace truths, even though the latter may be essential and presented in a most attractive manner. It is one function, says Prof. Hall, of the Farmers' Institute, to assist in finding what Supt. Bayliss happily calls "the trail from the rural school to the college of agriculture." It must not only find its existing trails, but it must help to make new ones, and stimulate young people to enter upon them. It must create a sentiment in favor of teaching the elements of agricultural science in all the schools, in favor of rural consolidation, rural high schools, agricultural high schools, with curricula suggested by the agricultural college, and including a department of domestic science. In no way can this be so rapidly accomplished as by the co-operation of Farmers' Institute officers with school officers and teachers. The combined farmers' and teachers' institute is the most effective agency for bringing about this educational reform.

There are a few people yet who oppose what they term early specialization in the educative process. They plead for "a liberal education" as a foundation for the economic and special education. But what is a liberal education? says Prof. Hall. It is the education that makes a man free, that emancipates him not only from the bondage of ignorance, but from the bondage of dependence upon other people for his bread and butter, and from a parasitic livelihood; that gives him the power to earn his own living—really earn it, by doing something that must be done—and thereby contribute something to the general uplift of the race. That education is the best, the most liberal in the best sense of the term, for your boy or mine, that will make him worth the most to the world, able to contribute in the largest possible degree (for him) to human well-being. Hence the thoughts of the boys should be early turned toward some honorable occupation. This is the purpose of agriculture in the public schools. It is best that nearly one-half of the boys in the schools, probably more than half in the public schools, should select agriculture as a life vocation, and, having selected it, they should be given the widest possible opportunity to fit themselves for this honorable occupation.

The Farmers' Institute, by seeking the co-operation of teachers and school officers, can become an important