

Milk Beats Beer.

Milk is replacing beer for consumption amongst the workmen in the Imperial Dockyards at Kiel. A milk purveyor, whose sales last year averaged 2,000 to 3,000 bottles of milk per month, is now supplying 18,000 bottles per month. The cold season has made no break in the consumption, as the freshly pasteurized milk is brought to the consumers in closed, insulated vans. Through the introduction of pure, cheap milk, the demand for beer and other alcoholic beverages should be considerably reduced, especially as the use of alcohol reduces the physical capacity of the workmen.

Co-operative Supplies Purchase.

A new departure in co-operative trading is announced from Denmark. The business of Constantin Hansen & Schroeder, a firm well known as manufacturers of pasteurizers, heaters and other dairy machinery, has been acquired by the Danish Dairies Trading Society. This is an Association formed some time back for the purchase of the various machinery and other dairy requisites for the use of the many co-operative dairy societies in connection with which it was established. So much success has resulted that it has been decided to take over this engineering business and manufacture dairy machinery in future instead of purchasing it. The price paid for the business is stated to be £11,000.—[Creamery Journal.]

With dairy cows the taint of non-productivity in the lineage is a most important one to guard against, and until breeders and farmers come to keep and depend upon reliable records of individual production, instead of conformation or pedigrees showing descent from some great ancestor—many individuals that may have had more to do in deteriorating the offspring than that great ancestor had in bringing it out—until that time comes the cow that does not pay will go always with us.—[D. B. Foster.]

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Canadian Fruit Crop Report.

The general conditions for fruit of all kinds are excellent. The winter, though cold, has not resulted in exceptional damage to trees and vines. The only serious losses are from tree-girdling by mice, and the mutilation of trees by the heavy snowfall in the Maritime Provinces. Minor losses by winter-killing in Eastern Canada are reported in cases of trees injured but not killed outright by the winter of 1903-4, as well as in cases of trees that were overloaded in 1904.

Apples.—Reports are almost unanimous that the show for bloom is excellent. It must not be forgotten that the critical period of "setting" is not yet reported over any large area. The weather has been very unfavorable for pollination for the past two weeks in Western Ontario. It is also too early to report on fungus and the most destructive insects.

Pears.—Pear bloom is most abundant.

Plums.—The commercial plum sections all report the outlook favorable. The light crop last year, as well as the good weather conditions for growth, has placed the plum trees in excellent condition for a large crop this year, if insects, frost or fungus do not intervene. It is not too early to make preparations for an exceptional crop and prevent a repetition of the disastrous losses of 1903.

Peaches.—The new plantings have scarcely balanced the winter-killing of 1899 and 1903, so that even with a favorable outlook for this season on healthy trees the aggregate crop will not be large.

Other Fruits.—Cherries and bush fruits are all in good condition. Strawberries are reported in fair condition, but with some winter-killing. The spring frosts to date have not seriously hurt the crop, except in very limited areas. Raspberries promise well, but there is likely to be no over-production.

Spraying.—The spraying demonstrations of the Departments of Agriculture, Dominion and Provincial, together with the teachings of the fruit-growers' associations, are making an impression. Spraying is more general than ever before. Power sprayers operated by private parties for hire are reported in several sections.

Foreign Countries.—The report of the apple crop in the United States would indicate a medium to good crop. The English plum crop is medium, with a prospect of being less than average.

Mr. Macoun to Resign.

Though not officially announced, it is understood that Mr. W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, will resign his position in the fall of the present year, to accept a similar position at Sir Wm. McDonald's Agricultural College and Experimental Farm at St. Anne de Bellevue, Que. Mr. Macoun is regarded as one of the best horticulturists in Canada, and it will be difficult to secure a man to fill his position. He has been connected with the farm staff for seventeen years.

Canning Factory Prospects and Outfits.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I have received a copy of the "Farmer's Advocate," referring to the prospects for embarking in the manufacture of canned goods in Canada. Generally speaking, I do not think, with a few exceptions, that the manufacture of canned goods in Canada during the past ten or twelve years has been very profitable. The unsatisfactory condition of the trade was the principal cause of the consolidation of a majority of the factories under the management of the Canadian Cannery, Limited.

Owing to short crops of staple articles, notably tomatoes and corn the past two years, the Cannery have not been able to supply the demand, and prices have ruled high. Unfortunately, the growers of produce have not shared in the increased price. A number of independent factories have been organized during the past two or three years, and it would seem that under normal conditions the present factories could more than supply the demand for canned goods. It must be noted, however, that the consumption of canned fruits and vegetables in Canada is increasing very rapidly from year to year.

If your correspondent would consult some of the trade journals, he would find nearly all manufacturers of canning machinery represented. Some machines are made in Canada, but the chief manufacturers are located in the United States.

WM. H. BUNTING.

Lincoln Co., Ont.
[Note.—The following are manufacturers of machinery for use in canning factories: Brown, Boggs & Co., Hamilton, Ont.; Burt Mfg. Co., Rochester, N. Y.; Hemingway Mfg. Co., Syracuse N. Y.; Jensen Can Filling Machine Co., Astoria, Oregon; Hercules Iron Works, 215 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.—Ed.]

Standard Apple Box.

Fruit-growers and box-makers should bear in mind the amendment to the Act regulating the size of fruit packages recently passed, legalizing a minimum standard box. This box has a minimum size of 10x11x20 inches, inside measurement. There is no specification as to the thickness of the material, other than that it should be strong and seasoned wood. It is recommended, however, that the ends should be at least five-eighths of an inch thick, and the sides at least three-eighths of an inch thick, and there should be no objectionable odor to the wood.

There are no specifications as to what grade of fruit shall be packed in boxes. The market reports, however, would discourage the shipment in boxes of anything but apples of the very highest grade; the rest of the fruit can be more economically shipped in barrels.

APIARY.

Clipping Queens.

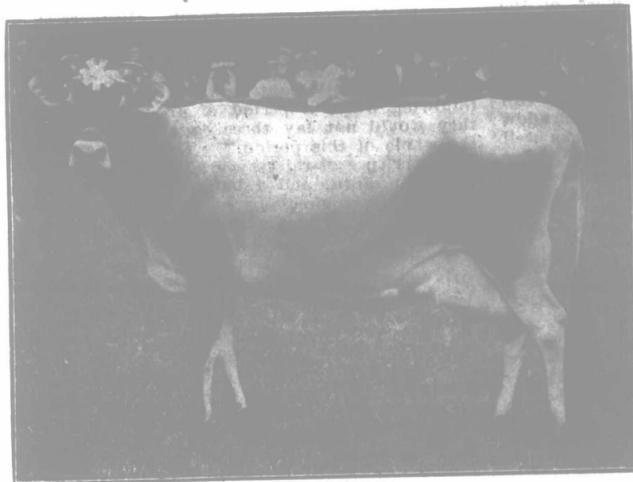
When natural swarming is practiced—that is when the bees are allowed to swarm naturally instead of having their swarming done for them by their owner, "shaking," or otherwise manipulating them—there is nothing which will give more satisfaction than having the queens clipped. It used to be the fashion to let the queen have her wings and for the beekeeper to follow the swarm or try to do so, wherever it might go—often into the top of the highest tree in sight. If the swarm has sense enough to cluster on a branch it is not so bad, as they can then be cut or shaken down with little or no injury to the tree; but in the writer's experience, before he practiced clipping, about three-quarters of the swarms would make for the evergreens and cluster on about six feet of the trunk, from

which they could only be removed by cutting the tree off below them, unless the queen could be found and caught, which is not just the easiest thing in the world to do under the circumstances. There is an easier, quicker and better way of doing it, which is to catch the queen when she is in her hive on the ground and easy to get at, and fix her so she cannot follow the swarm. This is done by clipping one of her wings so that she cannot fly, and should be performed in the spring or early summer before the swarming season commences. There are several ways of doing it, but one which is largely used and gives general satisfaction is to pick up the queen by the wings with the right hand, first, of course, having opened your hive and found the queen. Allow her to catch hold of the left thumb or forefinger with her feet, and then, holding her by two or more legs with the left hand, cut off about half of one of the large wings with a pair of sharp, fine scissors, and let her go back to work. Now, when the bees swarm the queen cannot fly, but will be found crawling on the ground in front of her hive. Have a little wire cloth cage ready, with one end open. Hold the open end over the queen, and she will crawl up inside. Close up the open end, and set the queen in a safe place out of the sun. Lift the hive which the swarm came from to a new stand, and set an empty hive ready to receive a swarm in its place. The swarm in the air will soon miss its queen, and, returning home to look for her, will run into the new hive which is where their home was when they left it. When they are going in well, allow the queen to run in with them, and there you are. In clipping queens care must be taken not to injure them. It is well for a beginner to practice on drones until he learns how to pick them up and hold them. Never clip a queen unless you are certain she is a laying queen. A clipped virgin queen is worse than useless—she is a nuisance.
E. G. H.

Stray Notes.

No one has done so much harm to the market for extracted honey as beekeepers themselves—those who have put unripe honey on the market. Yes, I know that is not an original remark, but it needs to be said a good many times.

Honey-dew may possibly, says Professor Cook, be better for bees than something else, because it needs no digestion. Allow a layman to suggest, in a humble way, that doubts arise. Isn't the bee built to do a certain amount of digesting, and better for the work if not a task in that direction? Protest has been made against the idea of overdoing the matter of providing predigested food for the human stomach.—[Cleanings in Bee Culture.]



Joyful.

English-bred Jersey cow, winner of many prizes, including first at Royal Show, 1903, and first at London Dairy Show, 1904. Owned by Lord Rothschild, Tring Park, Herts.

Bisulphide of Carbon for Wireworms.

The use of bisulphide of carbon as a remedy for wireworms in flower-beds and borders is discussed in the May number of the Journal of the Board of Agriculture (British). It is noted that the bisulphide has been used very successfully on a large scale against the vine phylloxera, and there are excellent records in its favor against the cabbage maggot. In using bisulphide of carbon as a remedy against wireworms, the following directions should be observed:

- (1) The soil must not be too wet or too dry at the time of use, and after applying it there should be no cultural operations for a week at the very least.
- (2) The treatment should be longer would be better.
- (3) The treatment should be in time; i. e., whenever the plants are known to be attacked, not when they are dying off.
- (4) Make a hole (with a stick), beginning three or four inches from the plant, and passing down in an oblique direction till a point is reached rather below the root.
- (5) Pour in a teaspoonful of bisulphide of carbon for each plant treated, and quickly stamp the soil in over the hole and press down.
- (6) The material must not touch the roots; the liquid will harm the plant, but the vapor is harmless.

The plants treated will be quite free from any poisonous properties and thoroughly wholesome. If the pest be taken in time one injection should be enough.

A Big Comparison.

The premium wrist-bag reached me safely, and I am well pleased with it. Your paper, the "Farmer's Advocate," stands paramount in comparison with any agricultural paper printed in America.
M. P. BECKER.
Dundas Co., Ont.