

### Future Prices for Poultry.

The question is now being asked: "Has experimental research shown any likelihood of lower prices in the near future?"

In reply to this, it may be at once said: "Not as long as the demand is greater than the supply, as it is at present."

So far, instruction from our poultry department, and which is warranted by experience, has been in the way of showing farmers the best and cheapest ways and means of obtaining eggs and the superior quality of poultry at such seasons of the year as will bring them the highest prices. In this connection observation has shown that there is greater likelihood of a larger and more immediate supply of new-laid eggs in winter than of the superior quality of market poultry in later months. For the reason that so many farmers have more time in winter to care for their laying stock (and which attention is absolutely necessary) than they have in the spring and early summer to devote to the hatching and rearing of chickens.

A. G. GILBERT.

### A Detrimental Practice.

A practice which seriously retards the quicker and greater production of the superior type of market chickens is that of using a Leghorn, Andalusian or Hamburg male with pure-bred or mixed fowls of larger size, presumably with the object of having better layers. While such a course may be permissible from an egg standpoint, it is not advisable for farmers to adopt who have the dual requirements of eggs and better quality of chickens in view. The result is sure to be chickens of smaller size and much less value than those of the English or American utility breeds. Speaking to the writer on this subject some months ago, the manager of an extensive purchasing poultry firm of Toronto, said: "That the farmers of the country should be strongly urged to abandon the too-prevalent custom of using male birds of the Mediterranean breeds for breeding or crossing purposes. We get," he said, "so many small chickens of Leghorn or Andalusian cross that we suffer serious loss. These chickens are sent with others, and we do not like to refuse them. They cannot be shipped to the English dealers, and we cannot put them on the local markets as good quality, so we are glad to take what we can get for them."

Occasionally a case is met with where birds of a large "first" or "mixed" cross are kept, and results in winter eggs and large chickens are said to be satisfactory. Enquiry generally elicits the information that all the good points in these fowls are owing to the use of pure-bred males of the large breeds, thus conveying the moral that the nearer to the pure breeds, the better the birds. In connection with "first crosses," it must not be forgotten that unless the cross is made every year by the introduction of new blood, it is apt to degenerate into the nondescript.

A. G. GILBERT.

### Get Into Pure-bred Poultry.

In about every neighborhood we find one or two farmers who take an interest in their poultry, and try hard to get all possible out of it. The question is, are you one of these farmers? If not, why not? Why, if you keep fowls, do you not make some special effort to derive a profit from it? Is there any satisfaction in keeping a mixed lot of scrubs and mongrels around year after year, half cared for, so they produce only a few eggs in the spring when they are cheap? It is surely as practicable for you to keep pure-bred poultry as it is to have pure-bred cattle, hogs or other stock on the farm, and when only one variety is kept the farm is indeed the place to raise them, for the reason that there is a large range and little danger of their becoming mixed with neighboring flocks.

I have been observing a few farmers who have taken interest in this line and have had the business energy to push out and look for trade in first-class stock, and my observations have shown me that they all have been able to dispose of their surplus stock for breeding at a much higher price than the market ever pays, and in the hatching season some of them have been unable to supply the demand for eggs. These people have done little advertising outside of their own localities. In offering their stock and eggs they have these advantages over the breeder who has only limited quarters, and breeds several varieties, namely—a guarantee of pure-bred stock, there being only one breed, and having unlimited range, they possess greater vigor.

It is claimed by some that cross-bred fowls do better on the farm. Why this should be I am unable to understand. If pure-bred poultry is best for the poultryman, or one who makes a specialty in this line, why is it not best for the farmer? The latter has every facility that the professional has and more too; cheap feed, plenty of straw and litter, lots of room, and so on. Certainly the farmer can succeed if anyone can, there cannot possibly be anything impracticable about it. But don't undertake too much. Start with one breed only; study and learn all you can about this variety, and try and improve upon the flock every year. The main thing is to select and cull out each year every doubtful specimen, even if you are obliged to reduce the size of the flock down to a dozen birds. Don't take any chances by keeping over a single fowl that will cause the flock to depreciate

in value. Right here is where farmers fail more than in any other point in poultry-keeping, they are too much inclined to breed with such as they happen to have, regardless of quality.

What gives a person more satisfaction in farm life than to look upon a flock of pure-bred fowls, all of one color and marking? I know that every farmer is not qualified to be a poultry fancier, in the usual sense of the word, and it is not from that standpoint that I expect the average farmer to operate, but what I advocate is for him to keep and breed such a class of stock as people all around are looking for and are willing to pay a price above the highest market value to obtain. Produce a valuable article, and there will surely be a customer ready to take it at a fancy price. —[V. M. Couch, in Vick's Magazine.]

### EVENTS OF THE WORLD.

Lord Milner has resigned the High Commissioner-ship of South Africa.

Fifty men were killed by the collapse of a building under erection in Santiago, Chile.

Twenty-nine were killed and many injured by a head-on collision on the Missouri Pacific.

Another tribe, the Witbois, has broken out in rebellion against German rule in Southwest Africa.

News has been received of the total wreck of the steamer St. Lawrence, ashore at English Point, but her crew and passengers were rescued by the steamer Aberdeen. The loss of the St. Lawrence, which belonged to the North Shore Steamship Line, will be about \$40,000.

Floods still continue in New Mexico, in the district south-west of Albuquerque, and there is great suffering among the people, who have been driven from their homes. In the town of San Marcial seventy dwellings have been wrecked. The Mexican people in the surrounding valleys are destitute, and hundreds must starve unless immediate help is furnished from the outside.

A report which is making a great sensation in military circles is to the effect that Marshal Oyama is to be recalled to Japan, and General Nodzu to be installed in his place as Commander in Chief. The change, if accomplished, will be due to the fact that it was Nodzu who saved the situation at the battle of Liaoyang. Oyama had ordered retreat, when Nodzu protested and urged that another effort be made. As a consequence the tide of battle turned, and the day was saved for the Japanese.

"Russians overwhelmed with a loss of 40,000!" This is the message which, flashed over the wires, tells its own brief story of the terrible tragedy which has been enacted in Manchuria during the past week, and which will mark the battle of Yentai as the bloodiest battle of modern times. Although desperate fighting still continues, the Russians are again steadily retiring to the northward, and the wounded are being hurried on with all possible speed to Harbin. From the fact that all the war correspondents have been ordered to the same place, it is gathered that no halt will be made at Tie Pass, as was anticipated, but that the remnant of the army will eventually fall back upon Harbin. Of the Russian left flank, from which so much was expected, not a word is heard, and it is feared that it cannot be in a position to communicate with the main body of the army. The Japanese regiments, owing to the fact that they fought chiefly in entrenched positions, have suffered comparatively small loss, yet have they not escaped some of the most terrible tragedies of the past week. Of these, one of the bloodiest occurred upon the night of October 13th, when the Zaraisk Regiment, stealing out in the darkness, bayoneted several battalions of the Japanese many of whom were killed as they slept. Upon the following morning the same regiment was almost annihilated by the terrible fire from the Japanese artillery. Contrary to what might, possibly, have been expected, there are no demonstrations of joy in Japan over the completeness of the victory. Even the Japanese seem sickened at the surfeit of blood which, as foretold in a recent number of the "Farmer's Advocate," is already beginning to show signs of revolting the world. In regard to the possible effect of the battle of Yentai upon the fortunes of the war, a member of the diplomatic corps, in interview with a press correspondent, recently said: "I believe the world will recoil from the sickening slaughter of this battle. Every interest of humanity demands the adjustment of the differences between the two nations and the proclamation of peace. The situation between the two belligerents is a delicate one, but what a splendid triumph for diplomacy it would be if peace could be arranged. It seems to me that the question of honor is no longer involved. If Russia feels that such a question is involved, surely the heroic and successful defence of Port Arthur and the valor shown by Russian soldiers on the fields of Manchuria should ever determine the quality of Russian courage. Russians should remember that the distance

dividing her strength and the limitations of her railway are historical factors in this war." It would seem, however, that so vast an Empire as Russia cannot be satisfied with such a vindication of her honor, and that nothing short of an apparent miracle can now curtail a war which has so far been but a seething maelstrom of catastrophe to all who have connected themselves with it.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

A magnificent new general post-office building is to be erected in Toronto.

The Thoroughbred stallion Hamburg was sold at auction in New York for \$7,000 to H. P. Whitney.

"He who establishes his argument by noise and command, shows that his reason is weak."—[Montaigne.]

Several Japanese residents of British Columbia, who are on the reserve list of the army of the Mikado, have lately taken passage to Japan.

Earl Grey resigned from the directorate of the British South Africa Company because of his appointment as Governor-General of Canada.

"Disease may lurk in that old well that has not been cleaned out for several years. Better attend to it."—[American Thresherman.] And Canadian wells are just as dirty as American ones!

A party of Japanese business men recently arrived at Vancouver, and left for Edmonton for the purpose of purchasing a large tract of land, which they purpose utilizing for a Japanese colonization scheme.

"Despondency is not a state of humanity. On the contrary, it is the vexation and despair of a cowardly pride; nothing is worse. Whether we stumble or whether we fall, we must only think of rising again and going on in our course."—[Fenelon.]

Mr. C. C. James, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture, President Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College, and Mr. G. A. Putnam, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, are attending the meeting of the American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers in St. Louis.

At the Railway Commission on October 12th, Mr. Blair warned the companies that accidents must be provided against, and intimated that the Board would soon suggest severe drastic remedies for present conditions. In regard to the Sarnia tunnel, he suggested that electric motors be substituted for steam engines to haul the trains through.

During a terrific windstorm, which passed through a portion of Biddulph Tp., Middlesex Co., the brick dwelling and two barns belonging to Mr. H. Hodgins were completely demolished. Thomas Abbott's barns were also levelled, together with six acres of bush. Wm. Toohey's sheds and Dennis Heenan's orchard were destroyed, and miles of fence was torn up.

A new light, which, it is claimed, will be the most powerful in Canada, is being installed on Leonard Island, off the west coast of Vancouver Island. The cost of the lantern alone, which was manufactured in England, was \$5,000. The light will be generated from vaporized coal-oil gas; it will have a candle power of about 14,000, which with the aid of the reflectors and revolving lenses will be increased to 750,000 candle power, which should, in fair weather, make it visible a distance of twenty-five miles.

"Have a regular house for your machinery, and use it. Then when you get through using your machinery put it in its place out of the weather, and it will last a half longer and look much better than if it stood out when not in use. It will also improve your temper and the looks of your farm."—[Clyde Amsler, in Practical Farmer.] Every thrifty farmer must say "Amen" to Mr. Amsler's comments on the care of machinery. If there is one thing which more than another marks the shiftless, extravagant farmer, it is to see his machinery standing out pathetically beneath the drizzling rains of autumn, or sticking up forlornly out of the cold snow. House your machinery carefully, and don't give everyone who passes along the road the opportunity of saying, "There is a careless farmer for you!"

"If there is one rule applicable to all successful farming, it is the old saying that, 'Whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well.' More intensive farming and a more exact knowledge and practice of the best methods in every branch are needed. This can be obtained by watching the agricultural papers and studying reports of the agricultural colleges and experiment stations, which are sent free to all who ask for them. Farmers want to take a little more pride in their business, and show it in their surroundings. They do not need to have their fields unsightly by reason of weeds and bushes growing where they do not belong, nor the walls and fences tumbling down, nor their dooryards littered with tools that should be housed, and carts that should be broken up with much other rubbish fit only for the wood pile. These are little things, and may not seem to have much influence on the profit of the farm, but these little things neglected give it an unthrifty look that not only detracts from the comfort and pleasure of a country life, but helps to drive the more ambitious children off the farm just when they are old enough to have taken some pride in it, and improving it. If the task had not looked so hopeless."—[Mass. Plowman]