

The best feed to use is scalded shorts mixed with buttermilk, or the milk and shorts mixed together will do nearly as well. On this kind of feed one can almost see ducks grow. They require plenty of grit. If there is sand in the pen, they will do all right; if there is not, some should be given them. I have given sand to young ducks in their feed. It is well to market ducks before the age of ten weeks. After this age they begin molting, will have to be kept six weeks longer, and will hardly gain enough in that time to pay for the food they consume.

The greatest difficulty in raising ducks is to sell them for the early market. I sold a number early one year, and got only nine cents a pound live-weight for them. But nine cents would not have been so bad if they had not shrunk so much in shipping. The weight I received for them was 30 per cent. less than the shipping weight; so, with the heavy shrinkage and high express charges, I did not make very much that time. If one could get, say, fifty cents each for nine-week-old ducks, money could be made raising them.

If ducks have to be kept till fall, which is generally the case, a good run on grass during summer saves the feed bill a good deal. The breeding stock may be wintered by partitioning off one end of the hen-house for a duck pen, and feeding on the ordinary grains, together with sand. In the spring, when laying starts, keep them in for a while each morning until the eggs are laid. An average duck lays about fifty eggs.

Man.

FARMER'S WIFE.

Thoughts on Duck Culture

EDITOR "FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In my callow youth, when I first was smitten with the poultry fever (from which I have never recovered), I raised a few ducklings one year with good success, hatching the eggs under hens. I determined to raise a large flock the next season, seeing riches in prospect. Accordingly, I had about 100 eggs shipped to me from Winnipeg for hatching in the incubator. The box of duck eggs, carefully packed and labelled "Eggs for Hatching" was overlooked when at the station, by the official in charge of express parcels; therefore, when the train was about 100 yards down the track, the box of eggs was hurled into a muddy ditch, where it laid until rescued later on. Of course, some eggs were broken and some addled, but the rest I put into my machine, and had a hatch of 40 ducklings. With enough moisture, duck eggs hatch well in an incubator. A home-made brooder, heated with hot water bottles, served as a home for the little yellow beauties of the Pekin breed.

How they did grow, to be sure, upon a diet of rolled oats, corn meal, grit and heaps of green stuff, and enough water given in shallow dish,—to *drink only*, not to swim in.

Care was taken to keep them out of the hot sun whilst small, and not a mite of trouble taken over them. When well feathered, the brilliant idea struck me that it would be well to utilize a grass-grown sand-bar in the river nearby with a quiet pool at one end. So this was fenced with mesh wire, with some labor and much barking of shins and fingers and the flock was installed therein. The ducks flourished exceedingly on all the green stuff, with the addition of crushed grain or shorts and some whole wheat. I began to count up the pin money they would bring in, and fairly gloated over their size and good looks.

My pride was short-lived, however, for, alas, a great storm arose and beat on the quiet retreat, and the raging water came up and up one night, and the happy band simply floated off down the broad bosom of the noble Assinaboine.

"Tell it not in Gath," but when the last glad quack of sweet liberty was heard from the swift stream, I sat me down and wept long and copiously. After the storm was over every means was taken to recover the missing "quack" family with no avail, though the river was searched for ten miles. After some weeks, a whisper came to us of some dusky natives a mile down the river regaling themselves on tasty duck suppers, so, doubtless, that was the fate of my yellow beauties. I now confine myself to chickens and turkeys, and leave duck-raising to the farmers on the plains.

A few things I learned, though: First, that duck eggs do not average as fertile as chicken or turkey eggs, especially early in the season. Second, they require little heat, but a dry and clean house in winter, and should be by themselves. Clean water to drink. Sand and crushed grain and vegetables are necessary. They will almost raise themselves, and should be marketed at ten to twelve weeks. And think of all the nice pillows one can have of the feathers, which are lovely, especially of the Pekin breed, which is quite the best all-round breed to raise profitably. In-breeding should be avoided, and one drake placed with three to five ducks.

Man.

H. E. VIALOUX.

Regina Poultry Show

The poultry show held at Regina, during the week of the Horse and Cattle show, was a success in every way, except that the housing accommodation for the exhibits was altogether inadequate for the purpose. The entries were large and in most classes the com-

petition was good. Dr. A. W. Bell, Winnipeg, did the judging. The attendance was large. Breeders report a fair amount of business done, inquiry for breeding stock of all classes being better this year than for some time. For best results, however, as regards the condition of the birds on exhibit, it would be better if the show were held a month or six weeks earlier. Breeders in this country not being into the poultry business entirely for making exhibits of their stock at fairs, do not care to keep birds in showing condition at this season.

Among the successful exhibitors were: R. M. West, Glenboro, Man., who had a large exhibit of Barred Rocks; R. W. Caswell, Saskatoon, in the same, and other utility classes; M. I. Colton, Regina, W. H. Gee, Regina; T. A. McInnis, Regina; W. Anderson, Brandon; Pearl Bros., H. C. Richards, Calgary; G. A. Gillespie, Saskatoon, and a long list of others. The prize list and list of special prizes is altogether too lengthy to be given in full, but the numerous premiums, cups, etc., offered as special awards, reflects credit upon the enterprise of the association in charge of the show. At the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Poultry Association held during the show, a lengthy discussion arose over the place and date for next year's exhibition. The retiring president, Mrs. Geo. Shaw Page, Moosomin, recommended it being held at Saskatoon. On a vote being taken it agreed to hold the exhibition in 1910, again at Regina.

Officers were elected as follows: Hon. Pres., Lieut.-Gov. Forget; Pres., Dr. Rothwell, Regina; 1st vice-pres., Hon. W. C. Sutherland, Saskatoon; 2nd vice-pres., E. J. Meilicke, Dundurn; sec., G. S. Gamble, Regina; directors: T. A. McInnis, Regina; J. Willis, Boharm; R. W. Caswell, Saskatoon; W. H. Gee, Regina; Mrs. G. S. Page, Moosomin; W. H. Bewell, Abernethy; G. W. Haigh, Moose Jaw; J. Buchanan, Moose Jaw; J. Jackson, Saskatoon; E. Elson, Moose Jaw and J. W. Anger, Regina.

FIELD NOTES

Events of the Week

CANADIAN

Three were killed in a head-on collision between the Estevan express and a freight at Brandon last Sunday. The killed were all trainmen.

A largely attended conference of those interested in the laymen's missionary movement, was held in Toronto last week. A trainload of delegates attended from the West.

Between thirty and forty elevators will be built along the G. T. P. within a few weeks. Settlers are pouring rapidly into the new districts, which the line is opening.

The Western baseball league schedule is practically completed. It starts May 14th with Brandon at Winnipeg, other games being at Moose Jaw and Calgary.

During the fiscal year just ended the immigration department has deported over 1,700 immigrants, who within two years of their arrival in Canada have been found to be undesirable citizens. For the previous year the total deportations totalled 825. Immigrants rejected at ports of entry and sent back on landing totalled over 4,600. Last year the number of rejections was 1,172.

The Dominion department of immigration estimates that 70,000 Americans will arrive in Western Canada during the coming season. Immigrants are arriving in the West from Ontario and Eastern Canada, Europe, and the United States, at a rate never equalled before. Special trains have been arriving in Winnipeg almost daily, for the past fortnight carrying settlers from Ontario or from across the sea. At Emerson and North Portal the points of entry from the United States, the rush has been so great, that the regular staff was unable to handle it, and extra officials were sent for.

The Red Deer Branch of the United Farmers' association of Alberta has taken active steps to have the government locate the proposed pork packing plant at Red Deer, the sum of \$50,000 having been set aside to establish such an industry providing the farmers will guarantee to supply annually 50,000 hogs, and lists have been issued for farmers to sign, agreeing to furnish a certain number of hogs yearly. It is claimed that there will be no difficulty in supplying what the government require to enable the plant to start under favorable conditions.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN

Indians in Oklahoma started out in war paint and feathers last week, and the militia had to be sent out to shoot off a few of them before the reds returned to their reservations.

British suffragettes, to the number of several thousand, participated in an assault in the House of

Commons one afternoon last week. Forming themselves into a flying wedge, the lady ballot seekers hurled themselves upon the police guards, and after a desperate struggle were repulsed with the loss of ten, captured by the officers.

Baby "farming" in England henceforth is to be subjected to strict supervision under the terms of an act recently passed. Penalties are provided for cruelty to children.

The European war cloud seems likely to pass away. Serbia has backed down in her demands, and Austria had modified hers to some extent, so that an understanding was possible without either country sacrificing its national dignity. The British government was largely instrumental in bringing about a peaceful settlement of the issues in dispute.

Another triumph for the British navy has just been recorded in the official Admiralty returns of the result of the test of gunlayers with heavy guns during last year; of battle practice from torpedo destroyers, and of gunlayers with light quick-firing guns. The figures show the unequalled shooting efficiency of the fleet, and in each case surpass all previous averages. Every year the all-round shooting of the navy has improved, but never has it reached so high a level as at present. In 1907 the percentage of hits was 42.70, and in 1908 it was 53.57.

Britain's naval scare, the fear that Germany was outstripping her in struggle for maritime supremacy, has continued for another week, to be the chief topic of newspaper discussion. Australia and New Zealand have pledged themselves to build Dreadnaughts for the mother land. No definite statement was made by the Dominion government as to what this country was prepared to do, but it was felt generally that if Britain's navy were in the condition attributed to it something substantial would likely be done by this government. British war lords are trying to figure the number of battleships Germany has building and ready to commission, during the next three years, and have got the public worked up to such a state of excitement, that it will stand for any increase the government desires to make in the appropriations for naval defence. Having accomplished that, it is expected that the naval panic will quickly pass away. Britain has these tremors about her navy about once every seven years.

Medicine Hat Stallion Show

Medicine Hat's first horse show was held last week on March 31st. It was a stallion show, and a number of well known horse owners, breeders and dealers had animals on exhibition. The Clydesdale classes were the largest, followed in order by the Percherons and Shires. Following is a list of the awards:

Clydesdales, four years and over—1, King Albert, George Irvine, Saskatoon; 2, Star Marquess, Alexander Middleton, Medicine Hat; 3, Craigie Mains Laddie, James C. Hargrave, Medicine Hat. Three-year-olds—1, St. Carse Blende, David Cargill, Seven Persons, Alta.; 2, King's Challenger, George Irvine; 3, Merry Thought, S. W. Davis, Seven Persons. Two-year-olds—1, Baron's Sceptre, Ezra Pearson, Medicine Hat; 2, Baron Balinhard, David Cargill; 3, Edward's Son, David Cargill. One-year-old—1, Argatz, David Cargill; 2, Bar Turret, David Cargill. Shires, four-year-olds—1, Entente Cordiale, Drown- ingford Ranch Co., Medicine Hat. Three-year-olds—1, Prahuu, Drowningford Ranch Co., Percheron, four-year-olds—1, Matthieu, Hamilton & Hawthorne, Simcoe, Ont.; 2, Chicane, Hamilton & Hawthorne; 3, Camarade, Jas. C. Hargrave, Medicine Hat. Three-year-olds—1, Lord Tonsdole, James Mitchell, Medicine Hat; 2, Colosse, William Fisher, Clinton, Ont. Standard-bred, four-year-olds—1, Lord Dunbar, W. N. Kelly, Medicine Hat; 2, Election Time, jr., H. C. Cooper; 3, Halsona, J. H. Harman.

\$200,000 a Year for Protection of Crossing

The bill dealing with the level-crossings problem, recently introduced into the House of Commons by the Minister of Railways and Canals, has met with favor. It provides (1) that a sum of \$200,000 be appropriated each year for five consecutive years, dating from April 1st, 1909, as a fund to be applied, under the authority of the Board of Railway Commissioners, to the protection of existing highway crossings of railways; (2) that the amount contributed from that fund shall not exceed 20 per cent. of the cost of the crossing protection, and that the balance be apportioned to the railway and corporation, according to decision of the Railway Commission; (3) that payments shall be limited to crossings of not more than four tracks; (4) that not more than three crossings in one municipality in one year shall receive contributions; (5) that crossings hereafter constructed shall be protected at the expense of the railway companies; (6) that the Board shall have power to order any municipality to contribute a portion of the cost of protection.

Our English Cattle

The cattle warranty question has been given action of the Meat Traders' association on all cattlemen and the Central Chamber of Agriculture, and the farmers to stand firm, resist any warranty.

The rise in wheat prices, vance in the price of flour. Consequently the consumer per quarter a loaf more for. This rise is very unfortunate when so much unemployment particularly hard on the. It is claimed that the supply of the United Kingdom, at present three weeks, and foreign and are coming in very slowly, since the beginning of the year quoted at 34s. 7d. per quarter.

Sir Oliver Lodge claims that cannot suffice for the whole that some additional facilities cultivation of the land; the now paid away to foreign timber, for dairy produce, a soil—a sum which in the magnitude—should be directed more nearly self-sustaining of land tenure and the soil. In short, easier active in Britain.

The dry air and continued in England at this time of water famine, especially in the counties.

In some parishes water is and in others, poor people must water. Farmers owning considerable trouble and expense different supply for their animals.

Large consignments of potatoes from Lincolnshire to New York, shortage in the United States tons per week are going from.

The prices paid average as the United States duty it will be considerably enhanced consumer.

Potatoes are so plentiful farmers are feeding them to more profit than by selling to consumer.

The Shire horse trade was prices prevailed, but, as in the exports were much smaller.

The Society issued 389 certificates in 1907. The United States, taking 227, Argentina Canada followed with 44.

In spite of the fall in export inflated demand, farmers a breeding of Shires so long as last few years are maintained.

For the spring sale and show at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, bulls and 296 cows and heifers recorded.

Business was good, and for cows and heifers was 100.

The first prize winner in months old, was sold to Mr. for export to South America of the sale. The second prize had been disposed of, and sale for twenty years at the

The ninth annual show Angus-Association followed Birmingham, and brought. At the sale, competition for Cup for best three bulls, 1907, and bred by the exhibitor A. Cooper.

The Thoroughbred show the great London spring show an increase of 33 over last year. The horses shown were of more than in recent years and this amongst the young horses.

The King's premiums, 2 the value of £150, offered on Horse Breeding, were enough bred stallions, again premiums were distributed strict classes in which the winners