

children of the east, spread themselves over so many counties, it is unfortunate that between some of them, the number of Canadian miles is not sufficient. We do not regard this, however, as being so serious, as shrunken dividends quicker than anything else brings men back to their true equilibrium.

(2). It is possible for every dairyman ultimately to possess the ever increasing standard of a dairy cow. The progress made in this direction is surprisingly slow, when compared with advances made in almost every other line of dairying. And yet, if we except the quality of the product, the standard of the dairy cow is the most important feature by far. So much so, that it may be said to underlie all profitable dairying.

Our dairymen deserve great credit for the perfection to which its working machinery has been brought, and yet the most important machine of all, the dairy cow, is still in a most woefully crude state, not yet wrought up to half her possible capacity. If even now the yield to her owner be a profit, what will not that profit be to dairymen who are not content with anything less than 5,000 pounds of milk per season from each cow, instead of 2,692 pounds, the average at present—less than it was in 1882.

Nearly 40,000 stanchions had to be made in Ontario dairies last season to accommodate the increased number of cows, which swells the grand total to 750,000 head, and yet the deplorably low standard of only 2,692 pounds per cow for the season, has been reached—a state of affairs very surprising indeed when we consider the extent of the interests at stake.

The battle of the dairy breeds still rages fiercer, and rage it will in coming time. As to which is the best dairy cow, will form a fruitful subject of controversy in the future, as in the past. But, while the champions of the different breeds are wasting their ammunition in cross-firing to but little purpose it may be, the dairyman alive to his own interests will be handling the breed he has in hand to the best possible advantage. We cannot map out the whole ground which he will go over in this paper, but will indicate some of the leading paths.

He will be scrupulously careful as to the bull which he uses—that is, where the offspring is to be raised, none other will suffice than one from a dam, a large milker, whether with or without breeding. He will adhere to a line of breeding definite in its aim. Instead of trying to get a Guernsey-Jersey-Ayrshire-Holstein-Short-horn cow, he will rather aim at getting a grade of one of these, higher and higher in gradation every time, but in one line. Even if his cow is a scrub, he will aim at getting a consistent one, fine enough to go into a scrub register. Experimenting in producing cross-bred dairy cows is a luxury too expensive, and too hazardous for the ordinary dairyman to engage in. The calf that he gets, while he will take every care of it, he will not force it on too fast, lest an undue tendency to fleshiness be developed, which may militate against the future milk product, or in other words, he will remember that the treatment best suited to the production of a model dairy animal is quite different from that which will produce a model beef. He will keep breeding and selecting from the best, or purchase from some one thus engaged, and as the years roll on he will have an ever-improving herd of dairy cows.

These are possibilities within the reach of all, but time is required for their realisation.

The thought often forces itself on our minds, and we cannot put it away, that when the echoes of the battle-cry of the breed shall wax fainter and fainter, and when their respective advocates shall have shaken hands each, over the undoubted merits of the other, that the truth, which in substance we have enumerated, shall rise emblazoned on the banner, emerging from the smoke, which shall proclaim an eternal truce, or in other words, it will be found that a greater difference consists in the way the different dairy breeds are handled, than in the dairy merits of the breeds themselves.

(Concluded next month.)

Poultry.

Remembering the Poultry.

Mr. Wm. Robinson, of Stayner, has prepared a pond for the use of his aquatics that love the water. A boat is kept on the pond, which is useful when the feathered sailors are disposed to be contrary and will not come away as required. We need not add that

the ducks and geese of this farm are a success. It will pay to take care of geese and ducks by providing them with natural conditions, on the principle that it will pay to keep Clyde horses in circumstances favorable to their development. It was very amusing to see them sport on their native element, after having enjoyed a meal. Their very joyousness could not but be favorable to development.

Poultry Association of Ontario.

The annual show of this Association was held in the City Hall, London, Ont., on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th of January, and was in every respect a success. There were over 1000 birds on exhibition and the quality was unusually good in almost all classes. Brown Leghorns brought out the best show ever made in Canada and perhaps on the continent. Wyandottes were large in numbers and fine in quality, the pullet that won 1st scoring 94 points; she was owned by a Dundas gentleman, whose name we did not learn. The 1st prize cockerel scored the same and was owned by J. W. Bartlett, Lambeth. The 1st prize cock and hen were not so good. There were 11 cockerels on exhibition and about as many pullets, and were decidedly the best exhibit ever seen in Canada of these birds. We are pleased to see these birds becoming so popular, as they are of great value as a general purpose fowl and also very handsome. No class or section in the show could be called a failure, but those referred to were exceptionally fine.

Mr. Sharp Butterfield, of Sandwich, and Mr. L. G. Jarvis, of Port Stanley, officiated as judges. These gentlemen have acted as judges for some years at this show. Last season Mr. Butterfield was presented with an ebony gold-headed cane, and this year Mr. Jarvis was the recipient of a fine gold watch and chain, in token of the esteem in which they are held by the exhibitors and fanciers who patronize the show.

At the annual meeting of the Association it was decided to hold the next show in London. Mr. Allan Bogue, president, was re-elected, also secretary Garner and treasurer Moore.

Poultry Farming.

BY W. B. COCKBURN, ABERFOYLE, ONT.

(First Paper.)

Let us, then, call the question settled, at least for the present, that poultry farming, if carried on in the most successful way, leads to unlimited success.

First, then, we say keep only one breed, unless you can keep them on different farms. On this point my mind is more firmly settled than on any other connected with poultry keeping. It requires considerable room to successfully and profitably keep more than one kind of each variety of pure bred stock—to keep them separate, as they must be kept. My poultry have the exclusive run of thirty acres, adjoining which is an abandoned farm of several hundred acres, [but few keepers of poultry can enjoy this privilege—Ed.] and yet I consider myself too cramped for a second breed.

Unlimited range is not essential to the greatest production of eggs, but is absolutely necessary for breeding fowls if you are to attain the highest success in numerous and vigorous chickens, and usually where several breeds are kept this necessary range is either diminished or the flocks are so scattered as to render it too laborious and expensive to give them the best care. Our oldest and most successful breeders base their success on this one truth, and breed their several varieties, or rather have them bred on different farms.

Where three hundred or four hundred fowls are to be kept on a few acres, and the revenue is to come from market eggs and poultry only, and where thoroughbred stock is desired, it is very unwise to keep more than one breed. The expense of building and maintaining several fences is much. The probability of the varieties becoming mixed even then is to be thought of. Where two or more choice breeds have mingled but for an hour, I would not give much for their purity afterwards.

The chief difficulty I find in answering the second point, *which breed is the best*, is this. If I name one, I indirectly say that a dozen or twenty other kinds carefully bred all over the country are not so good, which seems discourteous to my brother breeders. I can only say that after several years of careful experimenting, and noting results, I have selected the Plymouth Rocks as the best adapted to my requirements. But you must select the bird, however, which suits you best. You must raise your own pullets or buy somebody's leavings, which would be a fatal mistake. Whatever breed you select make sure it is of a good laying strain of that breed; a strain which has been carefully bred for years with this particular quality in view. As this idea is the corner stone of success I desire to impress its importance on the minds of those who may read this paper. We purchase a heifer whose mother was a large milker and came from a family of deep milkers, because we suppose she will inherit those qualities, and usually we are not disappointed. We pay a large fee for the service of a stallion because we expect the colt will inherit the valuable qualities of its sire; but no less certain is it that a carefully bred strain of prolific laying fowls will transmit this quality to their offspring.

The successful breeder who makes market eggs his specialty, breeds year after year from his earliest and best laying fowls, and by persisting in this course, establishes a strain of layers far superior to the general average of ordinary flocks of the same breed. For laying purposes as well as for those of early maturity, I would much prefer a flock less perfectly penciled, but bred with an eye to laying qualities, to one with a much higher score but of whose pedigree I knew nothing.

I do not wish to undervalue the "points of excellence" in fowls. I am constantly striving to perfect my poultry in this respect also, but at the same time I try carefully to combine every useful quality, that the breeds may be of some other value than simply to look at.

The Apiary.

Seventh Annual Meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.

HELD IN THE CITY HALL, TORONTO, JAN. 5.

There were about 60 members present before the close of the convention. This meeting was the first held since the incorporation of the association, and the return of the delegates from the Colonial Exhibition.

The president, Mr. S. T. Pettit, of Belmont, was in the chair. In his address he stated that the events of the year 1886 truly mark an epoch in the progress of our association. It has merged from its chrysalis state to enjoy its higher and better, its full-fledged legal existence. "Through the generous assistance given by the members of this association, your commissioners succeeded in putting on exhibition at the Colonial, the largest, and perhaps the finest display of honey ever made in the world."

"The English people of all classes received your com-