

in the hands of most people they are to be preferred. The following is highly recommended and may be prepared by anyone: Tobacco leaves, 50 pounds; sulphur, 10 pounds; water, 100 gallons. The tobacco is steeped for an hour and a-half, the leaves are strained off and the sulphur added, and again boiled for an hour. Keep well stirred and use while warm.—A. W. Bitting, D.V.S., Indiana Experiment Station

NOTES FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

(By our regular correspondent.)

This island has been blessed with one of the most delightful springs we ever had. Beautiful sun-shiny days interspersed with warm rains have encouraged the farmer's labors, and now he sees his crops thriving in the most delightful manner. All the grain crops give every appearance of a bountiful harvest and the hay crop, if the showers continue which we have been having of late, will be the best ever known on the island. Never were such fields of clover seen as there are at present. The potato crop, which has been so greatly hindered by the bug heretofore, will, no doubt, be only a fair crop, as the bug has already made his appearance. The cheese industry, which has reached such an advanced degree of excellence on this island, promises the largest output on record, as, in addition to the thirty factories already in operation, there have been several new ones started this spring. The farmers have taken a great hold of this industry, and never did the cow receive such attention as at present. The pork industry is also receiving a great deal of attention, and the farmers are going entirely into bacon hogs. There will soon be another factory running which will likely cause a good deal of competition on the part of the buyers. Heavy and light horses are realizing a good price this summer, and a good many farmers are going back to the raising of horses. The prices of farm products have not been as high for years as this spring, and the farmers are looking ahead for good prices for their produce in the fall.

The fruit crop is going to be unusually large, as no frost has appeared to kill the blossoms, but now, as the flowers have fallen, there is not likely to be much damage. The only scarcity will be of plums, but this will be more than made up by the large yield of other fruits.

POULTRY RAISING BY THE FARMER.

By HOWARD FARRANT, Mitchell.

(Read before the Ontario Poultry Association).

It has often been a matter of wonder to me why farmers as a class do not take more interest in the raising of high class poultry, especially hens. If there is one class of people (in this country, at least) in a better position than another for keeping poultry it is the farming class. When I say keeping poultry, I do not mean keeping a couple of hundred old mongrels without any breed distinction, and with no two hens in the flock alike, and which are allowed to live how they like and where they like as long as the owner obtains from them sufficient eggs for marketing purposes, but taking in

hand one breed of hens, and keeping a flock that might compete with the best. It seems to me just as easy to keep one kind as half a dozen, and the results at the same time are much more satisfactory.

In the first place, a suitable hen-house will be required. This need not be very large or of extraordinary cost; a plain structure boarded snugly, of course, with a water-tight roof, will suffice. A farmer can build a suitable house close to his stables, or at least sheltered by his other buildings, so as to afford sufficient warmth in winter from his other animals and prevent frost from injuring his male birds. Of course a farmer can keep his hens in his barn or stables, and perhaps the majority of them do, but this is certainly not a very satisfactory or clean method, for it not only makes the hens wild, but the farmer also loses quite a number of the eggs laid, by the hens finding nests in out-of-the-way corners. So, too, in winter the farmer's barnyard and straw stacks give him an immense advantage over the ordinary breeder. Even on very rough days the hens can roam about the straw stack perfectly sheltered from the blasts of the wind, and get far more good from getting an outing every day for a short time than by being shut up in the hen-house from one winter's end to the other.

Another very important point with regard to the keeping of hens is their feeding. Hens, especially in winter, should be made to work as much as possible, for this helps them immensely to keep warm on the cold days when otherwise they would be standing around doing nothing. Leaves, which every farmer can secure from his orchard, form excellent material for the floor of a hen-house. If in the fall he will collect as many of these as possible and put them on the floor, and allow the hens to work in them for a few days, he will be surprised at the way the leaves have changed to a fine dust. If plenty of leaves have been put in a heavy covering of dust will have been procured. Grain thrown on this cannot be picked up in five or ten minutes, but a large part of it works down into the dust, and the hens for a considerable time are kept busy scratching for their feed. Hens, as well as human beings, should have regular meals, not enough thrown down once in one day to last till the next, and perhaps more than is required for the fowls; but a definite amount at definite times will keep the hens in uniform condition, and will teach them to look for their meals at set times.

Along with the feeding of hens also comes the question of watering. A great many farmers do not bother at all about water in winter, or in summer either for that matter. Oftentimes we may see hens picking up snow around the yard on account of water not being supplied them. This sort of thing can be avoided with very little trouble, and the comfort of the birds vastly improved. Sometimes, if the hen-house be cold and the water liable to freeze, the following water-holder may be suitable: Take an old varnish can of about one gallon capacity. About an inch from the bottom, and on one of the broad faces, cut a hole an inch or so in diameter, and

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