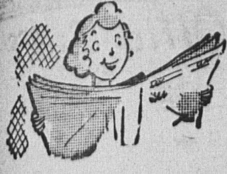

A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

HE LEARNT HOW

"No man is wise at all times," wrote an ancient sage, and sometimes we are made aware of it under circumstances more or less painful. Everywhere in nature there is compensation, however, and our repayment comes in the complacency with which we regard the shortcomings of others and espeially of those whom the world, for any reason, has set on a pedestal. Those who tinker with the secret springs of the mind say that this complacency is the product of a feeling of superiority; and that when we laugh at the a tronomical genius, Sir Isaac Newton, for cutting two holes in the door, one for the cat and the other for the kitten, we are in fact proclaiming ourselves the better man. Ralph Waldo Emerson, who is by all accounts the greatest and wisest philosopher that America has yet produced, has set down in his Journal a story which seems to bear out this theory. It gives the happenings on the sage's fifty-ninth birthday.

Emerson and his son Edward worked all the morning in the barnyard of his farm; probably Edward worked and Emerson just "pottered," for the latter had neither physical strength nor commanding presence —as he sometimes lamented. Before going in to dinner he decided to put the calf into its stall. The calf, which was a big heifer, had its own ideas, and when Edward grasped its ear, and the philosopher shoved diligently behind. the heifer just splayed its feet rolled the whites of its eyes, snorted, and remained immovable. The more they strove, the more the heifer resisted; and the philosopher first grew heated then tired. He paused to recover his breath and to discover that in the vast range of his classical reading no writer had given any advice about an easy way of getting a calf into a barn.

Now Emerson in spite of the physical defects just mentioned (or perhaps because of them) was a very persistent man. So he once more gave the signal to Edward and together they fell upon the animal. The heifer just planted her splayed feet and stayed put. The sage became angry, his usually pale face reddened, and his high forehead was be-dewed with perspiration. Was he about to make a violent attack on the recalcitrant calf —an attack which might even have nullified his title of philosopher? We shall never know; for at that critical moment the Irish servant girl crossed the barnyard. With an amused look, she pushed a finger into the calf's mouth, and the animal, deceived by this maternal imitation, followed her quietly into the barn Edward looked at his father and grinned; but Emerson was already absorbed in thought, his eyes fixed on the ground. He returned to the house, washed his hands of their bovine smell, and entered the incident into his Journal: finishing off with the remark **"I like people who can do things!"**

IS THE FARMER A "DEFEATIST?"

Under that heading an editorial in a farm magazine takes the farmers to task for holding forth on "their woes," and considers that owing partly to a favourable season they over shot requirements in commodities and in consequence produced their own difficulties "and in some cases, hardships."

It is something new for the farmer to be called a defeatist. At one time not so long age he was pictured as a profiteer who sold his produce at exorbitant rates to the town-dwellers and workers in industry. That picture wore very thin after the revelations of the famous "Price Spreads Commission," so now the farmer is branded a defeatist if he dares to complain of the deal he is getting. That looks like propaganda of some kind, to keep the farmer where he is.

Liberty, we are repeatedly told, is the first essential of a Democracy; but we don't hear so much of another equally important ingredient, viz. Justice. Is the farmer to say nothing when a prosperous nation compels him to sell his products at a loss? There is no justice in it when he and his family are asked to take 28 cents for potatoes that brought 50 cts last year—when money was scarcer. Industry is under no such handicap: for all manufactured and processed goods which the farmer buys, have advanced in price since war was declared. Some firms gave me notice that January would see an advance of 20 to 25 per cent in the price of their (iron) goods.

No, the farmers, as I see it, are not "defeatists," but are not getting a square deal.

Nature Notes

The barometer has been taking some violent exercise this January. From Satdy. 4th to midday Sunday 5th, it fell 1.7 inches, a fall one must go back some years to duplicate. It coincided with a conjunction of the Moon with Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus in the Constellatoin Ories —a conjunction clearly, visible on the 6th. There was another fall, commencing on the 12th, and culminating at about 10 a. m. on the 13th, but this time it was only 1.3 inches. It was accompanied by heavy drift from the N. W., which blocked the roads so that we got no mail till the 16th. Since then the wind has been S. E. or E., with considerable snow. Measurement of snow on the level fields here gives a depth of two feet; and the snow is still falling tonight as I write.

Ever deeper, deeper, deeper,
Fell the snow o'er all the landscape,
Fell the covering snow, and drifted
Through the forest, round the village.

(Longfellow).

The birds are beginning to feel the pinch, and are coming round the housestead. The bluejays are boldest and come to a "table" not far from the window where they feed on scraps, boiled potatoes (frozen hard!) and tallow. The Chickadees have also turned in, and perform acrobatics on a nearby tree. Crows and sparrows are becoming tamer, a sure sign of a dreadful necessity, since these are two most suspicious birds. I see no Hungarians about.

Market Report Weekly Live Stock

OTTAWA, Canada—January 16, 1941.

SUMMARY:

The strong support given the cattle market by buying on export account, coupled with moderate and orderly arrivals, was again credited with the advance which took place in cattle prices during the past week, notably in Western Canada. Selling rates were firm in the East and from 25c to 50c higher in the West. Calves were strong sellers especially at Toronto where an advance of 50c was marked up and at Calgary where a gain of $1 was made. Hogs were 15c to 25c higher at Toronto, under the influence of an advancing United States market, a little lower at Montreal and elsewhere unchanged. Lambs continued to sell at firm rates.

Eastern Cattle Steady to Firm

Killing cattle cleared at steady to firm prices at Toronto with weighty steers up to $9.50 and a couple at $10 and butcher steers and heifers closing between $7 and $8.50 with a few choice light steers bringing $9. Butcher cows were inclined to be a little easier closing at $4.50 to $6. There was a good demand at Montreal where the top of the steer division was $9.25 and most of the fairly good kinds sold at $8.35 and above. Cows rated from $5.75 to $6.25 and top quality $6.50. The Maritime market was steady to strong under very light receipts and good to choice steers moved at $7.75 to $8.25.

Western Cattle Prices Higher

The export outlet and light supplies served to boost cattle prices in the West. Buyers, however, were paying the higher prices under protest and it is felt that any appreciable increase in cattle receipts is likely to result in buyers bearing down on prices. Winnipeg had good weighty steers at a top of $9 and suitable shipping steers were taken at $8 to $8.75, with killers competing for these with shippers. Fleshy feeders were also in demand at $7.50 and above. Calgary also marked up an advance of 25c to 50c and good choice butcher steers changed hands at $7.75 to $8.75. Edmonton was fully 25c higher selling good to choice steers at $7.50 to $8 and some at $8.25. A few top steers made $7.50 at Prince Albert, while choice handyweights at Moose Jaw were reported at $7 50 and above. The best end of the steers at Regina sold up to $7.50 and Saskatoon had some good steer material at $7.75. Vancouver was up 25c with good butcher steers at $7 75 to $8.50

The United States Market

The bulk of the Canadian steers sold at Buffalo this week ranged between $10.50 and $12, with one load averaging 1149 lb. Topping at $12.50 and an odd sale down to $10. These prices would net from around $8.15 up to $10.60 at Ontario country points. Canadian steers of medium to good quality were quoted at St. Paul at $9 to $10.75, medium to good heifers from $8.50 to $9.75 and common to good cows and bulls from $6.50 to $8.

Exports to the United States during the week were sharply increased, beef cattle shipments amounting to 3.550 head, dairy 237 and calves 1,052. Totals to date this year are 5,353 beef cattle, 598 dairy and 1,696 calves, compared with 4,376 beef, 546 dairy and 1,708 calves in the same period last year.

Calf Prices Firm to Higher

For the second week in succession the Toronto calf market scored an advance of 50c placing choice veals at $12 to $13. Montreal held unchanged with good veals between $11.50 and $12 and extreme tops at $12.50. Winnipeg was also firm at $10 to $11 for best veals while Calgary advanced $1 to sell good to choice veals at $8 50 to $9.50 and make top sales at $10. Top calves at Edmonton were $8.50 to $9.50, Prince Albert $8.50 to $8.75, Moose Jaw, $9, Regina $10, Saskatoon $10 50 and Vancouver $8 to $8.50.

Hogs Steady to Stronger

The sharp increases which have taken place in United States hog prices served to strengthen the Toronto market and grade B-1 hogs closed at 11 to $11.10 dressed. Montreal, on the other hand, was a little lower with the basic price ranging from $11.15 to $11.25 Winnipeg held a level of $10 10 to $10.45 and Calgary was up 10c closing at $9.85. Edmonton paid $9 90, as a rule, with a few shipments going to the west coast at $10 to $10.10. Prince Albert was on a basis of $9.60 to $9.95, Moose Jaw $9.75, Regina $9.75 to $9.90, Saskatoon, Saskatoon $9.75 and Vancouver $10 25 to $10.75 for grade B-1 dressed.

Lamb Prices Mostly Unchanged

Most lamb markets held unchanged from last week and Toronto paid $11 50 for western lambs as well as for a few good locals. Montreal sold mixed lots at $8 50 to $9 and Winnipeg paid $9.50 for good lambs Calgary, however, was up 25c to 50c finishing at $9.25 to $9 50. Top prices at Edmonton were $9.25, Prince Albert $8, Saskatoon $8.50 and Regina $8.25, while in the Maritimes choice lambs sold at $9 alive or $19 dressed.

A Practical Miss

"You look sweet enough to eat,"
"I do eat. Where'll we go"

DOMINION GIANT ASTERS
NEW WILT-RESISTANT TYPE
45¢ VALUE - 15¢
GET ACQUAINTED OFFER
Finest of all Asters. One pkt. each Crimson, Shell-pink, Azure-blue, regular price 45¢, for only 15¢, (or 6 separate colors 25¢) Postpaid. Don't miss this remarkable offer.
FREE—Our big 1941 Seed and Nursery Book. Better than ever. Send today.
DOMINION SEED HOUSE, Georgetown, Ont.

CONSERVATION

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS OF THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS, MARSHFIELD.

FURS IN CHURCH

There are many strange and perplexing things that have been so often and so repeatedly seen that familiarity with them has deprived us of all sense of their strangeness. Of such nature is the sight of persons praying in Church clad in the fur of wild animals. No doubt the majority of these offenders are so blinded by custom, and so satisfied with conventional ideas of what constitutes morality that they are quite unconscious that there is anything incongruous in the act of praying to Him from whom they hope to obtain mercy or favour bedecked in the skins of animals to which no mercy or favour has been shown.

Doubtless many church-goers are ignorant of the horrible cruelties incidental to the pursuance of the fur-trade, and are so deficient in imagination that they can enjoy the soft feel and the beautiful colour-shades of fur without giving a thought to the way in which it is obtained. But though, in the judgment of men, ignorance and want of thought may seem good excuse, yet, at a higher tribunal, judging from the sentence pronounced on those who asked "Lord, when saw we thee anhungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison and did not minister unto thee?" and were answered: "Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these ye did it not unto me," such excuse is not accepted as valid. But it may be objected that this is only a parable; quite so, but every parable illustrates some truth, and in this case the truth illustrated is that disobedience to the Law of Compassion even through ignorance of its allembracing application will be followed by punishment from which there is no escape. Or in other words, we shall reap as we sow. so that to participate in cruelty is to ensure for ourselves a crop of pain: "With what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again." But though as erring humans, we may feel that the ignorant sinner should be held blameless (though, as Nature shows no such leniency with regard to physical laws, I don't know why we should expect it with regard to moral laws), What can be said for those people who refuse to look at any article or pamphlet, or attend any lecture that they think might contain allusions to the cruelties practised upon animals lest their sensibilities should be shocked or their peace of mind disturbed, and who seem to think that the feelings of people who speak of such things must be of coarser fibre than their own, yet, nevertheless, in spite of the softness of their hearts, continue to pander to self-indulgence and vanity by using products of the very horrors they so dread to hear mentioned?

But perhaps we should not be hard on people who, never much given to looking beneath the surface of things or to exercising imagination, thoughtlessly follow a custom to which they have been habituated since earliest childhood, and towards which those to whom they look for guidance show only approval or complacent acquiescence. No such plea, however, can excuse the occupants of pulpits whose business it is to discover the wishes of their God and His Son and to transmit them to those whom they have been called to instruct, for if they, too, are ignorant of the truth about the fur-trade their ignorance, in view of the wide publicity that has been given to the exposure of undeniable facts, is culpable to the last degree. Humanitarian periodicals have repeatedly referred to the cruelties of fur hunting that ought to be stopped by law —the long drawn-out agony of animals held often for days together in the steel jaws of spring traps, and the ruthless barbarity of many trappers.

Moreover, these cruelties are often denounced in letters and articles printed by papers and journals not especially "humanitarian." I read, for instance, in the "New Statesman and Nation" under the heading "A London Dairy" by "Critic" 11/Feb. /33, "I agree . . . . that if women who wear certain kinds of fur realized how the animals were trapped, one of the most horrible trades would disappear.' And "Finally may I explain that in protesting against the suggestion that men who torture animals should themselves be tortured, I was protesting against torture of all kinds, not arguing that cruelty to animals should go unpunished?" And in the "Daily Colonist" (Victoria, B. C.) of 3/March/33, under the heading "Tragedy Again Hits Aklavik" an account is given of the death of a trapper who was accidentally shot when he went out "to inspect his traps, taking with him an eight-year-old girl. (When a nice educational outing for a little girl!) . . . Coming across a lynx caught in one of his traps, he picked his rifle off his toboggan, intending to shoot the animal. Apparently, on second thought, he though a small axe would do the work effectively, and placing his rifle against a tree, he returned to secure it. As he approached the lynx, axe in hand, the huskies made a concerted rush for the lynx. The toboggan hit the rifle, which went off as it fell. The bullet penetrated the head of the lead dog and continued through to Larocque.' His spinal cord had been cut and he died soon after reaching a hospital.

If this story had revealed the every-day cruelties of traplines for the first time in the public press one might have hoped that it would raise a storm of protest from every Christian pulpit in the and against such merciless ways of obtaining skins for the trade, coupled with solemn warning against wearing or buying them, but judging from experience one knew, only too well, that the complacency of those people who like to display their expensive furs in church was not in the least danger of disturbance.

Strange and incongruous it is that those who preach of the mercy of the Father of All and the compassion of His Son should be more shocked at the sight of a woman in church with her head uncovered than at that of a suppliant craving divine mercy while flaunting upon her head a token and witness of man's denial of mercy to the creatures whose God-given instincts he cunningly uses for their betrayal and capture. Thus once more the gnat is strained at and the camel swallowed. Yet what great insult than such effrontery could be offered to the God whom a clergyman serves to his church, or to his holy office, by men and women who are taught that their lives should be guided by the precepts and example of One who proclaimed that Love. Mercy and Compassion are the greatest of all the virtues —without which the practices of religion become nothing better than idolatry.

And if it be contended that this teaching refers to dealings with each other among members of the human family, and does not necessarily apply to the treatment of animals over whom man has been given dominion, I would reply that impersonal Love, Mercy and Compassion are of a universal quality and cannot be confined within any limits. They cannot be developed in some directions and at the same time, restrained in others without their degenerating into mere sentimental counterfeits.

In conclusion, I wish to profess my agreement with that ever growing number of students who believe that all the great Reformers and would-be Saviours of mankind from ignorance and superstition, after whom the various sectarian religions have been respectively named, have taught the same universal immutable Religion, and that all the differences that cause enmity between religions exist only in manmade dogmatic and ritualistic accretions that have been superimposed upon the original doctrine of these Teachers. But however that may be, it can be easily shown that They have one and all insisted upon the following Truths: That permanent happiness can be obtained by man only through spiritual growth; that there can be no spiritual growth until unselfish love, mercy and compassion become active factors in the formation of character through the thoughts and actions of daily life; and that every act discordant to these qualities becomes the cause of suffering to the doer of the act in exact proportion to his responsibility —for they are manifestations of the changeless Law of Life, and that Law is as operative, sure and strictly impartial in the moral world as it is in the physical world, so that those who refuse mercy to even "one of the least of these" stand self-condemned.

Hunter River Live Stock Notes

The Hunter River Live Stock Shipping club has continued to recognize the importance of maintaining quality in hog production throughout its various communities and particularly at this time, when it is imperative that farmers endeavour in so far as possible, to see to it that, the quality of our bacon exports is not lessoned by the shipment of underweight improperly finished or poor type hogs.

This Shipping Club has recently purchased three leading Yorkshire boars, as among the best availiable in the province. These boars have been located in the Wheatley River South Rustico and New Glasgow districts. When considered desirable by the club as re-arrangement is made of these boars with a view to the avoiding of in-breeding in swine productions. In addition an outstanding boar owned by the Hunter River Shipping Club has been located in the North Rustico district.

By following a carefully planned and systematic swine breeding programmme as outlined above, the Hunter River Shipping Club is instrumental in assisting farmers to maintain and improve an industry which has always been of such financial importance and secu ity to the districts concerned.

Need Another Million Bushels of Flaxseed

With a large surplus of wheat in storage in the Dominion Canadian farmers realize that other crops must replace a part of their wheat acreage. Flax is one of these other crops. Recognizing that an expansion of the flaxseed acreage in Western Canada, emphisizing the Dominion Department of Agriculture made approximate arrangements shortly after the out-break of war. The National Barley Committee was enlarged under the new National Barley and Linseed Committee to carry on a program to revive interest in flaxseed and to assist the farmers with their flax growing problems. A War Time Series pamphlet entitled "Flaxseed" was issued by the Agricultural Supplies Board together with 2,000 posters distributed throughout Western Canada, emphasizing the importance of flaxseed to Canada's war effort the keynote of the campaign being that Canada needed another million bushells of flaxseed to supply her home consumption.

For the past number of years, Canada has been forced to import annually nearly a million bushels of flaxseed, mainly from the Argentine. Canadian flax is as good as any from the Argentine, and further it is of importance that Western Canada should be in a position to supply all of Canada's domestic flax needs, in order to conserve foreign exchange for the purchases Canada has to make abroad.

In answer to the Government's call, the farmers of Western Canada responded by increasing their acreage seeded to flax in 1940 to 372,700 as compared with 297,500 acreas in 1939. The consequent yield of 1-7 bushels per acre brought production up to 3,240,000 bushels in 1940 as against 2,075,000 bushels in 1939. There are definite limits to the amount of flax that can be produced in Canada without creating a surplus, but it is conservatively estimated that a crop of 4 500,000 bushels of flax would find a ready market. The Agriculture Supplies Board bulletin on Flaxseed deals with the advantages of flaxseed production and gives full directions about seed and seeding, the weed problem, harvesting methods, the handling of flaxseed, and other important information, and can be obtained free from Publicity and Extension Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture Ottawa.

Storage of Ice For Farm Use

There are several methods of storing ice on the farm. There is the ordinary ice house, the still more elaborate insulated ice house, and the "ice-well" which is used in many parts of the West for making ice during the cold weather and then utilizing the space over the ice for cooling purposes during the summer months. Full details of construction along with illustrated specifications of the three methods are given in the farmers' bulletin "Simple Methods for the Storage of Ice" which may be obtained free from Publicity and Extension Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

The storage of a few blocks of ice for summer use is a very simple matter where ice is available. Any unoccupied corner of a shed will serve the purpose. A rough board enclosure, ten feet square by eight feet high, will hold enough ice to provide 50 pounds per day for 130 days, after allowing for a reasonable amount of wastage. The smaller the quantity stored, the larger the proportion of waste. The bottom of the enclosure should be covered with about one foot of sawdust. If the soil underneath is impervious clay, it will be all the better if there are several inches of gravel under the sawdust.

If it is necessary to erect a special ice house, the roughtest kind of a shed that will keep out the weather is all that is necessary. Poles may be driven into the ground and lined on the inside with rough lumber or slabs, leaving a space of about three-eighths of an inch between each board, and the whole covered with a roof to keep out the rain.

Plan No. 1 in the bulletin shows the construction of a building with 2 x 4 inch studding, lined with rough lumber inside, and a space of three-eighths of an inch left between each board.

Plan No. 2 gives full specifications for the insulated ice house, and Plan No. 3 for the ice well.

WATCH EGG SIZE

Some hens lay a lot of eggs and also large eggs; but there is a tendency for hens that lay a lot of eggs to economize in the size. Unless you are careful as to the size of the eggs you set, the chances are that in a few years you develop a strain that makes good records but lays a small egg. It is good practice to have your hatching eggs average between 26 and 28 ounces to the dozen. The breeder who xpects to sell his chicks for breeding purposes cannot afford to use poorly shaped or off-color eggs, even from high producers. If he does, he is sure to have trouble getting repeat orders as the commercial poultryman who buys his stock has to sell his eggs on the regular market and so must have eggs of good shape and shell texture to get good prices.

Hens Pay For Their Drinking Water

The water supply is so important the whole year round that hens cannot lay for long without it. The supply must be continual, for every time the water pans or fountains are dry, if only for a short time, one may rest assured that egg production will be cut down practically in proportion to the length of time the vessels are dry.

The water must be pure and fresh at all times, cool in summer, and if slightly warm in winter so much the better for egg production as the hens will drink more than if the water is cold.

When we consider that 65 to 67 per cent of an egg is water, we can easily realize that the hen must have a constant supply if she is to manufacture eggs in quantities. In addition to this the hen runs a very high body temperature ranging from 103 to 107 degrees F. when in good health.

In winter arrangements can be made to slightly warm the drinking water for the layers. There are some good devices for this purpose on the markets.

The water can also be warmed by occasionally adding to the water in the fountains from the tea kettle.

Keep the water supply constant and other things being equally well looked to you will collect the dividends.

SWINE FLU

The flu season has arrived for hogs as well as humans. The most effective treatment for swine flu. or swine influenza, is as simple as providing dry. clean pens for the pigs and feeding them sparingly, according to animal pathologists.

Symptoms are similar to the type of flu common to man. The patient suffers from extreme exhaustion. lack of appetite, and high fever. Breathing becomes difficult and there is often frequent coughing. In uncomplicated cases recovery after four to six days is usually prompt. Not more than one to four pigs in 10 having the disease usually die. However, in sever cases, 10 out of 100 ill pigs may die from the malady, the pathologists say. As in human beings, one attack of flu doesn't make the pig immune to the disease.

Swine growers are advised to quarantine all newly purchased animals or those exhibited at shows for at least three weeks before adding to the breeding herd.

Attention Farmers Near Charlottetown

Arrangements have finally been reached whereupon the Potato shed on the Railway wharf will be kept open and heat applied for the duration of the cold weather. That means we will be buying daily Certified Seed, Table Stock and Turnips. In the past years during the severe cold weather, we could only accept from the farmers a limited amount of supplies in accordance with our limited space in the warehouse.

Due to severe cold weather and tie-up from snow, we are very short of Turnips and Potatoes. I strongly recommend growers near Charlottetown to take advantage of our present situation as I doubt very much, when weather conditions permit the usual flow of Potatoes, that prices will be as high as today's.

Kindly keep in touch with the office.

FRANK B. CLARKE

Hybrid Corn —What It is

(Experimental Farms News)

The term hybrid means a cross and that exactly describes hybrid corn, for it is the product of a cross between two or more inbred or pure lines. Usually four of these inbred lines are used to produce what is commonly called a commercial hybrid, and as the same four inbreds are crossed to produce the same beyond each year, this explains why it is that the hybrid continues to be so uniform.

What is an inbred line? It is a pure breeding line which is obtained by forcing corn to self-fertilize. This has to be done artificially because corn is normanly cross-fertilized. A small bag is placed over the ear-shoot before the silks appear and when the silks come out, pollen is collected in a bag from the tassel of the same plant and placed on the silks, which are again covered. This is called self-pollination and the ear which develops is self-fertilized or inbred. After about 6 years of this inbreeding the inbred or inbred line as it is now called breeds true.

Inbred lines lose much of their vigour and become much smaller in size as inbreeding proceeds, states F. Dimmock, Division of Forage Plants, Dominion Experimental Farms Service. But when they are crossed together, this vigour is restored and again a hybrid plant of normal size is the result. It is during the period of inbreeding that lines with good and poor inheritance are uncovered. The poor are discarded and only the good lines are kept and used to produce hybrids. This explains why many hybrids are superior to the parent varities from which they originated.

Hybrids may be obtained by crossing two, three or four of these inbred lines. In Canadian commercial corn hybrids four are used. First, two inbreds are crossed to produce a single cross and then two single crosses are crossed to produce a double cross or as it is commonly called a commercial hybrid.

Keep Birds at Work

Now that winter is beginning to stroll around the hen roost the poultryman can forestall trouble by watching the diet of his birds Having come from the outdoors to a more or less close confinement there is no opportunity for them to obtain minerals and vitamins from many of their natural sources, although these are essential to poultry health and production.

The prevention of deficiencies is a simple business and requires only a check up on feeds and the addition of any elements which may be missing. All the vitamins will be supplied if the diet includes cod liver oil, green feeds, dehydrated alfalfa, milk, meat meal, wheat bran and similar elements in the generally prescribed proportions.

To supply the necessary minerals oyster shell or similar marine shells can be kept before the birds and common salt mixed in the feed in ratios varying between one, and one-half of one per cent. Other minerals needed are contained in the regular grains fed and in fishmeal, meat meal and milk.

The simplest manner in which to assure a balanced diet for poultry is to follow one of the rations prescribed by the departments of agriculture, altering it to suit conditions but taking care not to change the essentials. Making certain that the quarters of the flock recieve ample sunshine from which the useful rays have not been filtered by window glass will assist considerably.

By watching these points much can be done to keep birds as healthy and active in winter as in summer. A steadier flow of eggs to market and money to pocket can be simply assured.

Fall Care of Ewes

Sheep raisers who have just purchased a small flock should recognize the importance of fall management. The late fall is the preparation period for the breeding season. Place the ewes on good pasture, preferably on aftermath in a hay field. If they are ewe lambs or if in thin condition. they will require from a quarter to a half-pound of grain per ewe daily. Whole oats is the safest and best feed for sheep. It is always safer to bring the breeding flock into a corral or shed at night, and the grain should be fed half in the evening and half in the morning. The ewe flock should have access to plenty of fresh water daily, and should be salted regularly.

The breeding date will depend upon the accommodation available on each farm. There is usually more money in raising early lambs that can be sold in June, July, or August, than in lambs that have to be sold in September or October. For early lambs, breeding can start about the 1st of November. However, for ewes bred at this date, housing facilities that enable the ewes to be brought into a warm box stall for lambing must be available.

Cabbage And Strawberries Source of Vitamin C.

The old scourge of seaman soldiers and explorers, namely scurvy, which was caused by lack of fresh fruits vegetables and fresh food generally and for which lime-juice (really lemon-juice) was a specific, is now readily prevented by the use of either cabbage or strawberries.

Of strawberries from three to five ounces (say 30 berries) or about 1 to 4 ounces of cabbage daily will suffice to prevent scurvy. Many other foods, such for example as spinach, turnips or potatoes do equally well.

On his first great voyage of discovery Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, insisted that his sailors should use soups made from wild celery and other plants. He set the example by eating wild celery himself and those of his crew who demurred were given the rope's end.

The saving agent in fresh foods fruits and vegetables is ascorbic acid. Both strawberrys and cabbage are amply supplied with this acid. The berries have from 36 to 65 miligrams (one-one thousandth of a gram) of ascorbic acid in each 100 grams of the fruits (a gram is a little over 15 grains). In cabbage the proportion runs from 48 to 181 milligrams to the 100 grams.

A common way in which to provide vitamin C for children is to give them a daily allowance of orange juice, or other fruit juices and tomato juice. All these juices deteriorate on standing exposed to the air, so they should be freshly prepared. This is particularly true of tomato juice.

Deciding The Size Of The Flock

Farmers who have found a medium-sized flock a paying proposition would make considerably more money by increasing their number of birds to 300 or more," states W. R. Whitfield, Iowa State College extension poultryman. He continues: "But those who are not making money would be ahead by cutting down to 50 birds to reduce expenses to a minimum.

"There's usually enough waste feed around the farm—including milk, table scraps and scattered grain—to keep 25 to 50 chickens well fed," Mr. Whitfield said. So the farmer who can't give poultry much attention can without much trouble or expense handle a "subsistence flock" to provide meat and eggs for the home table.

He pointed out also that a flock of 25 to 50 birds is usually less subject to sanitation problems which threaten more crowded "average size" or large flocks.

But where poultry is a commercial proposition—like dairying or hog production—size is of great importance, Mr. Whitfield concluded. A farmer succeeding with an average size flock will by expanding to 300 birds or more invest less "overhead and labor in each bird. With proper management this means a larger net profit per bird and a larger total net income.

Where a commercial poultryman keeps at the 140 or 150-bird level, he is seriously handicapped by the fact that he is putting more money and labor into each bird than are larger producers.

Mr. Whitfield bases his observations on 15 years of calendar flock record work and particularly the 1939 report.

The report shows that impractical commercial flocks averaging 78 birds returned only $86 for the year above costs of production. And the production in these flocks was far above the state average, according to Mr. Whitfield.

Where flocks average 375 birds, owners obtained a return of $485 for the year, and where flocks averaged 845 birds, they obtained $1,014 above costs.

GET RID OF JUNK

Junk around the farm not only gives the place a delapidated appearance, but is a source of danger —an accident hazard for both man and beast. Discarded machines in corners of the yard are unsightly and make a harbor for weeds where they cannot be cut even with a scythe.

Old castings, rods, wheels and such strewn along fences are stumbling blocks that may rip the mowing machine to pieces when the fence rows are being trimmed. Junk in the barn, shop, or machine house is both aggravating and dangerous.

A day spent getting rid of junk will return dividends in the farm's appearance, in self-respect of the owner, and in safety to living and moving things. Then, too, at the present price of junk metal, there will be a substantial return in cash for the day's clean-up.

If there is a junked machine parked in the yard, it may be good business to tear it down, save the parts that have value and store them in labeled boxes or kegs for future use. The parts which have no value on the farm should go to the junk man.

Soybeans a Home Grown Protein Food

(Experimental Farms News)

In the production of livestock the farmer aims to grow as much of the required feed as possible on his farm. The three main constituents of feeds are carbohydrates, protein, and fat. Carbohydrates are usually found in sufficient quantities in most plants and seeds. Protein, however, may be lacking in the amounts required to provide a balanced ration. In order to correct this deficiency, such high protein feeds as cottonseed or linseed oil meals must be purchased. Where this extra amount of protein can be produced on the farm, a definite saving in cash outlay is obvious. As a high protein crop the soybean is useful for this purpose.

The protein content of soybeans may be taken advantage of in two ways, states C. W. Owen, Dominion Experimental Station, Harrow, Ontario. The crop may be cut in the stage when the pods are about half filled and cured as hay, or the seed may be allowed to ripen and harvested as grain. Soybean hay will be found about equal to alfalfa in in feed value but in districts where alfalfa can be successfully grown its main use would be as an emergency hay crop. In other districts possibilities exist for soybean hay wher annual crops avoid loss through winter killing.

Soybeans fed as grain contain about 35 per cent protein and 16 per cent oil. The whole beans may be added to the grain ration before grinding and will be found palatable by all classes of livestock. In the case of bacon hogs, soybean oil meal should be used in preference to whole beans in order to eliminate the danger of soft pork.

Whole soybeans added to the grain ration of dairy cattle have been found to give excellent results by a number of farmers. From the dairy standpoint it is fortunate that a large protion of the area engaged in milk production is suitable for growing soybeans, and more farmers are realizing the advantage of growing a small average of this crop each year for use as a protein supplement.

Apart from the feeding value of soybeans some soil benefits are also obtained. Being a legume, soybeans have the capacity of utilizing nitrogen from the air providing the seed has been inoculated with a culture of nitrogen-fixing bacteria before planting. In this way a part of the nitrogen utilized by the crop is returned to the soil. On heavier types of soil some improvement in tilth may be noted following a crop of soybeans.

Considering the wide adaption of the soybean to both soil and climate, together with the variety of uses to which the crop may be put. possibilities are enormous in this high protein content crop.

Rust Resistant Cereal Varieties In P. E. Island

For the past few years much interest has been shown in rust resistant cereal varieties, particularly varieties of oats and wheat. Stem rust of wheat and leaf rust of oats have caused very serious damage in recent years and the new varieties were welcomed as a means of combating these diseases. Many people however, have wondered how the new varieties would perform in a normal season when rust was not a factor. In most areas of Prince Edward Island, this question was answered during the past season. says R. B. MacLaren, Dominion Experimental Station, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Erban oats, which is moderately resistant to leaf rust has become widely distributed throughout the province and reports of the 1940 crops indicate that its popularity is well deserved. In a season when leaf rust was very light, it has yield well as compared with older varieties, such as Banner and Victory. A further advantage of Erban was well demonstrated this season namely, its relatively hampered by wet weather, but Erban growers in general were able to save their crop before bad weather set in.

Rust resistant wheat varieties, chiefly Coronation, are rapidly replacing older sorts such as White Fife and Huron. The 1940 season was very favorable for wheat and stem rust was very slight. Under these conditions Coronation has yielded well when grown on reasonable good land. In light, open soils however, Coronation may be excelled in yield in the nonrust years by Garnet and Huron. Coronation is criticised somewhat for its inability to thresh readily.

Rogent, a never rust resistant wheat, is now available and may prove more popular than Coronation It is a beardless type, threshes more readily than Coronation, matures moderately early and is considered equal to Marquis in milling and baking quality.

WYOMING MAIDENS NO YEAR LEAPERS

WORLAND, Wyo., Jan. 2 —(CP)— When leap year came around H. L. Bonine, justice of the peace offered to marry any couple free of charge if the girl would admit she made the marriage proposal. "Three hundred and sixty-six days passed and I didn't have to give away a single marriage ceremony," says Bonine.