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NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

Music in the Schools.

The other night, an Acadian friend, who occasionally visits me, made the statement—"The English are not a musical race." I laughed and asked, "Can you not qualify that a little?" "Well, not here, at any rate," said he.

Now this appears to have some truth in it, because I note that my grandchildren—little Canadians—do not sing at their work or their play, as my children, who were little Britons, did. Thereby they are losing one of the purest pleasures of life, and a moulding influence whose effects are far-reaching and cannot be measured. It was a bard with a deep insight into human nature who once said, "Let me make the songs of a country and I care not who makes its laws!" Music is formative, disciplinary, and co-operative, and hence has a value far beyond the mere pleasure of its performance.

For that reason, all should welcome the suggestion in the Report of the Superintendent of Education: that is, that some time be devoted to the teaching of singing in the rural schools, and that singing contests between schools be added to the prize lists at the School Fairs. This should provide a new and entertaining feature of these worthy occasions.

Difficulties there will be, for all beginnings are difficult; but the ingenuity of all concerned may be trusted to carry out the work successfully. A new pleasure will be introduced into our schools and homes and the stigma of being an unmusical race will be removed. While the rural schools may not be able to attain the high standard of musical effort set by the schools in Charlottetown, there is no doubt that there is latent talent awaiting the right touch to bring it to light.

Professor Shaw deserves the thanks of the whole community for taking the initiative in this good work, and the writer personally wishes him every success.

Now for a little reminiscence. At the time I was receiving my education—at a little rural school many miles from a town, in the Old Country—the Tonic Sol-fa system of musical notation had just been evolved, and as it was easy to learn, certain in results, and (not least of its advantages) the music was very cheap, the educational authorities at once adopted it into the schools. Its ease soon recommended it to the adults; it was not long before the villagers began to meet o' nights at each others' homes, and "gossip, exaggeration, and misrepresentation" (?) quickly gave place to the singing of part-songs.

Nor was this all. Before I had finished my school course, the choir (of a little village church, mark you) had learned to appreciate and sing pieces of the calibre of Berthold Tour's "Sing, O Heavens," Stainer's Harvest Anthem, "Ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers;" and Sir G. Elvey's anthem for Christmas, "Arise, Shine, for thy Light is come." Better still, the congregation had learned to love this class of composition instead of the mediocre jingles which are so frequently considered to be sacred music. And all this came from music in the school!

Note (2). Forms of expression peculiar to some localities, according to the Diary of Miss Elizabeth Smith, immigrant of eighty years ago, reprinted in The Guardian.

A Correction.

By a typographic error, in my notes of April 2nd, the cost of pasturing calves at the Lethbridge Ex-

perimental Station was made to read as 25 cts. per head per day. This should have read 2.5 cts. (two and a half cents) per day, a much more reasonable figure.

The Poultry Congress.

Large as is the Crystal Palace building, London, Eng., its floor space for the forthcoming World's Poultry Congress is now fully taken up, and consequently from a business point of view the success of the Show is assured. A very limited gallery space only is still available. Great disappointment is expressed by many commercial and other interests who were too late to secure bookings and there is no doubt that the Show would have been even greater if more space had been available.

The Congress has given a remarkable impetus to the poultry industry in the British Isles; for the first time in history the "hen-wives" of gallant little Wales are planning to attend the Show and learn the modern methods of poultry-keeping.

A novel idea is the "training school for chickens," which will shortly be opened under the supervision of a Canadian expert. The "scholars" will be sixty of the finest Canadian R. O. P. birds, selected from the whole of the Canadian exhibits, and the course of training will last about three months. It is designed to correct any natural imperfections of "stance, glance, or style." Presumably when these birds have obtained their diplomas, they will know how to act, how to look, and perhaps how to crow at the right time. However we are informed that "just what these birds are going to do is a thing which can not be told at the moment, as their performance will be a surprise and of course a real feature." One qualification these highly favored fowls must possess before they are eligible for training; they must, if females, be capable of producing at least 300 eggs per year.

The Apple in Canada.

The Fruit Branch of the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture has been making a survey with a view to finding the most popular apples in Canada, and in order, the preference is given to the McIntosh, Spy, Gravenstein, Delicious and Baldwin.

Sectionally the results are somewhat different. Nova Scotia favors (1) the Gravenstein, (2) the King, (3) Spy, (4) Bow Sweet, (5) the Bishop Pippin. New Brunswick is content with (1) the Gravenstein, then the Spy, McIntosh, King and Red Astrachan. In Quebec the McIntosh is first favorite, followed by the Fameuse, Spy, Baldwin and Duchess.

Prince Edward Island does not fig-

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- From St. Peter's April 29th, noon stand at Morell, night stand at Lorne Rear.
- April 30th, noon stand at Lorne Valley, night stand at Cardigan.
- May 1st, noon stand at Dundas, night stand at St. Peter's.
- From May 1st, to May 6th, he will stand at St. Peter's.
- May 6th, noon stand at Red House, night stand at Souris.
- May 7th, noon stand at Red Point, night stand at Elmira.
- May 8th, noon stand at Red Point, night stand at Souris.
- May 9th, noon stand at Fortune, night stand at St. Peter's.

This route will be followed throughout the season. The dates and names of parties at whose home he will stand, will be published by handbill and be issued in two weeks.

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