Address communications to Agronomist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

CANADA'S RECORD AT LEADING AGRICULTURAL SHOWS IN 1922.

The high place secured by Canada's agricultural and horticultural products at shows held in Great Britain and the United States, in 1922, is indicated by the following summary:

ONTARIO.

At the Imperial Fruit Show, held in London, England, apples from Ontario secured eleven first prizes; nine second prizes and one third prize. In addition to this, a splendid display of commercial apples and pears was made. Seventy cases of choice pears and apples, and six hundred baskets of "Wealthy" apples, the only dessert apples ready at that time made a most imposing exhibit and attracted a great deal of attention.

At the exhibit of Ontario dairy cattle at the National Dairy Show held at St. Paul, Minn., Ontario cattle won two championships, two 1st prizes, three 2nd prizes, and five 3rd prizes, besides securing several other awards in "string" classes. In the Dairy Herd Class, Ontario stood second in the exhibits.

At Chicago, where the International Live Stock Show has become the greatest world's show of its kind, Ontario achieved great distinction in Clydesdale horses, carrying off the Reserve Championship, two 1st prizes, three 2nd prizes and several 3rd and 4th prizes, all classes being very strongly contested.

The outstanding achievement was the awarding of the champion carlot at the show to Ontario, and the carrying off by an Ontario breeder of the grand championship wether under two years, and the grand championship of the show by the same exhibitor. This was the first time in the history of the show that the top prizes were all won by one man.

The province was represented in the following classes: Southdowns, Oxfords, Lincolns, Leicesters and Shropshires, and the exhibits won in all classes eight championships, thirty-two first prizes, twenty-five second prizes, and several third prizes.

In the Shorthorn and Angus classes of general cattle, Ontario again stood high, and the fact that Ontario breeders were chosen as judges at this show attests to the character of the stock that is being raised in this province.

At the London show, one thing was brought out very clearly, and that was the need for establishing grades and uniformity in order to compete in the British market. For example, in butter, Australia scored 100 points against 97 for Ontario, and won first, second and third prizes in the salted, as well as the unsalted classes.

The same thing was true in cheese; South Africa winning first prize, and Ontario coming second, with another entry being highly commended.

This competition with producers from other countries opens up to our farmers a vision of what world trade means, and what must be done in order to compete.

SASKATCHEWAN.

At the International Grain and Hay Show, Chicago, Ill., 1922, Saskatchewan growers won eleven prizes for wheat out of 26, thus maintaining the province's reputation for the production of the finest hard spring wheat. Many successes were also secured in other sections. The complete list is as follows:

Threshed wheat, Sweepstakes, 1st and 5th (Hard Red Spring); 6th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 25th (Reserve), 7th (Hard Red Winter). Threshed oats, 11th, 18th, 26th, 29th, 34th; threshed barley (two-rowed), 8th; threshed rye, 12th; threshed clover, 9th; threshed peas, 1st.

In connection with the above, it may be stated that Saskatchewan growers have won the wheat championship nine times in eleven years, not exhibiting one year and taking second the other.

ALBERTA.

Once more Alberta upheld its reputation at the International Hay and Grain Show in Chicago, in 1922, when grain from this province secured no less than three grand championships, one being in oats, another in peas and another in rye. In wheat, Alberta exhibits gained 2nd, 8th, 10th and 11th places. In oats, exhibits from Alberta secured 1st and grand championship, as well as 12 other prizes from 2nd to 24th. In barley, Alberta exhibits secured 1st and 5th places. In peas, Alberta exhibits secured 1st and grand championship, also 2nd, 3rd and 4th. In rye, Alberta was given 1st and grand champion, and in alfalfa won second place.

At the International Live Stock Show, Chicago, 1922, Alberta stock won the following places:

Galloways, 1st and grand championship; Shorthorns, a 4th and a 7th prize; Herefords, 2nd, 9th and 11th places; Grades, 1st and 4th, and Shorthorn special.

The livestock exhibit was prepared by the University of Alberta.

The grain exhibit at Chicago was made up by exhibitors from all over the province, and was in charge of the field crops commissioner of the Department of Agriculture.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The winnings of the province of Nova Scotia at the Imperial Fruit Show, 1922, were as follows:

British Empire Section—

Dessert apples, best 20 boxes, 1st prize.

Culinary apples, best 20 boxes, 1st prize.

The prize consisted of a gold medal and £50 cash in each class.

In the Overseas Section, Nova Scotia took third place, being preceeded by Ontario and British Columbia.

The combined winnings in the two sections were two firsts; three seconds, five thirds, and £183 cash.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

New Brunswick fruit growers did not exhibit at the Imperial Fruit Show, 1922. It might be mentioned, however, that at the show held in 1921, New Brunswick apples achieved a notable success. In that year her exhibits of McIntosh and Fameuse—two of Canada's most famous varieties of apples—obtained first prize with gold medals and two special prizes of £5. Third prize medals were secured for Golden Russets.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

At the Imperial Fruit Show, 1922, British Columbia suffered from the fact that the Okanagan and Kootenay growers were practically unrepresented, although, in 1921, they were very successful.

A special prize of £20 was awarded to Creston for the best British Columbia exhibit in the British Empire section. The variety was Cox's Orange.

In the Overseas section, Creston and Kelowna each won a first with Cox's Orange and Spitzenberg, respectively. Creston won a third with Fameuse apples, and a first and third in any other variety, besides a first for pears. Two special prizes in this section were awarded to Creston for the best British Columbia apple exhibit.

At the Portland, Oregon, International Live Stock Exposition of 1922, British Columbia live stock winnings were as follows:

In the classes for Clydesdale horses the winnings were, Senior and Grand Champion; Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion. Also seven firsts and a number of second and third prizes.

In the classes for Dorset sheep the winnings comprised two championships, and 14 first and five second prizes.

PRESCRIBING FOR VIRGIL

BY TOM P. MORGAN.

Virgil Gorrett was indulging in one of his periodical pouts, and the more his wife strove to placate him the stronger grew his determination not to be appeased. When Virgil felt that way, whatever Alma did was in his estimation done wrongly, and that which she did not she ought to have done and according to specifications furnished by himself.

Upon this occasion she had ventured the suggestion that the poultry might be made to return a better profit if the boarder biddies were culled out and sold, and the layers provided with more suitable rations, better quarters, and so on, all as a result of words spoken by the Agricultural Representatives Home Demonstrator a few days before. In thus saying Alma had no selfish motive, for the egg money was not diverted to her use and benefit, but lost its identity in the general farm fund.

Virgil's objection came chiefly from the fact that he had not thought of the innovation himself, and, approving of it, passed the discovery on to his wife. Therefore he opposed both the idea and its purveyor, and without analyzing his feelings was disgruntled because Alma had accepted anything, even advice, that he had not graciously deigned to hand down to her from his superior altitude.

So he growled that the poultry was nothing but a bill of expense, anyhow. Furthermore, he didn't thank Miss Dritt for dipping into his affairs. Those officious Home Demonstrators and Agricultural Representatives were nuisances, coming around with their confounded theories and telling real dirt farmers how to farm. And so on, to considerable length.

The tirade was of sufficient loudness to enable the Widow Teviss, who had come over in her hiccoughing flivver from her farm to fetch a basket of her big, blushing peaches, to hear as she stepped up onto the porch and stood for an instant or so, listening shamelessly. There were flivvers enough passing along the road to make the sound of one unworthy of notice. Virge did not own one. Nor did he raise any peaches.

In a little while the visitor backed off from the porch, and then stepped up on it and approached the open door with tread unnecessarily heavy for so slight an old lady. Virge ceased his disgruntled declaiming. He was not especially fond of his wife's aunt. The efficiency with which she carried on her farm without his advice grated on him.

The visit was not prolonged, and soon the widow climbed into her flivver and went hiccoughing toward her farm.

"That is the way he does most of the time," she said, relating the episode to Debby Quatts, her hired girl, who was of some age, much weight and very plain speaking.

"If I had a husband like that," declared Miss Quatts, "I'd take him by the hair of his head, or—something! No darn man could bullyrag me! They're all alike, cat-fetch 'em!"

"A little of that kind of treatment would do Virge a world of good," agreed Mrs. Tevis.

"You're darn right!" indorsed Miss Quatts. "They're all mean coots. Think how pretty Alma was when he married her—slender and as sweet as a flower. Now looky at her—growing thinner and fadeder every day. There ain't no shadder of excuse for it, neither! He can be decent when he tries."

"It is his unchecked conceit," said the widow. "As a boy he was spoiled at home. Now he is merely an overgrown boy whom Alma continues to spoil by yielding to his every whim. She thinks his word is law, and he thinks so too."

"Yah!" sneered the old maid. "When he is hungry his wife has got to eat, and when he sleeps she must snore. Ketch me catering to any darn man that way. What was it riled his bile this time?"

Mrs. Tevis gave the desired information.

"Huh!" ejaculated Miss Quatts. "It might just as well have been the unhandy hour selected for the eclipse of the moon or b'cuz Wednesday don't come on Saturday. But, just the same, I betcha he ett the peaches!"

"He was devouring the biggest one when I left, and remarking that that form of fruit yielded too uncertainly in this latitude to be worth fooling with."

"I betcha! Nice, clever sort of a husband—treats his wife with less consideration than he would a work mule, b'cuz a mule will stand just so much and then lash out, while a wife will endure anything," asserted Miss Quatts.

Some days later Mrs. Tevis made a hurried trip to the city, grumbling to herself as she went and chuckling at times during the return journey.

Afterwards there appeared at the Gorrett place a pleasant-spoken stranger who introduced himself as P. J. Skerry. He had a mind to quit the roaring city and settle down in the country. Followed considerable speaking, and presently Virge sold the farm to Skerry after this fashion:

The price, a good one, for Virge prided himself on being a shrewd bargainer, was agreed upon. The larger part of Skerry's funds, so he stated, were at the moment in the form of bank time deposit certificates which would not mature for some little while. If he should demand the cash on them before the expiration of that period he would forfeit the interest.

In the interval he would pay Virgil $100, cash in hand, to bind the bargain, and complete the transaction when the certificates came due. Meanwhile he wished to board at the Gorrett home and pay for the privilege. He desired to begin certain improvements at once.

When Virge triumphantly related certain of the details of the transaction to Alma before it was consummated and she offered timid objections he was at once convinced that he was driving a good bargain, and replied in substance that women knew nothing about business. Learning of the prospective deal, Aunt Tevis hastened to the Gorrett farm and endeavored to reason with Virgil, and had her objection snorted down.

"Aw, let him go ahead and get stung!" advised Deb.

A little later Mrs. Tevis reported to the hired girl:

"Mr. Skerry is making a lot of changes; putting in running water all through the house—you know Virge has a windmill and tank for the stock——"

"And lets Alma pack water from the well!" concluded Miss Quatts.

"Yes, and Skerry is installing a portable plant and having the entire house wired for electricity."

"Gee-whiz!" commented Debby.

"He is going to put in a heater with registers all through the house. A big porcelain sink has come for the kitchen. He plans to add a screened verandah at the back, repaint the house, and so on."

"Whew!" ejaculated Miss Quatts.

Thus things proceeded for a space. Aunt Tevis went to the Gorrett place every little while and generally took Virge aside and spoke her doubts concerning the whole matter. Who knew but that the stranger was playing some sharp game? It seemed to her that the improvements ought to wait until the entire purchase money was paid. Thereupon Virge would distend his chest. He was capable of looking out for himself. Nobody could put anything over on him.

Then one night, for no apparent reason, Skerry disappeared, leaving no trail behind him.

"Virge is acting like a crazy man," reported Aunt Tevis.

"I betcha he blames Alma for it all," commented Miss Quatts, and stated the case accurately.

If Alma had not displayed so much interest Skerry would not have gone to such lengths, Virgil raged. He was ruined. The cost of the material was unpaid. Certain of the jobs were not yet finished and must be carried through to completion or they would be total losses.

Alma suffered even more than did Virge. His conceit was badly bumped, but she was cut to the heart. Often at night her pillow was wet with tears. One day soon, following a visit to the Gorrett home, the widow told Deb:

"Alma has broken down under the strain. She has a fever and is delirious part of the time."

"Just as I expected!" declared Debby.

The doctor gave to Alma's case a long-tailed Latin name, but the widow and Deb knew it for old-fashioned brain fever. Thereafter one or the other of them was there almost continuously. Virge did what he could, for he was not wholly callous. The days dragged on.

One afternoon when Virge had gone to the upstairs chamber to take a nap Mrs. Tevis and Miss Quatts were in the sitting room below. There was a stovepipe thimble in the ceiling, extending up through the floor. Possibly the widow had temporarily forgotten its existence and perhaps she had not.

"Do you s'pose she is going to die?" the hired girl asked.

"I am afraid so," returned Mrs. Tevis.

"It oughter be him!" said Deb emphatically. "When I look at her laying there, as thin as a shaving and with her eyes blazing with fever, I feel just exactly like I don't know what! To hear her moaning and blaming herself for the trouble Virge walked into with his eyes open, and then trying to tell him she loves him, mighty near makes me bust right out bellerin'! Loves him—the brindle cat's foot! I swear, if I had a husband like that I'd snatch him around by the hair of the head till he learnt some decency!" And a good deal more of this sort.

By and by Virge quietly descended the back stairs, and passing part way around the house, stopped at the open window of the sick room and listened for a little while to the weak, hopeless voice begging and pleading for forgiveness. And seemingly the scales fell from his eyes and he saw his wife as the gentle girl he had sworn to love, cherish and protect as long as his life lasted.

Presently he stumbled blindly to the barn, scrambled up into the loft and tumbled face downward in the hay. Lying thus he shook with sobs of remorse and beat his hands on the hay until the dust thereof stuck to the tears that wet his face.

Came a day not long afterwards when Mrs. Tevis took her pen in hand and wrote, in part as follows, to one Paul J. Skerry, son of one of her niece's first marriage:

—— if your vacation did you a tenth as much good as it did Alma you can feel that your time was well spent. Virgil is going his best to make amends, and not only says that the unfinished conveniences will be completed, but actually seems trying to find others to install for Alma's comfort. I have informed the creditors that I will be responsible for any debts he may be unable to pay, but it is my intention to let him do all the paying he can without my aid.

Alma is growing plump and her color is like that of a young girl. Little Alma has learned to love her father. Come down here next summer for your vacation and get acquainted with the real Virgil. As Deb says, "Darned if he ain't got the makin's of a man in him!"

Your affectionate grand-aunt,

LYDIA TEVIS.

Six million children are born in China every year.

It costs $1.82 to keep a rat for a year. That looks high, but if we lop off the dollar the rat is still an expensive luxury. The eighty-two cents would pay big interest on money in rat-proof cribs and bins.

A Pretty Fall Fashion

A navy and white costume for cool fall days is composed of a striped skirt, and a coat trimmed with white stripes and suede belt. The sleeves have tiny turn back cuffs.

Home Education

"The Child's First School is the Family"—Froebel."

When Shall We Teach Betty to Pick Up Her Playthings?

BY ORA A. CLEMENT.

Betty's mother had just gotten the little four-year-old settled down for her afternoon nap.

"And now I will not much more than get this room put to rights before she wakes up again," she laughingly remarked to her college friend, now a primary teacher, who was spending a few days with her.

"Why not leave the playthings where they are and let Betty pick them up when she wakes?" the friend asked.

"Sometimes I do, but she always wants to make play of it and it really takes more time to keep her at it than it does to do it myself."

Her visitor said nothing for a few minutes and when she spoke again it was without reference to Betty. "What did you do with those cunning chicks you took out of the incubator this morning?" she asked.

"Oh, I divided them up among three or four hens who were simply wild to be mothering something. Now the little ones are cuddled up snug and warm under real feathers, and they have no idea in the world that they are, by rights and inheritance, poor, machine-hatched little orphans."

"Why did you put them with the hens so soon? Would it not have been safer to have cared for them yourself until they were a week or so old, and strong enough to run with the older chickens?"

Betty's mother laughed, "That shows that you do not know chickens. I tried that plan the first year I used an incubator and I learned something. It is only for a few days that a foster mother can be introduced to incubator chicks. If they are put with her during the first few days of their lives they will adopt her and follow her obediently till half-grown, like chickens hatched under a hen, but after a week alone they seem to get used to being orphans and they will not follow a hen no matter how much she coaxes and clucks and scolds. Isn't it odd?"

She had the playthings all in order and settled herself with her mending in her lap.

"Instinct," said the teacher. "Nature puts an urge into the little chick that makes it seek a mother at the time it needs her most. And if you are to be successful as a poultry woman you must work with Nature—you can't oppose her."

She drew a thread thoughtfully and then went on: "It is odd, and it is still more interesting to watch the same thing in children. Did you ever think what a powerful urge there must be in the little child to keep him trying to walk in spite of the discouraging falls he gets?

"All through Betty's childhood and youth she will be led by instincts and desires through which Nature strives to produce and develop perfect womanhood. And in handling children, as in poultry raising, it saves us much pain and trouble if we work with Nature.

"Just now Betty is passing through what students of child life call the 'imitative age.' She imitates everything she sees you do."

The mother smiled knowingly. She loved the baby's little make-believes.

"She plays set table, and sews, sweeps, kneads bread and makes beds as you do. If you work with Nature now you will save yourself and Betty a great deal of grief in the years to come."

"You are thinking of the playthings on the floor," exclaimed the hostess.

"Yes. While Betty wants to do just as you do, train her in habits of orderliness and cleanliness. The imitative age will not last long. After that, about the time she goes to school, there will come a period when your little girl will be lawless, careless and selfish, inclined to put her will and her judgment against yours in everything. If she has become orderly and neat from habit before that time comes it will be a great comfort to you and of inestimable value to her while she is going through the trying 'Big Injun' age. If she has not, you will have to make up your mind to pick up after her for many years to come, for there will never be another time during her childhood and youth when it will be easy to teach Betty the lessons of order."

"Thanks for your little lecture, Grace," said Betty's mother as she rolled two little stockings into a ball. "I had never thought of it that way before—I shall begin at once to train Betty to 'follow'."

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

THE TOOLS OF ANIMALS.

Did you know that many animals have tools and machinery for making things? All the silk that is used in the world is made by worms. The silk worm has a set of machinery for spinning silk. It winds up fine silk threads as it spins them. Men weave these threads into many beautiful kinds of goods.

The wasp knows how to make paper. He picks off the finest bits of wood with his mouth, and then gathers them into a little bunch. He makes this into a soft pulp, and from the pulp he makes the paper with which he builds his nest. It is very much like common brown paper which we use. Indeed, the wasp was the earliest paper-maker in the world; and the first wasp made just as good paper as any wasp can make now. Hornets, which are a kind of wasp, make for themselves large, fine houses of paper, in which are doors and windows and many cozy rooms.

The elephant can draw up water with his trunk; and so we might say that he carries a pump with him. It is with a pump something like the elephant's trunk that many insects gather honey from the flowers. The mosquito has such a trunk also. By the side of his trunk he carries a pair of lancets with which he cuts a hole into the skin of his victim. When these have done their work, he pumps the blood up into his mouth.

The cat uses her rough tongue both as a brush and a comb. When she makes her morning toilet, she gets off the dirt and smooths her coat with it, just as the stable boy cleans and smooths the horse's coat with a currycomb. When she wishes to smooth the hair of her head, she must use her forepaws for a comb, because she cannot reach her head with her tongue.

There is a kind of fish which uses its mouth as a gun for shooting flies and other insects. It can shoot them not only when they are still, but when they are on the wing. It watches them as they are flying over the water and hits one of them, whenever it can do so, with a fine stream of water from its litt[illegible]un. The insect, stunned by the blo[illegible]alls into the water, where it is qu[illegible] caught and eaten by the fish.

There [illegible] many other animals which h[illegible]ols for doing certain kinds o[illegible]me use their tools in building [illegible] houses; others in gatherin[illegible]; and still others in defen[illegible]elves against their enemies. [illegible]ure has given to each animal the tools which it needs most.

POULTRY.

Our forefathers reasoned that much of the sickness among fowl was due to impure water, and they reasoned right. The most sure and rapid way by which infectious diseases are transmitted through a flock of fowls is by means of the common drinking vessel.

No drinking fountain has yet been devised that will not be contaminated by litter, manure, etc., being scratched into it, unless such vessels are set upon a table low enough that the fowls can fly upon it. Therefore, a harmless antiseptic should be used in the drinking water.

Permanganate of potash is the best harmless antiseptic we have tried. We used it daily for chicks, putting it in their drinking water, and the result was that they were free from colds, which are so common among young, growing stock, especially during rainy and chilly weather. We noticed that the chicks were more vigorous and active, and from babyhood to maturity kept in the best of health.

A crate of cockerels, from a man who was raising poultry for us, arrived on the farm in a pretty bad condition. Fully two-thirds of the birds developed colds, and some cases were quite serious. The sick birds were placed in separate enclosures and were given no other treatment than permanganate of potash in their drinking water. With the exception of one that was too far gone, all birds recovered.

One hen on the farm had canker in the mouth, and another had a "rattling in the throat." These were at once removed to separate quarters and given the permanganate treatment, and in about two weeks' time their ailments were gone.

A neighbor had two cases of chicken-pox, and we prescribed, along with a physic of Epsom salts, and carbolated vaseline rubbed on the sores, that nothing but permanganate water be given for drink. One bird was worse than the other, and its head was dipped into the water. Both cases rapidly recovered.

Another hen with a cough and a yell that could be heard a hundred yards away, was successfully treated in the same way—she was given nothing but the permanganate water to drink.

A friend assured us that he cured two cases of roup by first pressing the nostrils of the bird so as to loosen the discharge, and then plunging the head of the fowl into the permanganate water for about half a minute. This, he said, distributed the solution through the nostrils and the canals.

Permanganate of potash (potassium permanganate) is a dark reddish purple crystalline substance which can be purchased at any drug store.

For convenience sake we put an ounce of permanganate of potash into a quart bottle of water, and let it set over night, so that the crystals would dissolve. This made a stock saturated solution, very heavy in color. When the bottle was about two-thirds empty it was again filled with water, and this was kept up until the solution became very light in color, when a fresh lot was made. Two teaspoonfuls of this solution is enough to color the water in an eight or ten quart pail. This was the only drink the fowls got during the entire year.