THE ONTARIO GARDEN

Even on the farm or in the large village garden one can put in the vegetables and flowers without a plan, but such a proceeding is not recommended. A rough sketch on paper will save time, space and result in a job you will not be ashamed to have your friends look over when the stuff starts coming through the rows. Many a carrot has been eaten before its time because the gardener responsible was afraid someone would see the crooked rows. A little planning and a stake and string would have prevented this tragedy. Even where one is crowded it is surprising the amount of stuff which can be grown in a small space. The average yard in the village and a plot 50 by 100 feet on the farm, with a fence around it to keep out the chickens, will keep the table going in the matter of vegetables from early summer until fall with a few bushels for winter storage. Where horse cultivation is to be used all rows 30 inches apart, except in the case of spreading vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers and similar plants, which should have three to four feet. Early maturing stuff, such as spinach, lettuce and radishes, can be placed in between the regular rows, as they will be ready and gone long before the main crop requires all the space. Where space and sunlight are limited run the rows north and south, and they will not be shaded as much as if run the other way. Stake and tie up cucumbers, tomatoes and pole beans. This will mean a little trouble, but earlier and cleaner crops will result. To relieve the green monotony of the vegetable garden plant a few flowers in the corners and at the head of the rows, have the regular flower garden for cutting purposes located here and grow your sweet peas along one of the regular rows.

CARE OF THE LAWN.

After this more or less open winter the lawn will require a little extra care first thing in the spring. After the frost comes out it is advisable to freshen up the bare spots with good seed, raking this in lightly or sowing it on a late fall of snow which, when melting, will carry the seed down into the soil. It is best to sow in early morning, or evening, when there is no wind. If practicable, cover the freshly seeded spots with a bit of chicken wire or trellis-work to scare away the sparrows.

To hasten growth give the lawn an application of nitrate of soda, about an ounce, during a rain fall, or it may be dissolved at the rate of one ounce per gallon in water and applied with the ordinary watering can. If at all possible, get a heavy roller over the lawn as soon as frost goes out. This firms up the top and packs the earth around the roots, which the heaving following the alternate freezing and thawing has loosened.

MAKING A HOT-BED.

The man with a hot-bed has the edge on his neighbor. He can get his garden started from two weeks to a month earlier than usual, and his crops come on that much sooner also. Lettuce and radish may be grown here and be ready for the table by the first of April and tomatoes and cabbage given an early start, so that they will be giving table returns in July instead of August. Those excellent annuals, Cosmos, Zinnias, Petunias and a host of others that will not only stand transplanting but are actually benefited by it will be ready to go into the open garden almost half grown by the end of May. The construction of a hot-bed is a simple matter. Locate facing the south, with a protecting building, hedge or fence on the north side and the west also, if this is possible. Fresh horse manure is usually used to generate heat for the hot-bed. This should be piled in a flat-topped heap and watered lightly to start fermentation. When the pile starts to steam fork it over, and a day or two later, pile it on the site of the hot-bed. One can dig out a shallow pit or build up the manure pile above ground with a frame around it. Make sure that there is good drainage, then pile up your manure to a depth of at least 18 inches, when well tramped down, and about a foot more each way than the size of the window frame used to cover it. The usual procedure is to build a wooden frame the size of the window and place this on top of the manure. Then add a two-inch layer of fine soil and stick a thermometer in and cover the frame with a window sash, in which the panes fit snugly. The frame should be so constructed that the sash slopes a little to the south, which will allow it to catch more sunlight and also shed rain. The temperature will rise quickly for the first few days, then cool down, when the seeds may be planted.

QUEBEC CARNIVAL QUEEN

Miss Clarida Moreau, of Quebec City, who was chosen Queen of the carnival week which began February 21, the opening event being the first race in the three-day Eastern International Dog Derby. Miss Moreau presided over all the events of the week of festivity in which the entire city joined as a Grand Finale to the Winter Sports season.

ALFALFA HAY AND ALFALFA MEAL

BY L. STEVENSON, O.A.C.

The practice of grinding hay, cornstover and other coarse feeds for live stock is carried on to a limited extent, and the enquiry comes is the practice worth the cost. Some feeders say it is, some say it is not.

In a recent experiment the digestibility and net energy values of alfalfa hay chopped to one inch lengths and of alfalfa meal were compared in a series of digestion and metabolism feeding tests with cattle. The hay and meal were given alternately during six periods and comparisons were made. Each feeding period lasted 21 days and the results of the experiment were tabulated in detail. They show that the alfalfa hay was slightly better digested than the alfalfa meal, probably due to a suppression of rumination from the alfalfa meal swallowed, at least in part beyond the paunch. The difference was 2.2 per cent. of the dry matter.

From the foregoing experiment we learn that there is little likelihood of increasing the digestibility of a good grade of alfalfa hay or other fodder of equal coarseness, when fed to ruminants or cud-chewing animals, by any grinding process. Grinding coarse fodders may have advantages in that coarse materials are reduced to a condition that permits a thorough mixing therewith finely divided grains, or sweeteners. A ruminant animal can eat more ground feed in a limited time, it may be forced to eat feeds that are off flavor when fed alone, or caused to eat feeds that are hard to masticate, but in so far as good quality feeds are concerned there is nothing gained by grinding for well grown cattle. For pigs, chickens or calves it may be different and some advantage is derived by the use of finely divided feeds for these three classes. But this advantage in making the feed more acceptable is not always offset by any showing of profit over the cost of grinding. If the stockman's labor is not fully employed, and he can get power cheaply, it may be worth while to grind the coarse feed, but no one need look to any material increase in value in so far as digestibility is concerned.

Chief Causes of Pigs Not Grading Selects.

When pigs of the right type do not grade "select" the cause may be one of the following:

1. Overweight—Overweight at the market. Fed too long, possibly waiting for a rising market. Feeder loses out because the pigs sell for $1 per cwt. less and do not make as economical gains as are made under 200 pounds.

2. Heavy Feeding Just After Weaning—Pigs pushed on heavy fattening feeds such as barley, buckwheat and corn too soon after weaning. Pigs must be grown on protein grown feeds and finished later.

3. Poor Feeding—Pigs starved or stunted in early life or held until old, coarse, and rough before they are up to market weight—generally soft in carcass and coarse in texture.

4. Under Finish—Pigs not finished to the desired 1¼ inches of fat down the back, generally through lack of feed or a mistaken idea of what the finished bacon hog really is.

Extract from Ont. Dept. of Agriculture Bulletin 320, now ready for general distribution through Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto. Send there for your copy.

Measure a Farm by its Pasturage.

The best farming systems give a prominent place to pasture crops. Without an abundant supply of pasturage, the economical production of livestock on any large scale is seldom possible. Pasture and hay grasses are important also because they protect and hold and enrich the soil. A Canadian farmer travelling about his own country feels almost from instinct when he enters a section of abundant and productive pastures that he has found a good farming section; and he is usually right about it.

Freckles constitute many a son's spots.

Eggs and More Eggs.

The requirements for high egg production are clean, dry, comfortable houses, that are free from direct draughts over the birds, and that are well lighted. The feeding consists of a variety of grains, green feed, animal feed, grit and shell, which is clean, sweet and wholesome, and is given to the birds regularly and in such quantities that they have all they want to eat before going to roost at night; that the supply of drinking material is clean and abundant; that the attendant is regular in his or her work and is interested in the same; that the birds are bred from good laying ancestors, and that they are hatched at the proper season and well reared, and are free from disease.

Stefansson, the explorer says that in the course of almost twelve years spent in the Arctic regions, his diet was 100 per cent. meat the greater part of the time.

CLIMBERS THAT I LIKE

BY WARREN WILMER BROWN.

While I was preparing my garden for its long winter vacation—the work was started late in September and ended with the planting of several thousand tulips just before October frosts sent waves of unimaginably lovely color over our Maryland forests—while this task was under way I came across a solitary cobæa seedling.

How in the world it ever happened to have started its career so late in the season I could not tell, but there it was all by itself and, though but a few inches high, it was as healthy a little plant as you would want to see.

So I decided upon an experiment. I dug it up with a good-sized ball of earth, taking care not to cut the tiniest rootlet, put it in an eight-inch pot and took it indoors.

It was placed in the sun parlor, which has an eastern and southern exposure, in a position where it could get all the sun possible and after that it was given exactly the same attention as my other house plants.

It got along beautifully from the very first and, while nothing like so rapid nor so robust in its growth as those raised outside, it was soon spreading its delicate tendrils in all directions and showed signs of wanting to take possession of the wall against which it was planted. Knowing that this vine likes even heat I am waiting rather eagerly to see what it will do in the way of bloom, for the room that contains it is afflicted with terrific temperature ups and downs.

THE BEAUTIFUL COBAEA.

The cobæa (cobæa scandens) to me is the most desirable of all annual climbers. Outdoors in my garden it makes a growth of 15 or 20 feet a season and during the latter part of the summer it is covered with its strange and beautiful blossoms. These resemble, somewhat, in shape the "cup and saucer" campanula, their odd characteristic being that they come out apple-green and gradually change to deep blue. There is also a white variety (alba).

The cobæa is rather exacting in its requirements; particularly must they be met in the method of planting seed. They object to being put to bed, as it were, on the flats of their backs, a fact it took me several years to learn. What they crave is to be thrust into the ground sidewise and covered with about an inch of soil, which should be light and rich.

To get strong plants ready for the open grounds during the first warm June days I plant them in my sun parlor any time in March, usually placing a pane of window glass over the seed box. Germination is virtually 100 per cent. if the seed is planted properly.

They demand plenty of moisture and after they are transplanted to individual pots light stakes are necessary to keep them from sprawling all over the place. Their final quarters are the sunniest spots of the garden.

There are a number of other annual climbers for which I have a marked preference because of their decorative and airy effect in background positions such as the moonflower, the cardinal climber, the canary-bird vine with its odd flowers, like miniature yellow orchids, the scarlet runner and the climbing nasturtium.

Egg Laying Trials.

The highest records at the various Canadian egg-laying trials are as follows:

Canadian National, 332 eggs, won by White Leghorn.

Vancouver Island, 327 eggs, won by White Leghorn.

Dominion, 291 eggs, won by Barred Plymouth Rock.

Prince Edward Island, 288 eggs, won by Barred Plymouth Rock.

Saskatchewan, 287 eggs, won by Barred Plymouth Rock.

Ontario, 284 eggs, tie, White Leghorn and Barred Plymouth Rock, each laying 284.

New Brunswick, 281 eggs, won by Barred Plymouth Rock.

Nova Scotia, 260 eggs, won by White Leghorn.

In eleven egg-laying trials held in Canada during 1925 there were 3,930 hens, and their average was 189 eggs each. There were among the 3,930 birds, 17 that laid over 300 eggs each.

Egg-laying competitions give the breeder an accurate line on what his stock will do in egg production. The real producers are singled out and used in the breeding pen for the propagation of a select race of egg producers. There is no one best breed or variety for egg production. Laying ability lies more in the strain or family than in the breed.

While modern poultry-keepers know how to get more eggs from their hens, these eggs have thinner shells than those laid under more natural circumstances.

THOUSANDS WELCOME WHITE EMPRESS

Over 10,000 people lined the coast at Vancouver to welcome the Canadian Pacific Empress of Canada, flagship of the Pacific fleet, when she steamed into her home port from the Orient recently, glistening in her new garb of white paint. She was escorted by several Canadian Government seaplanes.

The decision of the Canadian Pacific to make their entire Pacific fleet white has met with approval in the shipping world and also by passengers, with whom these giant trans-Pacific liners are popular. They will be known as the "White Empresses of the Pacific," and make a beautiful picture steaming through the blue waters of the Pacific.

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

Up to the Women's Institutes.

"If the steady exodus to the city is to be stopped, it will be up to the Institutes to do it," said Mrs. Wood of Brockville, emphasizing some of the fine work in education, immigration, health, and home economics at the Ottawa Women's Institutes Convention held last November.

An attempt to preserve the history of each county is to be made under the program of the Historical Research Committee through interviews with aged people and the preservation of relics and antiques and the encouragement of County Museums. A delightful visit to the Dominion Archives stimulated this resolve among the delegates.

Boosting the farm income and the means farm women were taking to do it, was dealt with by Mrs. H. Aitken of Beeton. Poultry raising, fruit growing, turkey pools, tea rooms, the right kind of tourist accommodation were some of the ways in which this was being done. One delicate young girl turned to turkey raising as a means of creating an income from out-of-door work. So successful were her efforts that her birds were this year rated highest in those sent to American markets. Another young Business College teacher opened a small school in her living room where she taught the farm young people typewriting, shorthand and business method, thus helping both herself and the boys and girls.

The Girls' Institutes told of how rest rooms, hospitals, and school boards as well as needy mothers and children had received active and practical aid during the year. Not only had they a dentist's talk for themselves on the care of the teeth at Delta Junior Branch but arranged with the school board for a dental inspection of the school children. These girls entertained the grandmothers, encouraging their ancestors by giving a prize to the youngest and another to the one with the most grandchildren.

Although a most successful Girls' Conference just concluded at Kemptville lessened the girl delegates' numbers, the Seniors felt the time devoted to their interests amply justified by the fresh youthful point of view they brought to the Convention. This was again touched on by Miss Emily Guest in a talk on "Backward, Around, Forward in Nation-building" when down through the generations was traced the part played loyally by women in building up this country. "We were happier then," said the old people, "when we were all the same in the woods and all helped each other, in self-contained homes where we grew and the women manufactured the clothing as well as did the housekeeping." Then came the era of brick and stone structures and the growth of towns, and the homemakers realized that the whole community had become the home and had to be made safe for the family.

To the girls of to-day, the women will hand on the trust for the future, girls whose young heads, hearts and hands were being trained for this responsibility through the Institutes.

The value of practical experience to the individual and the fact that the Institute is first and foremost an educational institution was never lost sight of and was specially stressed by the Superintendent when urging that the girls and young women of the community be given some responsibilities in the work of the Institute. "Twenty years ago when one mentioned the work of the Institutes, it was answered, "Oh, yes, that is where the women meet to exchange recipes." "That still held good," Mr. Putnam said, "though the Institutes of to-day have broadened into the most valuable channel through which Government Departments pour a stream of service to all the people. They co-operate with the Mothers' Allowance Board, hospitals, the care of neglected children, the Dominion and Provincial Immigration Departments, the Child Welfare and Health Departments, as well as local and community needs. This interest extended even to the international child when at a delightful luncheon at the Chateau Laurier, the delegates listened to Miss Charlotte Whitton tell how, as one of the greatest heritages of the war, the various countries of the world now placed chief importance on child welfare. "The question of social and child welfare has been lifted out of any spasmodic sphere up to a key department of the state's life," she said, "and the nations perceive it as one of the greatest economic considerations apart from the moral side." Italy and Poland, she learned this year at Geneva, realizing the evils of alcohol on child life, are seeking legislation to decrease the traffic.

A further study of Canada's place in the League of Nations came when Mr. Norman MacKenzie, Professor of International Law in Toronto University, gave an informative talk. Women, who were still bearing the burdens of a war which destroyed thousands of sons and mothers, had pleaded: "I did not raise my son to be a soldier, to kill some other mother's darling boy," and laid a burden of debt upon the people that consumed half the revenue. "In thinking internationally," he told his audience, "three questions forced themselves upon us. These were population, raw resources, rates. Italy and Japan claim they have not room for their people and ask if Canada has the right to spread over half a continent. Canada's raw resources are practically untapped. Europe wants to pool the resources of the world. The race question of the mixing of the white, yellow and black races is one we must face sooner or later. Such problems can only be solved by thinking internationally."

A very high note of idealism in service was also struck by President Mrs. Field Robertson and the Convention went on record as condemning the narcotic evil and asking the Department of Education to distribute literature and give regular instruction as to its evils in curriculums of schools and colleges.

Equal franchise with farmers' sons in municipal elections was also asked for farmers' daughters, a stricter observance of the Lord's Day, systematic training in vocal music for country schools, and legislation for the further care of the feeble-minded were some of the other things asked for by the Convention.

The consideration of improved agriculture reached its climax in the humorous and pithy address of Mr. Elford of the Ottawa Experimental Farm who explained the whole working of these farms and the expert service that might be had just for the asking, while he paid a warm tribute, as did the whole Convention, to the work of the Superintendent, Mr. Putnam, in his administration of the Departmental services from Toronto.

Save the Lambs.

Every reasonable effort should be made to save the lamb crop. Much trouble and loss can be avoided by having the ewes in proper condition.

If the lambs come on grass usually very little special attention is required. If, however, they are lambed in the sheepfold prior to turning out, the ewes should be watched closely until each lamb has nursed, after which very little individual attention should be required. It is very essential that an attendant be on watch for lambs which are born during the night.

A few small portable pens about 4 x 4 feet should be provided to isolate each ewe with her lamb for thirty-six to forty-eight hours after lambing, especially if they come during the cold spell or in case for any reason the ewe fails to own her lamb promptly.

Light panels provided with hooks and eyes can be hooked together and placed along the wall as needed.

After the lambs begin to come, special attention should be given to bedding the pens, clean dry beds being provided at all time. No considerable depth of manure should be allowed to accumulate underneath the bed, as the ammonia fumes generated therein will cause sore eyes and retard the development of the lambs.

The creep should be provided, where the lambs may have access to a grain mixture and hay which cannot be reached by the ewes. Equal parts of cracked corn, crushed oats and bran constitute a good mixture for this purpose. It is surprising how much faster the lambs will develop when this plan is adopted.

A good supply of fresh water should be available at all times. This is especially important after the lambs begin to come, as the ewes are in a more or less fevered condition and will consume much more water. Lack of it will retard the milk flow.

If the lambs come before the ewes have been sheared, any loose tags around the udder or flanks should be clipped off. The lambs seem to crave this wool. It forms wool balls in the stomach which are almost certain to be fatal.

At from two to four weeks of age the lambs should be docked, and the male lambs not selected for breeding should be castrated. The docking can perhaps be best performed by the use of a hot docking pincher. Lambs docked and castrated do better, present a better appearance and sell for more money.—H. L. G.

What We Use on the Farm.

To obtain information relating to the value of products which are furnished by the farm to the farm family a careful investigation was made on 38 farms in one county. The items included dairy and poultry produce, meats, flour, vegetables, fruits, fuel and house rent. The farm value of these products averaged $578.59 per farm. The city value of the same products, that is, if purchased on the city market for the home, was $1,203.97. These figures provide a sidelight on how much more it costs to live in the city than on a farm. The investigation also revealed the fact that some farms were purchasing at city prices what they should be producing in the home garden. A thrifty farm family, making full use of its opportunities on the land, can keep the home going with luxuries that people living in town on moderate incomes seldom see. We often neglect to credit the farm for what it does, and some people on the land fail to take full measure of the opportunities that the land on which the live offers them.