

## THE ART OF CHICKEN-RAISING.

Work at Government Experimental Stations Proving Satisfactory.

Mr. F. C. Hare, poultry expert for the Department of Agriculture, has just returned to Ottawa from an official trip to the eastern provinces, where he visited the poultry stations at Truro, N. S., and Bondville, Que. At both these places, as well as at Whitby, experiments are being made with three lots of chickens, numbering from 250 to 350. Herebefore the experiments conducted by the department have been confined to fattening, but this year the stations are engaged in raising chickens, and watching them day by day from the time they leave the incubator until they are four months old, when they go into the fattening crates and are kept there one month, when they are ready to be killed and marketed. The cost of the experiments will be noted, so that the profit may be ascertained.

These chickens are being fed on skim milk and ground oats, and a little blood meal, the whole making a very rich food. By this treatment a chicken weighing one and a quarter ounces when hatched has in three weeks reached eight ounces, and in five months, five or six pounds. The experiments are being tried at between Wyandottes and Rocks in order to judge the respective merits of the two varieties.

## Scientific View of Wrecks.

It is a belief common among sailors that a wreck never goes to the bottom; that it sinks until the pressure of the water holds it fast, and there, rocking about in the shadowy depths, it slowly dissolves. What food for the imagination lies in this fleet of the lost navies of the world, still floating up and down in the deep, meeting and passing in silence, no voice ever calling through the dark, no sail ever rising to a breeze. Kipling has voiced this idea in one of his poems:

"The wrecks dissolve above us; their dust drops down from afar—  
Down to the dark, the utter dark,  
Where the blind white sea snakes are."

It is unfortunate, however, that the poetic view is not the scientific view.

"Anything that will sink in a glass of water," says Sir John Murray, the eminent Canadian scientist, "will practically sink to the bottom of the deepest sea."

Murray points out that water is one of the most incompressible of substances; (water can be compressed only one twenty thousandth of its bulk) that although the pressure may be enormous at the ocean bottom, the water is only a very little more dense than at the surface. And yet the compression is sufficient, so that if it were suddenly released, say by the suspension of the attraction of gravitation, and all the water over all the globe should expand until it was of the same density as the surface water, the oceans would instantly rise some 500 feet, covering practically all the inhabited land in the world.

## Canada's New Biological Laboratory.

The new Biological Laboratory, for conducting researches into fish life in the inland waters of Canada, will be located on an island off the east shore of Georgian Bay, about 20 miles from Midland. On the mainland, close at hand, is the holiday abode of the Madawaski Club, an organization formed of scientists from Toronto University. These gentlemen will carry on the work at the laboratory, under conditions to be drawn up by Prof. Prince of the Fisheries Department. Near the site of the laboratory is a small enclosed lake, adapted to the breeding of black bass and pickerel. A meteorological observatory, ten feet by fourteen feet, will be one of the best features of the station. The laboratory itself will be 14 by 14 feet, and there will be a tank-room and fish hatchery 14 feet by 20 feet.

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## The Bee as a Barometer.

Such should be the title of these lines, for whoever observes these interesting insects finds it easy enough to foretell exactly the kind of weather to be expected. At least that is the opinion of many raisers of bees.

Generally the bee stays at home when rain is in the air. When the sky is simply dark and cloudy these busy workers do not leave their dwelling all at once. A few go out first, as though the queen had sent out messengers to study the state of the atmosphere. The greater number in observation until the clouds begin to dissipate, and it is only then that the battalions entire rush out in search of their nectar. A bee never goes out in a fog, simply because it is well aware that dampness and cold are too fearsome, redoubtable enemies. We do not mean, however, that the bee is a meteorologist in the absolute sense of the word. Its cleverness consists in never being taken unawares, for it possesses untiring vigilance. Often one may observe the hidden entrance of bees into the hive when a dense cloud hides the sun, and even though the rain is not in evidence.

## First Printing Press in Canada.

Nothing, except in barest outline, is known of the men who had the honor of setting up the first printing press in Canada. Their names are William Brown and Thomas Gilmour. In 1763 they came from Philadelphia to Quebec with the idea of starting a newspaper, but the difficulties in the way were so many and arduous that it was a full year before the attempt came to anything. All material—ink, paper, the press itself—had to be imported from England, and skilled labor did not exist. Overcoming all obstacles, however, the first number of The Quebec Gazette appeared on the 21st of June, 1763, with one hundred and fifty subscribers, and from that day Canada was never without a newspaper.

## Zorra's Gift to Dr. Mackay.

This incident of the late Rev. Dr. Mackay, of Formosa, is told by a correspondent of The London Advertiser: "I had the pleasure of being acquainted with Dr. Mackay some years ago. He preached for us in St. Mary's Presbyterian Church about 30 years ago. He also spoke of his intention of going out as a missionary to the heathen in Formosa, where he soon after went. He was always a man of great earnestness and his heart was always in his work. On one occasion, when building a church he sent home to Zorra township for \$5,000, and without apology demanded that it be sent at once. The amount was made up and sent by return mail."

## Paper Wood.

Paper wood is as hard as wood itself, is susceptible of brilliant treatment, is vastly lighter, perfectly adjustable and absolutely fireproof. The erection of skyscrapers necessitated a very serious study of fireproofing treatment of wood, and the result is that paper is coming very largely into use in all cases where woodwork has to be used. It is particularly adaptable for ceilings and is becoming popular for that purpose.

## A Former Rescue.

The recent attempted escape of Rice, Jones and Rutledge is not without a precedent, says The Toronto World. Some 24 years ago during the regime of Sheriff Jarvis a prisoner by the name of Tom Kelly, was being transferred from the court, where he had just been sentenced to six years' imprisonment for burglary, to the jail. At that time, as at the present, a hack was used to convey prisoners back and forth. With Kelly in the hack were two constables, but neither of them were armed. At almost the same spot on Gerrard street, where the recent fatality occurred, Kelly succeeded in breaking the handcuffs with which he was fastened, and committed a murderous assault on one of the guards. He jumped from the hack and escaped. A search was instituted, but, despite all their efforts, he could not be located. Some 14 years after this he returned and gave himself up. He was imprisoned, but, on looking up his past career, it was found that he had given up his life of crime and was a prosperous citizen of the United States. He was pardoned and returned to the States.

## The Newest Woman.

There is no longer any question of what women may do, but only of what they may not do, and there is not much left for them to usurp. Woman now does everything that man does, and she does it as nearly like him as possible. That, in fact, is the special mark of the present-day woman, from "Society" down to comfortable Suburbia. A horse woman was once somewhat of an oddity; now women are all horsey, golfy, bikey, literary, nursely, and ping-pongy—all or one of these things, the more the better pleased.

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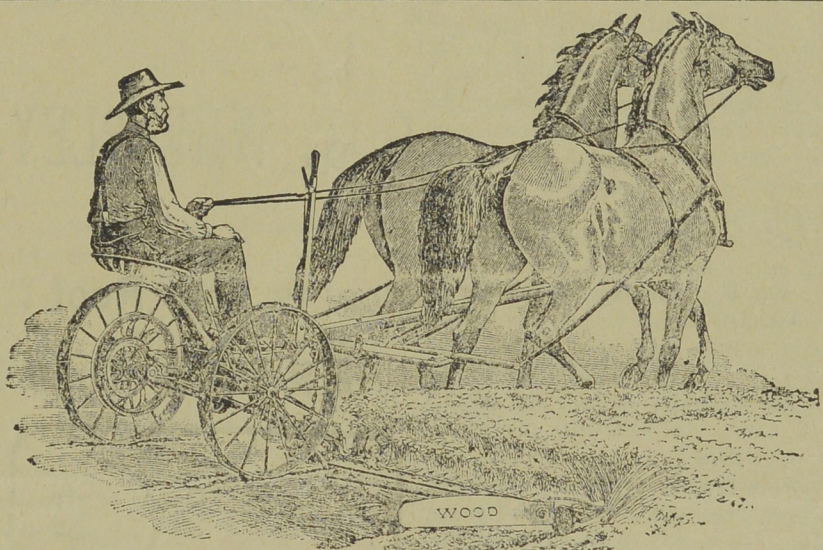
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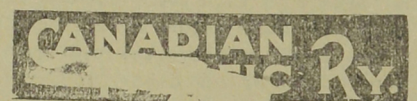
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