

VINELAND WEATHER.

Storms of high wind, furious rain and deep snows and raging rivers, are reported from all over the west coast, and from the foot hills and plateaus of the Inland Empire, from the Palouse, the Big Bend and all the high prairies. Yet in the warm sheltered Vineland, down in Lewiston valley the weather is still mild (Nov. 20). There has been no snow, though we can see it on the distant hills all around. We have had plenty of rain and cloudy weather, but out-door work has not been stopped except for a few hours at a time. This morning we picked fresh roses and pansies in the gardens. Yet this is an unusually cold and wet autumn. We usually find rose buds in January and February. In four years the severest cold has been three and one-half degrees below zero. I could not endure the harsh climate of the East, but here have been well and strong all the time.

Perhaps it will interest your readers to know that one Vinelander, Mr. C. C. Gregg, grew fine sweet potatoes that paid him at the rate of \$504 per acre. Another one, A. J. Sherborn, raised two tons of onions on one-eighth of an acre, worth at present at the rate of \$580 per acre, and the price in the spring is always a half to three or four times higher. White potatoes pay \$200 per acre. These crops are grown among the young trees, and are an effectual answer to the query as to what one can grow while the orchards are maturing. Peanuts have been tried this year with success and will be largely grown next season. The young peach, cherry, pear, plum and other trees have made a strong growth this first year of three to six and eight feet. Our grape vines have made a strong growth, and in several instances have borne good bunches of fruit, though only set last spring.

E. R. WINDUS, Secretary Vineland Horticultural Society.

WINTER FEEDING FOR EGGS.

S. M. Shipley, Seattle, Wash.

It is not always possible to prescribe a diet that will compel egg production; yet it is a mistake to feed in the manner that is usual on the farm. First, we must have a good dry shed with plenty of floor space for scratching. Then scatter plenty of litter on the floor. Tons of straw are annually wasted on the farm. Give some of it to the hens. If the floor of their quarters is kept covered twelve to fifteen inches deep, so much the better. For morning feed I prefer a hot mash; not a thin porridge, but mixed as dry and stiff as possible. It is preferable to let it stand and steam for a couple of hours. At least two or three times a week this should be composed of one-half cooked vegetables with bran and shorts or ground feed of some kind, mixed with milk if possible. On other mornings use one-third corn meal, or, if that is not at hand, substitute ground wheat and oats, with a few handfuls of oilcake, mixed with bran and shorts in about equal parts. Meat scraps may be added two or three times a week with good results. During cold weather use more corn, and in warmer seasons a greater quantity of bran, dropping the corn out entirely. When possible set the mixture over the fire the evening before, let it cook slowly and then warm it up before feeding.

Now come the "don'ts." Don't feed too much of the mixture. Don't feed it by throwing it on the ground. Don't leave any of it in the troughs after the birds are through eating; in fact, learn just how much they will eat up clean, and then afterwards give them a little less than that amount. A good plan is to nail a six-inch board to the wall of the shed with the lower edge in contact with the wall and the upper four or five inches out from the wall, which forms the back. This will make a suitable feed trough that the birds are not so liable to get into with their feet. None of the feed is wasted and it is kept clean. As a rule I do not approve of midday feeding, but circumstances must govern. If the farmer is feeding stock to fatten for market and the hens have the run of the place so as to pick up the waste, or in good weather have run of fields and barn yards, no noon feed is desirable. If the hens are confined, which is preferable in stormy weather, it will be found better to feed a little more scantily in the morning and then about 11 or even earlier to scatter in the straw on the floor or the scratching shed a few handfuls of wheat or oats, thus offering inducements for them to labor. Thrift in the scratching pen means eggs in the basket every time. But don't overdo a good thing; too much feed will make fat and fat hens won't lay. Keep them all day with enough appetite to eagerly search after more feed. Scratch, scratch, scratch means eggs, eggs, eggs. Then at night feed just what they will eat up clean of whole grain. It is better to give them this last feed early enough in the day so that they will have time sufficient be-

fore dark to hunt after and secure a full crop of the grain before roosting time. It is better to never put enough before them to enable them to fill their crops before this last feeding. The best plan is to make them hustle for everything they get during the day after the morning feed. I mean to feed a plenty, but not to overdo it. Then don't neglect supplying their runs with plenty of clear water, sharp, clean gravel and broken shells or crockery pounded up fine enough to eat. Also provide them with sufficient dust baths. Then after all this if you do not get winter eggs it is because your hens are no good or you have too many lice, either equally objectionable. Remember, it is the young, healthy, vigorous hen that lays the winter egg. Therefore, don't feed any centennial eggless hens and expect results; neither is it necessary or profitable to sustain a swarm of lice. Again, the daily ration depends much upon the variety of fowls. The larger breeds require less of the more fattening foods. While a largely corn diet may, and usually does, have a tendency to produce fat instead of eggs with Plymouth Rocks and other large birds, still my experience with Leghorns convinces me that with the smaller fowls more corn than wheat is desirable, particularly in cold weather. Many persons may think all this routine too much red tape, but, friends, try it one winter and then see if you desire to go back to the old method of a handful or two of wheat morning and night, with no regard for variety of fowls or measuring quantity fed. Once adopt systematic feeding and you will never abandon the method, and it is not so laborious as it sounds. It is winter egg production that pays, and the best and most improved methods with thoroughbred hens one to two years old will produce the desired results.

The Washington State Immigration Association is this week sending out from its office at Seattle two tons of choice literature regarding the resources of this state. This information is of the practical, matter-of-fact kind, that can be depended upon, and the immigrants who will be induced to come out from the East to make their homes among us will have no disappointments in finding unexpected shortcomings of our country. The state board is making every effort to induce to locate here people of the progressive, intelligent sort, who will not be a burden upon the community, but become wealth producers—the kind that make good citizens and strengthen our statehood.

GIBBS' LOCK-LEVER POST-HOLE DIGGER

THE LOCK-LEVER



This cut represents a long felt want as a labor-saving device for

DIGGING POST-HOLES

on the ranch, or for putting in telephone poles. As a labor saver it has no equal. One man with this tool can do as much work as three men could the old way.

AGENTS wanted in every county in Washington, Idaho and Montana.

For information, address

J. L. MYERS,

General Manager

1106 Pacific Avenue,

TACOMA, WASH.

WOOL GROWERS, DEALERS and OWNERS OF SHEEP

WE PAY PROMPT CASH FOR

Sheep - Pelts - and - Wool

WOOL SACKS FURNISHED IF DESIRED

SEATTLE WOOLEN MILL CO., - Seattle, Wash.