SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XI.—DECEMBER 14, 1913.

The Sin of Achan.—Josh. 7:1-26.

Commentary.—I. The defeat at Ai (vs. 1-5). It was not known outside of Achan's household that God's command respected the utter "devotion" of the inhabitants and goods of Jericho had been violated, but God noted Achan's sin, and there was no more victory for Israel until that sin had been searched out and punished. It was with a confidence born of success that the spies reported that a small army would be sufficient to take Ai, Israel's next point of attack. This city lay toward the interior of Canaan and was important as a centre from which Israel might continue the subjugation of the land. The ease with which the men of Ai put to rout the three thousand armed men of Israel, sent against them, was an encouragement to the former, but it brought consternation to Israel, who could not understand why God's people should thus suffer defeat, when the promise had been given that they should possess the land.

II. Joshua's appeal to God (vs. 6-16). 6. Joshua rent his clothes—The blow of Israel's defeat fell with almost crushing force upon Joshua. The rending of one's garment indicated deep grief. Fell to the earth upon his face—In token of the deepest humiliation. Before the ark of the Lord—The ark of the covenant was the symbol of the divine presence. The lid of the ark constituted the mercy seat. Here Joshua made his appeal to God. Elders—The chief men of Israel. Put dust upon their heads—This was a mode of expressing great sorrow. 7. Wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan—Joshua had not lost his faith in God, but he was in deep distress and could not understand the situation. The Amorites—inhabitants of the mountains. Probably Ai belonged to the people. To destroy us—From human appearances the Israelites were likely to be destroyed. On the other side Jordan—At the time it seemed to Joshua that an abode on the east of Jordan with comparative peace was better than to undertake to possess Canaan in the face of powerful opposition. 8. What shall I say—Joshua could not understand why God's covenant people had turned "their backs before their enemies," and he could not explain the mysteries to those who were unfriendly to his people. 9. Hear of it—The report of Israel's defeat would naturally give their enemies confidence. Environ us round—Surround us. Cut off our name—Joshua feared that Israel's enemies would make a combined attack and wholly destroy the nation. Thy great name—In the midst of his distress Joshua was jealous for the honor of Jehovah. He poured out his very soul in his appeal to God, and his cry reached the ears of Jehovah.

[illegible] thee up—God did not speak in a rebuke, but as an intimation that he had grieved long enough, and the mystery was about to be explained. [illegible] individual had sinned, but it was the nation's sin until it was brought to light and punished. Transgressed my covenant—The people had declared that they would be obedient to God's commands (Exod. 19: 8; 24: 7), and upon their keeping the covenant depended the blessings that God had promised. Taken of the accursed thing—That which had been consecrated had been appropriated to private use. Stolen—Theft had been committed. Dissembled—Lying and deception had been practised. 12. Therefore—For the reason just mentioned Israel had suffered defeat at the hands of God's enemies. They were accursed—The curse was upon Israel because of their sin. Except ye destroy the accursed from among you—If the people chose to cover up the sin, they could not expect God's presence and help; but if they would remove the occasion of his displeasure, his former promise would be fulfilled. The guilty must be punished.

13. Up—There must be no delay. Sanctify the people—Joshua's first duty was to promulgate the order that the people prepare themselves to appear before the Lord. Sanctify yourselves—The people must wash themselves and their garments and complete all other observations necessary to their ceremonial purification. Against to-morrow—In preparation for the events of the following day. Accursed thing ..... O Israel—Joshua was to make a public announcement of the act already revealed to him, that there was sin in the camp. Thou canst not stand before thine enemies—Israel's warriors were the same in numbers, skill and equipment before they moved against Ai as when they entered upon the conquest of Canaan, but the Lord ceased to fight for them when the "accursed thing" came to exist. 11. According to your tribes—It is likely that representatives of all the tribes were to be brought before Joshua, that the Lord might declare the one in which was the transgression. The tribe which the Lord taketh—The word "taketh" is the word used for making decisions by the sacred lot. This mode of making choices is mentioned frequently in the scriptures (I. Sam. 14: 42; Jonah 1: 7; Acts 1: 24-26). One way of doing this was to place white pebbles with one black one in a sack and let the proper persons each draw out one. This mode of procedure "recommends itself as a sort of appeal to the Almighty, free from all influence of passion or bias." Families ....households.... man by man—The tribes were divided into great groups or families, and the families were made up of households. The guilty tribe having been found, the sin was to be located in a family; and the households of the family in which the wrongs existed were to be examined. This sifting process was to continue until the guilty persons were designated. 15. Shall be burnt with fire—The body was to be burned after it became lifeless from stoning. The Mosaic mode of execution was by stoning, and not by burning alive. He and all that he hath—The possessions of the people of Jericho were to be burned, and as Achan had become accursed by his sin, he was to be burned with all his possessions. Folly—An expressive term for sin. In the margin the word is "wickedness."

III. Achan's sin revealed and punished (vs. 16-26.) Joshua faithfully followed the directions given him by the Lord, and the sin was located in the tribe of Judah, in the family of the Zarhites and in the household of Zabdi, Achan being the guilty man. The name Achan means trouble, or troubler. His confession declared that the temptation was great, as he saw the wealth of Jericho, and he carried away and hid a costly garments and about four hundred dollars in value of gold and silver. The penalty was quickly executed. The narrative does not make it exactly clear whether the members of Achan's family were slain, but if they were, there is no doubt that they were associated with him in his sin. Thus the curse was removed from Israel and they conquered Ai. Thenceforth they went forward victoriously.

Questions.—What was the second city which Israel attempted to conquer in Canaan? Give the circumstances of the attack. What was the cause of the defeat of Israel's army? Describe Joshua's feelings and his appeal to God. What did the Lord tell Joshua to do? Tell how the guilty person was located. What punishment was inflicted? How could the Israelites sanctify themselves? What success did the Israelites have in attacking Ai after the sin of Achan was discovered and punished?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Transgression in Israel.

I. Arrested the nation's progress.

II. Was openly detected and punished.

I. Arrested the nation's progress. Immediately after the taking of Jericho, Israel found themselves suddenly arrested in their career of conquest. Their advance guard suffered a humiliating defeat by the inhabitants of Ai, Joshua was driven almost to despair by that defeat, because it seemed to doom the army of Israel to feebleness and failure by the withdrawal of the presence and power of God. He lamented the dishonor which would be affixed to the name of Jehovah when the fact of Israel's defeat was known. Nothing had disturbed the ordinary routine of the camp until that reverse. Joshua had made no allowance for defeat. His confidence was fixed in the divine presence and power and promise. He gave himself no rest until he got to the root of the matter. The God of Israel was still in the sanctuary of his people, though an accursed thing was in the camp. Notwithstanding its concealment, God saw Achan's sin and arranged a series of events by which, in the most impressive manner, there might be immediate detection and adequate punishment. The welfare of Israel was affected by that individual transgression. One man spoiled the unity, the success of Israel. If God had not interposed, Israel's history as a successful people would have came to a close with that event. They were again made to realize how entirely dependent they were upon divine aid. The sin of Achan was more formidable than the men of Ai. The possession of his treasure was itself a trouble. He brought death upon the innocent countrymen. He brought the keenest distress and humiliation upon Joshua and the whole congregation. The hand of God had been clearly manifest in the capture of Jericho, and the dedication of the spoil to him was an acknowledgment of his supreme power. Under the specific condition of not appropriating the spoil, the victory had been granted.

II. Was openly detected and punished. The sovereignty which God was asserting over the Canaanites could suffer no dishonor among his own people. God chose to give all Israel a salutary warning, as though Achan's sin was indicative of a spirit of insubordination or of selfish greed among the people, which would have utterly subverted the divine purpose, if it had not been sternly rebuked at the beginning. If Achan's trespass had been connived by Joshua and the elders, it would have been considered a national sin. The penalty was terrible, but the moral exigencies of the time demanded it. The divine displeasure at sin was not a new lesson to Israel. The war against the idolatrous people of Palestine was not to degenerate into pillage. Achan's sin was committed immediately after all Israel had solemnly renewed their dedication to God in the ordinances of circumcision and the Passover. It was committed, though God had declared that the person who should be found guilty of such a sin would be accursed. The sin included disobedience, theft, deceit, ingratitude and impiety. The discovery of Achan's sin was made under divine direction. It was undertaken most solemnly as a religious act, with judicial calmness and religious reverence. The uneasiness which followed Achan's transgression far outweighed any pleasure he could have derived from it. Under the stern discipline of the old covenant the guilty man perished with his unlawful prey. Achan was prepared to acknowledge the sin he had committed and to direct in the restoration of what he had stolen. His confession was as full as it was free. Joshua uttered no harsh words. He dealt with the criminal as with a son, with no extortion of a confession from unwilling lips. Not until the wedge of gold, the silver and the garment were brought and solemnly laid before the Lord and the congregation as proof of Achan's sin, was judgment pronounced. So swift a retribution would act as a warning to the Israelites. The real enemy of God's people was inner corruption, and that God determined to arrest.

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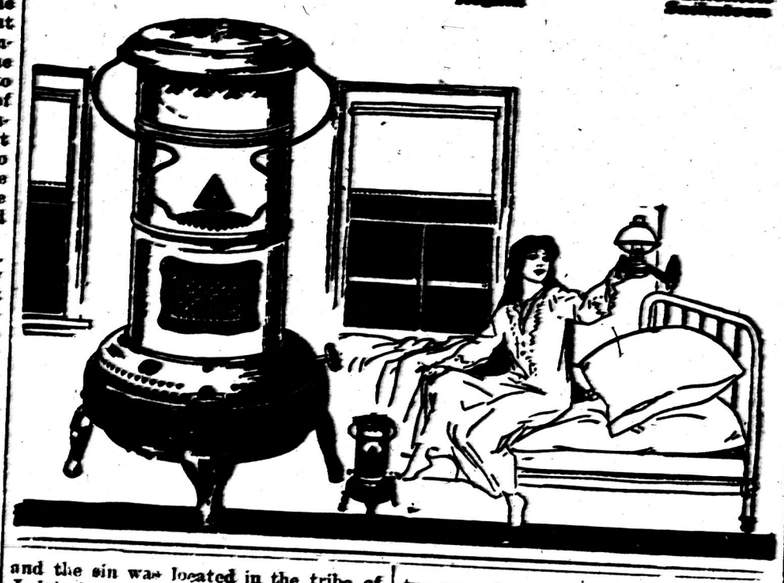

FARM AND GARDEN

CARE OF THE ORCHARD.

An orchard properly kept will be productive of probably greater returns than the same money and labor expended in any other branch of farming.

Tillage can be overdone as well as neglected. Possible errors are in too frequent tillage and carrying it too late into the season.

The largest and best grown of the trees should be made during the forepart of the season. When cultivation is continued until late in the season and at frequent intervals, as in the spring, the trees will not have ripened their wood or had sufficient time to prepare themselves for living through severe winters.

It is as important that we check the results of tillage, therefore, at this time of the year, as it was to utilize it in the spring.

In order to prevent the soil from washing, to mulch the ground and hence protect the roots in winter, to check excessive growth, to mature the wood, and, when plowed under, to give plant food and humus to the soil, a cover crop should be sown in the orchard. This should be done at the last cultivation, which is usually at the maximum growth near midsummer.

There are two kinds of cover crops. The one has the power of securing nitrogen from the air, and is known as a leguminous crop; and the other is not capable of doing so.

To the leguminous crops belong beans, peas, clovers and vetch. To the cover crop that is unable to obtain nitrogen from the air belong cereals or grains, such as oats, rye, corn, buckwheat, etc.

While from a standpoint of plant food cereals are not so valuable, they do hold the snow in winter, and by rotting on the ground, or plowed under, they improve the physical condition of the soil. An excess of nitrogen in an orchard has a tendency to produce growth rather than fruitfulness, and therefore is considered detrimental. A young orchard, however, require plenty of growth, and therefore a leguminous crop is most valuable.

To renovate an old orchard the soil should be broken up in the spring, and then, after being well prepared, should be planted to dwarf peas of bush beans, in rows. This will permit frequent cultivation, and the pods pay well for the labor spent. After the crop is gathered the vines should be ployed under and the land sown to some other crop. This same treatment should be repeated annually until the orchard is in good condition.

To intelligently feed fruit trees, it should be ascertained what the soil is capable of doing for them. If assistance is required, it must be given. A soil may be deficient in potash, or in phosphoric acid, or in nitrogen. If the trees are making quick growth, and the foliage has a deep green color, and the wood natures, it is evidence that nothing further need be done. But if there is a sluggish growth, and the foliage turns yellowish, the trees are not receiving sufficient food. In case the soil is not mellow and friable, it should be made so. A lumpy, coarse soil can be improved by growing some cover crop, as cowpeas, or rye, or by the use of barnyard manures, which should be plowed under in spring.

While working about the trees in spring a few handfuls of ground bone and wood ashes spread about the roots and worked in with a hand implement will be found beneficial.

It frequently happens that orchards, upon reaching bearing age, are growing too fast, showing little inclination to fruit. This is largely caused by the presence of too much nitrogen. To remedy this condition, the orchard should either not be cultivated for a season, or, if cultivated, a non-nitrogenous cover crop should be sown, and fertilizers applied that contain only potash and phosphoric acid. When the trees begin to bear, these latter ingredients are heavily drawn on.

For bearing orchards, commercial fertilizers are frequently used. In rich soils the results of their use is quite marked, but for young trees in comparatively poor soil, commercial fertilizers are not as valuable as good barnyard manures.

An excess of nitrogen is to be avoided, as it has the tendency of growing wood rather than fruit. The potash and one-half the phosphoric acid may be applied in the fall, but the remainder should be applied in spring. It is generally conceded that potash is the most important constituent, as fruits withdraw much larger quantities of it than they do of nitrogen or phosphoric acid.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

Like all other animal manures, that from the fowl varies in richness according to the food it eats. The average manure of a well-fed fowl contains of moisture 75.3 per cent.; organic matter, 18.5, and of mineral matter, 6.2 per cent. As fowls' manure is invariably more useful when dried, an analysis of a lot which had been lying in a heap to dry before using gave the following result: Nitrogen, 13.4 per cent.; equivalent to ammonia, 16.3 per cent.; equivalent to calcium phosphate, 6.7 per cent. It is evident that fowls' manure contains a high proportion of nitrogenous matter, but a smaller quantity of phosphates than is found in guano. The latter generally contains about 10 per cent. of phosphates and yields from 6 to 8 per cent ammonia.

Bad flavors in butter are often caused by feeding. The wild onion or garlic in the pastures will do it, as everybody knows, and so will musty fodder, spoiled ensilage and other similarly damaged foods. Turnips, potatoes and roots, if fed before or during milking will also be apt to produce the flavor. The danger from this kind of food can easily be obviated by feeding after milking.

The average value of small fruits will approximate $82 per acre: vegetables, $42 per acre; tree fruits, $84, or a general average of $64 per acre, while of other farm crops the general average is less than $20 per acre.

The age to wean pigs is six to twelve weeks. If the sows are to be re-bred at once, the pigs should be weaned at eight or nine weeks of age. If one litter per year only be planned, the pigs may be allowed to run with the sow until twelve or fourteen weeks of age.

FOREST RESERVES

New Regulations For Live Stock Grazing

In case of many applications for grazing Forest Reserves, which rently went into force, make full provision for the grazing of live stock on such reserves as frequently contain considerable areas of grass-land. The method to be followed is similar to that in successful operation on the national forests in the United States. The number and kind of stock to be admitted into each reserve is determined each year by the Director of Forestry according to the capacity of the reserve.

The New regulations for Dominion ing rights on any one reserve, the number of stock which any one person is entitled to pasture is fixed by a "grazing unit," based on the number of stock which can be carried during the winter by a homestead or small ranch, the object being to give settlers without large grazing areas of their own the same facilities as those which have such areas. But, where there is danger of over-grazing, the number of stock grazed by any one person on a reserve may considerably exceed this "grazing unit."

Application for grazing permits must be on special forms and should be made to the director or local forest officer before the first of March. Small resident farmers who are dependent on the forest reserve for range for their stock receive first consideration. The Director of Forestry fixes the dues for grazing permits for each forest reserve, but the minimum dues for cattle or horses are to be five cents per head per month, and the maxium dues are to be ten cents per head per month. The rate of dues charged for sheep is to me one-fourth that charged for cattle.

Previous to these regulations only actual settlers living in the vicinity were permitted to graze cattle (not to exceed fifty head) on these reserves, and very little grazing was done. But these new regulations permit the grazing of a much larger number of stock owners, and also make available to the Dominion forest service a source of revenue second only to that derived from the management of the timber on these reserves.

GNAWED BY RATS

Gruesome Discovery In Toronto Home.

Toronto despatch: Her body apparently chewed up by rats, so that it was almost unrecognizable, Mrs. Andrews, widow of Captain Andrews, the blind life-saver, was found this morning on the kicthen floor at her home at 145 Bleecker street. The woman had not been seen for weeks, and the police were asked to investigate. A door was forced and the woman found dead. Mail dated Nov. 14 was found at the front door and never opened, showing that the woman had been dead at least four weeks.

This morning Walter Booth was found dead in the kitchen at 56 Robinson street, with the gas stove turned on full. He had visited friends there, and as they had no other place they gave him a lounge to sleep on in the kitchen. They found him dead this morning.

A scientist has advanced the theory that the older a man grows the smaller his brain becomes. This may explain why an eighteen-year-old boy knows more than his father.—Dayton Journal.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

LIVE STOCK.

UNION STOCK YARDS.

Receipts were liberal especially of cattle and sheep.

166 cars, 2,205 cattle, 1,712 hogs, 2,456 sheep and lambs, 396 calves.

CATTLE—The quality of fat cattle was better than last week and prices were from 15c to 25c per cwt., higher for the good grades.

Choice Butchers' steers	$8 00	to	$8 25
Good Butchers' steers	7 75	to	8 00
Medium Butchers' steers	7 50	to	7 60
Common Butchers' steers	6 50	to	7 00
Choice Butchers' heifers	7 75	to	8 25
Common Butchers' heifers	7 50	to	7 75
Choice cows	6 75	to	7 00
Good cows	6 00	to	6 75
Canners	5 50	to	5 75
Bulls	7 50	to	8 50

FEEDING AND STOCKERS—There was a strong demand for good quality feeders.

Choice steers	$6 40	to	$6 70
Medium steers	6 00	to	6 25
Stockers, 500 to 800 lbs	5 25	to	6 00

MILKERS AND SPRINGERS at $60 to $100 each; bulk sold at $70 to $85 each.

CALVES—Market firm at steady prices. Choice Veals, $9 to 10.50; good $8 to $8; medium, $7 to $8; common $5 to $6.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Lambs sold at about 10c to 15c per cwt. lower values.

Sheep	$5 00	to	$6 00
Culls and Rams	3 50	to	4 50
Lambs, choice, ewes and wethers	8 25	to	8 60

HOGS—Prices for hogs were unchanged.

Selected fed and watered, $8.60 and $8.25 f. o. b.; cars, and $8.85 weighed off cars.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Dressed hogs, heavy	10 25	11 00
Do., light	11 00	12 25
Butter, dairy, lb.	0 30	0 32
Eggs, dozen	0 55	0 65
Chiskens, lb.	0 18	0 20
Fowl, lb.	0 13	0 14
Ducks, lb	0 16	0 17
Turkeys, lb.	0 22	0 24
Geese, lb.	0 15	0 16
Apples, bl.	2 50	4 00
Potatoes, bag	1 00	1 10
Beef, forequarters, cwt.	9 75	10 50
Do., hindquarters, cwt.	13 50	14 50
Do., choice sides, cwt.	1 50	12 00
Do., medium, cwt.	10 00	11 25
Do., common, cwt.	9 00	10 50
Mutton, light, cwt.	9 00	11 00
Veal, common, cwt.	11 50	12 00
Do., prime, cwt.	13 00	14 00
Lamb, cwt.	14 50	15 50

SUGAR MARKET.

Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per cwt., as follows:

Extra granulated, St. Lawrence	$4 50
Do. do. Redpath's	4 50
Do. do. Acadia	4 45
Beaver granulated	4 45
No. 1 yellow	4 35

In barrels, 5c per cwt. more; car lots, 5c less.

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG GRAIN OPTIONS.

Wheat—	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Dec.	0 83⅛	0 94	0 83¼	0 84
May	0 89⅝	0 90	0 88½	0 89
July	0 90¼	0 90⅝	0 90¼	0 90⅝
Oats—				
Dec.	0 33¾	0 35	0 33⅜	0 34
May	0 37⅞	0 38⅝	0 37¾	0 38¼
Flax—				
Dec.	1 18¼	1 20	1 19¼	1 20
May	1 25½	1 26⅜	1 25½	1 26⅜

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.

Duluth.—Close: Wheat—No. 1 hard, 87 3-8c; No. 1 northern, 86 3-8c; No. 2 do., 84 3-4c to 84 7-8c; Montana, No. 2 hard, 85 7-8c; Dec., 84 5-8c; May, 88 3-8c.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Minneapolis.—Close: Wheat—Dec., 84c; May, 87 3-4c to 87 7-8c; No. 1 hard, 87 3-8c; No. 1 northern, 85 3-8c to 86 7-8c; No. 2 do., 83 3-8c to 84 7-8c; No. 3 wheat, 81 3-8c to 82 7-8c.

No. 3 yellow corn, 64c to 66 1-2c.

No. 3 white oats, 38c to 38 1-4c.

Flour and bran, unchanged.

LONDON WOOL SALES.

London.—The wool auction sales were continued to-day, with offerings of 10,836 bales. Good merinos continued firm, with the continent free buyers, but the other grades were irregular and easier to obtain at the opening level. The sales follow: New South Wales, 2,600 bales; scoured, 1s 2 1-2d to 2s 2d; greasy, 6 1-4d to 1s 2 1-2d: Queensland, 2,700 bales; scoured, 1s 5d to 2s 2d; greasy, 8d to 1s 3d. Victoria, 300 bales; greasy, 8d to 1s 3d. South Australian, 500 bales; greasy, 7 1-2d to 1s 1d. New Zealand, 4,700 bales; scoured, 10d to 1s 9d; greasy, 6 3-4d to 1s 1d.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Cattle, receipts 6,000.
Market steady.

Beeves	6 60	to	9 70
Texas steers	6 65	to	7 70
Stockers and feeders	4 80	to	7 00
Cows and heifers	3 50	to	8 15
Calves	6 50	to	11 00

Hogs, receipts 25,000.
Market slow.

Light	6 35	to	7 50
Mixed	7 25	to	7 65
Heavy	7 30	to	7 65
Rough	7 30	to	7 45
Pigs	4 75	to	6 30
Bulk of sales	7 35	to	7 55

Sheep, receipts 25,000.
Market steady.

Native	4 15	to	5 50
Yearlings	5 50	to	7 00
Lambs, native	6 50	to	7 90

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

East Buffalo despatch: Cattle receipts, 3,500 head; steady; prices unchanged.

Veal receipts, 100; active and steady; $6 to $12.

Hog receipts, 5,600; slow and 20 to 25 cents lower; pigs, 60c lower; heavy and mixed, $7.80 to $7.85; pigs, $7.25 to $7.50; roughs, $7.15 to $7.25; stags, $6.50 to $7; dairies, $7.50 to $7.85.

Sheep and lamb receipts, 6,400 head; steady; heavy lambs, slow; others, active.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.

A Liverpool cable: Closing: Wheat easy; No. 1 Manitoba, 7s 1-4d; No. 2 Manitoba, 7s.

Futures, firm. Dec., 6s 1 5-8c; March, 7s 2d; May, 7s 1 5-8d.

Corn, spot firm; American mixed, 6s 8d.

Futures, Laplata steady, Dec., 4s 10 7-8d; Jan. 5s 1d.

Flour, winter patents, 28s 9d.

Hops in London (Pacific Coast), 6 £ 6s to £7.

Beef, extra India mess, 122s 6d.

Pork, rime mess, western, 110s.

Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., 65s 6d

Bacon, Cumberland cut, 26 to 30 lbs., 65s.

Short ribs, 16 to 24 lbs., 77c.

Clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs., 71c.

Long clear middles, light, 28 to 34 lbs., 76s.

Long clear middles, heavy, 35 to 40 lbs., 75s 6d.

Short clear backs, 16 to 200 lbs., 72s.

Shoulders, square, 11 to 13 lbs., 52s.

Lard, prime western, in tierces, 48s.

Lard, refined, 51s.

Cheese, Canadian, finest white, 60s.

Colored, 60s.

Tallow, prime city, 30s 3d.

Australian, in London, 30s 3d.

Turpentine, spirits, 32s.

Resin, common, 9s 6d.

Petroleum, refined, 8½d.

Linseed oil, 25s 9d.

Cottun seed oil, hull refined, spot, 33s 3d.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK.

Cattle, receipts, about 1,200, milk cows and springsters 45, calves 150, sheep and lambs 700, hogs 1,250.

Trade was good, with higher prices for hogs and good cattle. There were no really prime beeves on the market to-day, but some were sold yesterday, at about 3 cents per pound.

Pretty good animals sold to-day at 6 3-4 to 7 1-2, common 3 3-4 to 5 1-2, canners 2 1-4 to 2 12, small bulls 3 3s to 4 1-2, small stockers 4 to 5.

Cows, $60 to $80, one springer held for $100.

Calves 4 to 7.

Sheep, 5 cents.

Lambs, 7 1-2.

Hogs, 9 3-4 to 10 cents.

Five carloads of bulls and stockers have been shipped this week to the United States, and about a dozen carloads to Toronto.

THE POULTRY WORLD

BREEDING FOR UTILITY AND SHOW.

In other countries the line between the fancier and so-called utility breeder is sharply drawn. Until within a short time the utility breeders in this country drew the lines sharply, under the impression that the fancier bred for feathers alone, leaving the utility value in the background. To a great extent this was true some years ago. Some of the breeders of fancy fowls, in their craze for the blue-ribbon bird, ignored the utility end; but of late years the leading breeders have worked with both in view, and the many strains now being raised show marked improvement in egg production, as well as fine feathers.

The much-mooted question regarding the laying type has been exploded by those who are steady users of the trap nest, and after 17 years' trap nesting it can be stated that some of the best colored and standard in type have made as good records in 365 days as those that some claim are he egg type, and that some claim are the egg type, and been a very poor layer. Such being the case, where the two extremes do not live up to the claims made for them, it shows there is no good reason why a fowl coated with fine feathers, with a good shape, should not lay as many eggs in 365 days as her sister with poor feathering and a long, deep keel shape, as called for by those who profess to know the egg type. That a tail carried at 50 degrees makes a better layer than one carried at 45 d[illegible] all myth.

Heavy l[illegible] start' pr[illegible] ing' strains. [illegible] less of a[illegible] made a good [illegible] good body th[illegible] was bred a[illegible] majority o[illegible] body and, as in almost all heav[illegible] after they have made a record, death of keel. The same can be said of the fancies in the past. Birds of fine type and color were selected regardless of their egg production, with the result of fine-looking fowls, but poor producers. With the utility breeder who has an eye for the fancy—nothing but good egg producers were bred, regardless of type, color or other points, and if he be a commercial poultry raiser with nothing to serve but the egg basket, all well and good, for it is easier to breed one characteristic ino the fowls than two or hree.

All that does not prove that the two cannot be combined. They are. Many breeders to-day select more carefully. They choose fowls that measure up to both egg production and standard requirements. By discarding for future breeders all those that do not measure up to their standard in both utility and fancy, they have bred not only the one characteristic, but the two. It means a harder fight, but they are succeeding, and a strain of fowls so produced is a higher grade, and a bigger investment, with more profit to the owner, than the flock bred for one thing alone. The Standard of perfection, by which fowls are judged at the leading shows in the United States and Canada, has never neglected utility, as can be seen by glancing at the shape of the different varieties of fowls. That some breeders have gone to extremes is not disputed. For instance, take Wyandottes. Some breeders have shortened the body to such an extent that the egg-laying qualities are impaired. The majority have stuck to the Standard, which calls for a ball of putty stuck on two legs. In all other breeds there is plenty of body, with a slight difference in shape, but nothing to harm egg production if it is bred for.

Under trap nests in the great Leghorn section of the East high-tailed fowls lay as well as low. The majority of the tails are high, because little attempt is made to breed anything but just a Leghorn. The small bird is producing as many eggs as the larger fowl. It is all in the breeding. Perhaps the layer can be told by some sign in the future other than the trap nest. But at the present time the only sure way to tell the layer and how many eggs she produces in a year is by the use of the trap nest. Systems can tell a laying hen, but no system ever told how many. And from now on the utility breeder can ill afford to lay claim to having the only utility values in his yards, for the breeder of standard-bred fowls, working along the lines of egg production, shape and feathers, can justly lay claim to having reached the highest art in poultry breeding.

When we have more breeders using trap nests and building up good laying strains in this country, then our brothers across the pond will not carry each year the prize at the laying competitions. For years English poultry breeders have worked along this line in a careful manner and with good results.

After all, the egg is the foundation of profitable poultry. Birds that are not good producers are a loss. Great laying strains can never be made by the hit or miss system. One must know the hen that laid the egg and how many