

nest, she will break the eggs, she will befoul her quarters, she will kill the chickens. Some or all of these troubles arise every year, and when they arise he is a well balanced man who does not let "his angry passions rise," to his grief and mortification. At such times the peaceful incubator becomes a jewel in his eyes.

POULTRY CULTURE AS AN INDUSTRY.

BY REV. THOS. GEOGHEGAN, HAMILTON.

THESE are few questions upon which there is not considerable difference of opinion, and the question of poultry culture as a paying investment is no exception to the rule. The fancier who loves his feathered friends feasts his eyes upon their glorious plumage and braces himself up and feels better as he notices the magnificent strut of the gentleman heir in the midst of his female friends, will tell you that poultry pays well. He gets his money's worth, and more, out of the flock through his eyes every day. The faddist who catches the fever when he sees his neighbor's flock, or meets an acquaintance returning from the exhibition with a number of red tickets and a considerable amount of prize-money, rushes in and purchases thoroughbred chickens at fancy prices and gives neither himself nor the chicks any rest night or day for the next few weeks until he cools off, forgets to feed them, and leaves them in a doughty house a prey to dirt and vermin, and because they do not shell out eggs during the cold winter months, when prices are highest, and hatch out prize-winners for the fall shows, gives out as a certainty that there is no money in poultry, the thing is a dead loss, and that it is too small a thing, anyway, for a big-headed man to dabble in. In this, as in other things, what the man sows he reaps. In spite, however, of this discouraging experience, and of the fact that the country is in the throes of a mining boom, and that large sums of money are being invested in speculation upon gold development, and that many of our people expect to become millionaires suddenly, the small, old-fashioned and every-day enterprise of poultry raising as a means of livelihood, or as a department of farming which will increase the general profits and add to the sum total, is worthy of some consideration. The wonderful strides made of late years in the development of labor-saving machines has driven many active tradesmen to look for new lines of industry by which to earn a livelihood, has reduced the number of working hours and made the performance of heavy tasks light in comparison with the manner

in which they were done in the days of our forefathers. The opening up of vast fertile plains for the growth of wheat and other cereals has reduced the price of grain, while pasture land of great extent in the western part of the continent has reduced the price of meat, so that farmers in Ontario to-day find themselves much cramped in their incomes and must, if they are to hold their ground and have a decent living, take up new branches of industry and adapt themselves to the condition of the times in which we live. There is an adage which says that "A man may as well stand idle as work idle," and if we propose new fields of labor for farmers and others, we must show that there is a demand for their productions, and profit in their labor.

The culture of poultry is no new thing. In excavations made in recent years in the Valley of the Nile, amongst other things unearthed, which had been covered for generations, were eggs apparently as fresh as the day on which they were laid. It is believed that the Egyptians attained to the very highest point of ancient civilization, and in their sculptures scribes may be seen in the market-place noting down the articles sold, and on the farm taking an account of all the products, to the number of eggs laid by each hen. If the people who built the Pyramids, and had such wonderful knowledge of architecture and the fine arts, thought it not unworthy of them to study the preservation of eggs, which doubtless was a great article of food amongst them, and kept such strict account of each hen that they could tell with accuracy her profit each year, it is surely worth our while in this young country to test this branch of industry and ascertain if there be any profit in it. After the Franco-Prussian War, the world was surprised with the rapidity with which the French nation paid off its war indemnity. The amount was not raised by the great sums of either the aristocracy or landed gentry, but by the large number of small sums made up by the great body of people. The small farmers, the cottagers and artisans, came to the rescue, and much of the money coming from comparatively poor people was the result of the poultry culture of that country. France as a nation has, and does, recognize that the poultry trade is a source of wealth to its people, and protects and encourages it, because it brings in a large revenue and betters the financial condition of a great body of its citizens. Not only do the French meet the demands for home consumption in eggs and poultry, but they supply the English market with over \$15,000,000-worth of this class of food annually. If France with her small area when compared with Canada can realize \$200,000,000 annually with her poultry interests what might not we in Canada do in the vast territory which we possess. There are few who realize the possibilities be-