

clover and rye in the spring, ensuring a good green mat for the next season's laying stock. If provision is made for green feed, one may estimate on giving 10 to 30 square feet per bird in confinement.

If the stock is housed on the colony plan, the houses should be placed in rows with doors facing on a centre road. In this way many steps are saved.

All fences must be high enough to prevent the stock from flying over. A wire fence gives best satisfaction. Heavy-weight varieties require a fence 4 to 5 feet high. Light weight varieties should have a 6 foot fence. If stock will not stay within these fences, providing the care and feeding are correct, their wings should be clipped or the runs covered.

FLOOR-SPACE.

In practice, it is found that small flocks need much more floor-space, proportionately speaking, than large flocks. Within a house or pen 20 x 20 feet, 100 light-weights or 75 heavy-weights may be housed quite comfortably with good results. If a house or pen be 12 x 12 feet, 25 heavy-weights or 35 light-weights is the usual rule. For hens of medium sized breeds from 4 to 6 square feet should be allowed when housed in flocks of twelve or more. For smaller flocks the amount of floor-space should increase as the number decreases.

SUITABLE QUARTERS FOR CITY BEGINNERS.

Before any birds are secured it is necessary to provide suitable quarters for them. The house must be dry, well ventilated, free from draughts, sunny, and bright. Any building possessing these few essentials will prove satisfactory to the fowls.

In addition to these, the beginners will do well to bear in mind the necessity of economy in construction, and also plan the building with reference to its convenience.

Start on a small scale. The first house should be small, and either portable or constructed of inexpensive materials. Any one living on rented property should keep in view the possible necessity of moving, and plan his poultry buildings accordingly.

Some firms in or near Vancouver and Victoria make portable poultry-houses to meet the requirements of poultry keepers who would rather purchase a complete house than build it at home. Some of these portable buildings are constructed in units, and sections may be purchased as required. They are all alike, in that they are furnished with complete equipment, are light in construction, quickly erected or taken down, and easy of transport. In many cases they cost less than similar structures built at home.

PIANO-BOXES.

Piano-boxes are freely used, especially when they can be purchased at a low price. In most cities they can be secured at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$3 each.

A very practical small house can be made from two piano-boxes. Any one handy with common tools can construct such a house at a low cost, for little additional material will be required.

The average piano-box is 5 feet high, 3 feet long, and 2½ feet wide. As constructed, this two-box house has approximately 40 square feet of floor surface, which is doubled if the structure is set up on posts 4 to 6 feet above the ground to permit the birds to run underneath the floor. This is an excellent scheme in the warmer parts of the Province, enabling one to keep a larger number of fowls, or give a small flock much more space, but should never be practised in the mountainous sections.

In building, proceed as follows: Have two boxes of the same size. Remove the boards from the back and top of each box, working carefully to avoid splitting. Set the boxes back to back 3 feet apart on three pieces of 2 x 4-inch material, and nail them in place. Nail boards on the 2 x 4's sufficient to fill the space between the boxes, to complete the floor. Then secure two boards 8 or 10 inches wide, and long enough to reach from shoulder to shoulder of the boxes. Mark the centre of