

strongly-built sled, either with wheels or on runners, may be employed for removing the houses.

A hundred fowls can be kept on an acre of pasture land for twelve months. Good arable land that has been well cropped will carry twice the number for the same period. For instance, if on a farm of 300 acres ten acres were annually given up to poultry, even on the basis of 100 fowls per acre, a thousand adult fowls could be kept, which would work out an average of 3 1-3 fowls per acre of the entire occupation. At the present time the average on such farms is not more than one adult fowl to every 12 acres. Such a system would require efficient management, and would not permit of slipshod methods, but the majority of farmers could provide suitable labor and supervision to secure its success.

Land would also be required for the raising of chickens, and for this purpose fresh land should be utilized each season. Wherever possible the birds raised as breeding or laying stock should be given free range until they have developed. A thousand chickens can be reared up to marketable age in one season on an acre of land, which should not be occupied by chickens again until three years have elapsed.

While fowls kept under the colony system can be used for breeding stock, provided that a sufficient number of male birds are included during the breeding season, it is always a mistake to use the entire flock for breeding purposes. So far as possible only selected birds should be mated, and it is desirable that these be kept in portable houses on a free range for some weeks before the eggs are required for hatching. Failing that arrangement, quarter-acre runs may be erected, in each of which a dozen birds can be enclosed. As soon as the hatching season is at an end these will be available for cockerels that are destined for killing.

The colony system involves greater capital expenditure than the distributive system, owing to the wire netting employed, though the cost of houses is not quite so great as under distributive methods. The larger the area enclosed the less is the cost of netting and stakes. For instance, to enclose an acre will require six rolls of netting, each of 50 yards; a block of two acres, if oblong, would need 8 1/2 rolls; and a square comprising four acres, about 11 rolls. One and one-half dozen stakes will be required to each roll.

A consideration which demands the attention of those occupying land of a poor quality, is the effect of the manure produced. In this respect poultry contribute to increased fertility. A proportion of the areas recorded as either rough grazing or waste land could thus be used, and in the course of a few years could be brought into cultivation. Farmers who keep poultry on progressive lines find that they render great service in the direction indicated.

The colony method of raising ducklings for market has been successfully adopted in our own and other countries. In this case, also, the rotation should be one in four—that is, the ground is only used for this purpose one year out of four. Remarkable crops can thus be secured on grass land or pastures. Wire netting 18 inches high is employed to enclose runs, each of one-eighth of an acre in extent, in which 50 ducklings can be kept from two weeks old until they are ready for killing. In this way a thousand to twelve hundred ducklings can be reared per acre in a season. Simple houses, or even adapted packing cases, provide the requisite housing accommodation.

From such evidence and experience as is available the following conclusions have been reached:

1. That the colony system of poultry-keeping is specially suited to larger farms, not only because of the economy of labor, and the complete utilization of manure, but because it affords a greater measure of protection against enemies, as compared with the distributive method. By its adoption, also, a large addition might be made to the production of eggs and poultry.

2. That an integral part of the system is that where fowls are kept thickly on land for one year, say, at the rate of 100 to 200 per acre, the ground must not be occupied by poultry or other stock for at least three seasons, during which period it should be cropped.

HORTICULTURE.

Horticultural Show Cancelled.

Arrangements were being completed and advertising done for a Horticultural Show to be held in the Horticultural Building on the Toronto Exhibition Grounds from Nov. 10th to 14th. It had been arranged to have fruit growers and associations of fruit growers put up the exhibit, not expecting any prize money, as no money was to be offered. The proceeds were to be turned over to Red Cross work, and everything was being done to make this show a success. Fruitmen stood behind the movement, and were putting forward every effort to put up an exhibition worthy of the patronage of the people, and everything pointed to success, but the military

authorities in the meantime took over the exhibition grounds for a training camp for the troops from the Toronto district who are now preparing for the second contingent. Owing to this fact it has been made necessary to cancel the proposed Horticultural Exhibition entirely. It is rather unfortunate that such is the case, for in some sections arrangements had already been made to secure the very best fruit in the district, and no doubt had the scheme been carried out one of the most successful Horticultural exhibitions ever held in Canada would have resulted. However, circumstances made it impossible to go on with the show, but nevertheless fruit growers and horticulturists generally are to be complimented on the generous spirit shown by their willingness to put on an exhibition without financial reimbursement.

FARM BULLETIN.

Mitts.

By Peter McArthur.

I suppose different people have different ways of recognizing the approach of winter, and an interesting article might be compiled on the subject. Putting in the young cattle is a sure and somewhat exciting sign, but, come to think it over, what convinces me finally of the advent of winter is the necessity of wearing mitts. Mitts are a detachable part of our raiment, and as soon as I have to begin wearing them my troubles commence. I think, if anyone was to take the trouble to hunt, mitts in various stages of decomposition could be picked up all over the farm, and on the roads leading from it to the villages. Mitts are absolutely necessary in cold weather, but something is always turning up to make one pull them off for a minute and then he goes away and forgets them. When the snow came last week I went to a box containing all kinds of odds and ends and made an earnest search for mitts. The best I could discover was two mitts of different pairs, both for the left hand. They proved such a nuisance that I have made up my mind to lose complete pairs this winter instead of odd mitts. When you lose an odd mitt it is of no use to the finder, and the one you are carrying around with you is of no real use to you. I daresay I should have my mitts fastened together with a string that would go around my neck, the same as the children have them, but I hardly think that would look right for a grown man. The next best solution I have found is to buy half a dozen pairs of the cheapest kind of canvas mitts, and have them scattered promiscuously around the place. By having them in the pockets of my overalls and coats, and in the cow stable, and under the kitchen stove, I stand a chance of being able to lay my hands on a pair sometimes when I need them. But there are some jobs that can't be done while wearing mitts, such as cleaning the seeds out of pumpkins. In my hurry I usually drop the mitts on the ground, and then a cow comes along and steps on them, and buries them for the rest of the winter. Almost every fall I start off by buying a fancy pair of mitts with water-proof fronts but I never know who is wearing them by spring.

Speaking of mitts reminds me that the Kaiser Wilhelm's mitt is at present the cause of much trouble in the world. "The mailed fist" is nothing more than a fist covered with a mitt made of steel plate and links, and I suspect that it was one of the earliest form of the mitt to be manufactured. It was made to keep gallant knights from getting their knuckles barked when fighting with swords and spears, but perhaps it was not the earliest form. People have probably been wearing and losing mitts since the dawn of history. At the present time mitts are an article of commerce, and it is years since I have seen a pair of the real, old-fashioned home-knitted mitts of my boyhood days. These mitts were usually about half an inch thick, and when they once got soaked they seldom dried out during the winter. We used to face them with leather, and that made them hold the water longer. I have a very distinct recollection of the misery of pulling on wet mitts when going to work, and I am inclined to think that my present method of having many pairs of cheap cloth mitts is an improvement. They do not cost much to buy, and I understand that many careful housewives now make a winter supply from any old cloth that may be about the place. They cut them to a pattern, and stitch them up on the sewing machine. If I were working out doors all the time I would just about keep one woman busy making mitts for me to use and lose.

Among the many curious effects of the war none is more noticeable than the revival of knitting among the women of the country. The call for wristbands and cholera belts has started the needles clicking in the cities and towns as well as on the farms. It seems like old times to have

callers come to the house and "Bring their knitting" with them. We can all remember when few of the older women, at least, were ever without their knitting materials. Whenever they sat down to rest or to talk to a visitor they would take up their knitting, and some of them were so expert that they could knit in the dark or without even looking at their needles. Scarfs, stockings, mitts, and underclothes were made by their busy needles, and it must be admitted that their products were far superior to anything that we can buy to-day. But knitting machines and knitting factories put an end to all, although I cannot help wondering if knitting will not stay with us after the war is over. If people find out how much better home-knitted goods are than the factory products they may not be inclined to go back to the custom of buying their supplies. It is also possible that the economy forced by the war may bring back to the homes many of the industries that were once familiar.

We are now so surfeited with war news that I confess to a feeling of surprise when I find in the paper an article that deals with anything else. All kinds of public undertakings and business enterprises are being put through without any notices being given to them by the papers. We are so used to reading such things that to find them going on without being reported in the papers seems strange. The papers have educated us to the point where we find it hard to believe that anything is going on in the country unless they tell us about it. And even though their columns are crowded with war news, they are really telling us very little about the war. I do not think that in my experience I have ever known the papers to use so much type to tell so little. They might just as well be devoting their space to giving us ordinary news of the day, and it would make much healthier reading. In spite of ourselves we spend much good time in guessing about the war, and I have a suspicion that in many cases the editors are also guessing. If some one could hit on something else than the war to occupy our attention during the long winter months he would be a public benefactor of the first order.

P. E. Island Notes.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The crop is all stored now but the roots, which are growing yet. We have had an exceedingly fine season for harvesting, as well as for the later work of preparing the land for the next crop. The grain crop of this year was a good average one, and was saved in excellent condition, and we hear of it yielding good returns in threshing.

The potato crop is also good, and has been stored with almost no rot in evidence. (This time last year half this crop was rotten.) The price at present for the very few that can find a market is from 20 to 22 cents a bushel of 60 pounds. But if this crop is not wanted in the markets it can be used very profitably for stock feed on the farms. Potatoes form the major part of the feed of our hogs, and in this way they can be very profitably turned into bacon. Hogs can be made to increase in weight more quickly on a diet of cooked potatoes with a little grain and skim-milk added than by any other ration we know of. They can be forced with practically no danger of them going off their feed, as is too often the case with the hog fed on straight grain ration. A few potatoes are also relished by the sheep after they are in winter quarters, and the poultryman can use them profitably to assist in the production of winter eggs.

It would be a mistake for a farmer to sell them at the price offered. The root crop will be about an average. It is growing finely just now, but the dry weather of the latter part of September and till the middle of October kept roots from doing their best. Pastures have been short during the latter part of the season on account of the drought, but cattle are in good condition on going into the stables. The make of cheese and butter will be up to a good average. Cheese is a money-maker this year, as the price will average much higher than ever before. The last sales were made at 15 cents—14 cents was the highest paid in any former year since our co-operative dairy business started, and that was only received for one sale. This will encourage dairymen to stick to this line of business, which was in danger of falling off somewhat on account of more milk being turned into butter.

The Island factories have most all contributed cheese to the "Belgium Relief Fund." Patrons have given freely of this valuable food to help relieve the great distress caused by the war. A contribution of 100,000 bushels of oats is also being asked of the farmers for the "Army Field Service Fund." Judging by some of the subscription lists we have seen we expect the amount will be largely over-subscribed, but it looks as if it will be all wanted before order is restored, and militarism is relegated to a past where it certainly belongs, never again to attempt

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