

# THE DOMINION POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO THE POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

For the FANCIER, the FARMER, and the SMALL BREEDER.

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## REPORT OF THE POULTRY MANAGER OF THE DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARM, A. G. GILBERT.

(Continued from last month).

### EXERCISE AND HOW BROUGHT ABOUT.

HAVING had a light morning meal the layers were ready for exercise and this was incited by throwing two or three handfull of grain—as already stated—in the straw, cut hay, dry leaves or chaff composing the all essential dry litter, to be found on the floor of all well equipped poultry houses. The aim was to keep the layers, for the remainder of the day, so busy searching for the scattered grain, that their crops would be gradually filled by the time they went to roost. Certainly, a more natural way than by rapidly filling their crops with grain thrown on a bare floor, or into a trough. The afternoon grain ration was always fed early, so as to permit of the search being kept up. Too much importance cannot be placed on the exercise part of the winter management.

#### A POINT TO REMEMBER.

The reason for feeding the morning ration will be at once apparent, from the above. Had the hens been gorged, at the morning ration, they would certainly not have been inclined for exertion.

#### VARIETY.

Variety in composition of rations and time of feeding them was found beneficial. To have such variety, the cut bones were sometimes given for afternoon ration.

Again, the mash would occasionally be fed at that

time. When fed at the latter period, it was followed by a light grain ration, which was scattered in the litter on the floor, to secure the desired exercise.

#### ONE CONSPICUOUS RESULT.

An early and conspicuous result of the dropping of the noon and reduction of the morning ration was the greatly increased quantity of vegetables and grit eaten. As already stated, vegetables were always before the layers, as were mica crystal grit and crushed oyster shells.

#### APPARENT RESULT IN INCREASED EARLY EGG YIELD.

Another apparent beneficial result from the reduced rations, coupled with the early moulting of the layers, was noted in an increased egg yield in the comparatively early winter months of November and December, as shown by the following figures :

	1894.	1895.	1896.
November - -	114	160	568
December - -	538	943	1,466

The number of hens in each year were :

1894 - - - -	-	-	185
1895 - - - -	-	-	218
1896 - - - -	-	-	204

It will be noticed that the number of fowls was less in 1894, than in the other two years, but not so great as to make the difference in the number of eggs.

The early and increased results were gratifying because new laid eggs were in great demand, as they usually are in November and December, particularly so at the Christmas season.

#### COMPARATIVE EGG YIELDS.

The egg yield of the whole year, as compared with that of the three previous years, will best show any beneficial results from the decrease in quantity of food.