

crowded conditions, and lack of ventilation is the great obstacle to overcome. Some plants find it pays to put in large fans every ten or twenty feet, but at the best it is a stuffy place of many odors and very apt to produce roup and such diseases.

The birds are fed twice a day, at as nearly twelve-hour intervals as possible. Electric lights are used while feeding and the room kept darkened at other times in order that the birds may be quiet. The birds are not fed for twenty-four hours after being brought in, as they are going to be given food they have never tasted before and must have keen appetites in order that they will take it readily. They are fed rather lightly at first, just enough to keep them going, but keen for the next feed. If they once become gluttoned they are very hard to bring back to heavy feeding again. The food is given in the form of a gruel, thin enough to pour from a watering can without the sprinkler attached. By this method about fourteen thousand birds can be fed in an hour and a half to two hours by five men. They are given a good feed, and then those which appear very eager are given a second and smaller feed. Care is taken, however, not to give more than they will clean up. They are gradually fed more and more till the maximum is reached during the second or third week. The fattening period usually lasts fourteen, sixteen, eighteen or twenty-one days, depending on condition of birds when put in, demand, and space available.

The following are two mixtures used in one of our largest fattening houses, with good results.

No. 1.—Corn meal, 50 lbs; wheat meal, 17 lbs; oat flour, 17 lbs; low grade flour, 16 lbs; total, 100 lbs.

No. 2.—Corn meal, 60 lbs; wheat

meal, 14 lbs; oat flour, 14 lbs; low grade flour, 12 lbs; total, 100 lbs.

To one hundred pounds of meal is added one hundred and seventy pounds of buttermilk. It forms the most important item in the ration. It cannot be replaced, by any other meat food, both as a producer of meat and as an agent in whitening the carcass. It is in a class by itself, and is used by every large concern. However, if it cannot be obtained, fair results may be obtained by the use of about fifteen per cent. beef scrap, with a little tallow, dissolved in the gruel. The tallow tends to whiten the birds' meat to some extent.

A battery of sixty birds is supposed to show a gain of approximately forty-five pounds in a little over two weeks' feeding. Many will not do so well owing to poor handling, sickness, poor birds, etc. Roup is very prevalent owing to exposure when the birds are shipped in, and the poor ventilation in the building. It costs around eight and one-half cents to feed and care for a bird for two weeks.

So we see a packer making money under these conditions, when there is such poor ventilation that the birds have to be fed very thin sloppy food in order to prevent them from "drying out," and when his losses from disease often amount to quite a bit. He has to buy all the feed at market prices, pay for high-priced labor and carry a big overhead expense. Can the farmer beat him at his own game?

The farmer can raise his own feed, he nearly always has buttermilk or can secure it at the nearest butter factory, he has no extra labor to pay, no ventilation problem to contend with, and no big overhead expense to carry on account of high-priced building and outfit. A large box stall or other handy place can be easily