

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT POULTRY.

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IN talking to a veteran poultry breeder lately I made the remark that there was not the same amount of money made from breeding poultry as there was 20 years ago, so many more in the business now. He replied if you have the best you can always find a demand for them. And I believe he is correct, as at our recently held poultry show at Guelph I sold my prize geese and some of my prize turkeys very satisfactorily.

While inferior stock you could scarcely give away.

Now, as I am a farmer myself and have been breeding poultry for the last 38 years, I will endeavor from a farmer's standpoint to give my experience to my brother farmers and others interested what little I know about chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks. I am convinced the best utility breed of fowls for a farmer to raise is the Plymouth Rock or the Wyandotte. I have tried 7 or 8 different breeds and for a general purpose fowl nothing can beat the above. You have some four different colors of each to choose from, as they are all equally good for either egg production or table use. I have also a great liking for the light Brahma, having bred them for 25 or 30 years, and find them excellent, hardy birds. Excellent winter layers if you get the right stamp; good mothers and not so persistent sitters as some breeds. If for eggs only, nothing can beat the brown or white Leghorn, but the eggs are too small for shipping to the British market, the demand being for a large brown egg, which either the Wyandottes, P. Rocks or light Brahmas supply. I often use the large light Brahma hen for setting my Toulouse goose eggs in the spring before the goose is inclined to sit, as I have known them lay 35 and 40 eggs before the incubating fever came on them. I invariably set my duck eggs with the light Brahma hens. They can be moved without the slightest trouble and are the quietest, easiest handled breed I know of.

One of my brother farmers remarked to me recently there was more money in keeping hens than fattening steers these times. He keeps over 200 hens, and for the last two winters has sold to the two leading hotels

in the city of Guelph 35 to 40 dollars worth of eggs per month for the 4 months, commencing December 1st, getting 20 to 25 cents a dozen for them. Profitable as raising pigs has been of late years it is never to be compared to chicken raising, as the same amount of grain fed to chickens as it takes to fatten a hog would bring double the amount of profit. So much has been said and written in our poultry papers and farm journals of late about how to feed poultry for the best production of eggs and how to prepare them for the British market that it would be superfluous for me to reproduce it here. The whole secret of success lies in keeping your fowls in a moderately warm place, feed them the right kind of food, supply them with a dust bath, keep them clean, free from vermin of all kinds, give them plenty of ground bones, green food of some kind, grit for digestion, oyster shells crushed for the formation of the shell of the egg, plenty of skim milk, which contains a great deal of albumen, of which the white of the egg is chiefly composed. I find cut clover hay if cured green is excellent food for hens in winter. If you attend to the above advice Biddy will shell out eggs all winter and cackle and be happy, and above all if you have any first-class chickens or eggs for sale advertize well. I have shipped geese and turkeys all the way to St. John's and Woodstock, N.B., from a single ad. in the "Farmer's Advocate." I have been a subscriber to the CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW since its inception and have got many useful hints from it, also a better medium of communication with the poultry world cannot be found than by advertising in this paper, and as the price has been reduced to 50 cents per annum it is now within the reach of all engaged in the poultry business. I have been very successful in raising turkeys, and have got good prices for them. I made it a point when getting fresh blood always to get the best. I once paid \$10 for a young gobbler, which was considered in these days an exorbitant price, but it was the best paying investment I ever made, as I sold over \$100 of his progeny next season. I sold to Mr. Page, Superintendent of Walnut Grove Poultry Farm, South Bend, Indiana, a year ago, a gobbler that now weighs 46½ lbs. He has never been beaten at the different poultry shows in Indiana and elsewhere in the U.S., so Mr. Page informed the "Mercury" reporter and myself yesterday when he visited our Guelph Fat Stock and Live