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Branch at Vegreville, Alta. JAS. BROOKS, Manager. **VANSTONE & ROGERS** Head Office and stables. WAWANESA, Manitoba tedious, and perplexing difficulties will beset us on every side, but time, patience and persistence in the proper use of the trapnest will reach a satisfactory

To begin right with the trap-machine, trapnest two or more groups of un-related pullets and cockerels for number of quality eggs; select settings of these eggs and the second year form breeding pens and trapnest the pullets, repeating the selection of the eggs and trapping year after year until the progeny will reproduce its like; in fact, the improved and perfected birds will continue to improve generation after generation if the above system is intelligently and persistently adhered to, and utility specimens, fancy as well, will be produced that will excel anything we have at the present time. I think a great future is in store for the trapnest properly used.

know of no easier method of selecting eggs for reproduction purposes, much less a surer one than that of trapnesting. There seems to be no royal road to an ideal object of poultry breed-

ing. Sask I. E. FRITH.

#### HENS IN SMALL FLOCKS

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

A good illustration has just come under my observation of the fact that hens in small flocks are much more productive than in large flocks. neighbor moved into the community without fowls. She procured six hens. One is a Leghorn grade, the others are so mixed as to make it impossible to locate them with reference to breed, They lay from three to six eggs a day. Of course it is only occasionally that they all lay on the same day, but whoever heard of a large flock all laying on one day or constantly laying more than fifty per cent.? That the heavy laying is due to the smallness of the flock is evident, because the large flock, all of the same class of hens from which the six were procured, is doing the usual stunt of large flocks—laying less than fifty per cent. in the best laying season and none at all in cold weather

The sanitary condition of the small flock is much better than that of the large flock. Until last fall I kept my hens, except a few choice breeders, in one large house. The ground above the large house became so thoroughly "hensick" that the hens kept dying from no apparent cause, in spite of all attempts to renovate the ground by digging it up and hauling in new earth. Last fall I abandoned the large house altogether and now have my general flock of sixty hens in three movable houses, which are moved occasionally. Both the health and the laying of the hens are remarkably better.

My attention was attracted to the small flock idea by the difference be-tween the small flocks of purebred breeders which I kept in colony houses and the large general flock kept in the large house. Though I did my best to large house. Though I did my best to care for the large flock properly I frequently, in bad winter weather, gathered as many eggs from one colony house as from the entire general flock, and though in spite of all I could do I continually lost an occasional hen from gone through an entire year without osing a single hen from the small colony houses and never lost enough to be of consequence. I tried in various ways to utilize the large house for poultry purposes, but the hen-sick earth about it defeated me no matter what use I tried to make of it. I am using it now for other purposes and will never again attempt to keep poultry, either young or old, in a house too large to be moved

When I first thought of trying the small flock plan I supposed that when given free range they would mix up, each hen going to whatever house came handiest. Quite to my surprise I found that the hens which have been confined to a colony house for the winter. when given free range in the spring, will stick to that house with an obstinacy which is almost aggravating if for any reason one wishes to change them. Though in rare cases a hen will change from one house to another, as a rule they adhere closely to their

W. I. THOMAS.

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homesteader.

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