

Yellow and White-Legged Fowls

AN ENGLISH OPINION

By our British Market Correspondent.

I read with more than passing interest the remarks of Mr. F. C. Hare on the yellow leg question and also The Farming World's opinion upon the matter, both of which appeared in the issue of July 15.

There can be no doubt that the question is absolutely at a deadlock, and that from two such contradictory statements it would appear difficult to come to any satisfactory conclusion.

The Farming World's statement that there is a special price for white legged and white fleshed fowls in England is perfectly true and what is more, I personally, if I were given the choice, would prefer a white skinned bird, for they do undoubtedly look more dainty and appetizing.

It may be said that there is no difference in the flavor of the meat. True, but the pleasures of the palate do not entirely depend upon the sense of taste, and appearance has a great deal to do with the matter.

If this were not so, why do all shopkeepers take such great pains to make their goods look attractive and are so particular that what they sell is put up in a dainty manner. Supposing two apples were placed before the average man and one had a clear, bright skin, while the other was dull and colorless, they might be of equal flavor, but he would select the one which pleased his eye, and in the opinion of the writer, he would be correct.

Of course, it is altogether beside the question as to whether it would pay Canadians to re-organize their business to go in for white legged and fleshed fowls; that is a matter upon which they can best decide for themselves. There can be no doubt, however, that white skinned fowls are preferred in England to their yellow brothers.

WHAT A WESTERNER THINKS

I note that in your issue of July 15th you say you would be glad to hear from correspondents on this subject.

For some years I went in for rearing and fattening chickens for the London markets, and no doubt should be doing so now but for the South African war. There is a great and real objection to yellow legged birds, the principal reason being that yellow legs, as a rule, mean yellow flesh, and in my opinion there is no comparison between a white fleshed bird and a yellow one. Up to a short time ago there was also an objection to black legs, the reason being that the Surrey and Sussex birds, which have always been at the top of the market had white legs; this objection was a sentimental one and is fast dying out, although I see Mr. Hare thinks differently.

I remember sending some large

Black Orpington cockerels, six months old and weighing 8½ lb. each. They were fattened and pressed in the Surrey-Sussex style, and their black legs were not objected to, for they took the eye of Mr. Brooke, late master of the London Poultry Co., who wrote me to know what kind they were, how reared, etc., and, by the way, sent me a copy of Mr. E. Brown's book on "Fattening Fowls," the best book on the subject I have ever read.

What have Canadians got to object to in this little preference of the London consumer, who is willing to pay well for his preference? It is as easy to rear one as the other, even although you want to use a bird with yellow legs. No bird has more yellow legs and flesh than the Indian game, yet crossed with the Dorking they nearly all come white if Dorking hens and I. G. cocks are used. We can rear and fatten here as good as in Surrey, Eng., and press and shape in their style, and mind, a bird may be classed as Surrey or Sussex in the London markets and make top prices, and yet come from Ireland or elsewhere.

We must, however, send a good class of birds, not some good and some bad in a crate, and always keep them up to the mark. The London dealers get to know a man's crates who always sends good birds, and will buy them up at once on the market at a little higher price and will often write the producer to send all he can to them, direct, and so save going through the markets. But once send a few inferior birds in your lots and your name is gone and it will be years before you can get it back.

I am sorry to say I found that there were a good many dishonest salesmen in the markets, but experience taught me the names of the few honest ones who always did by far the largest business.

I shall be very glad to give a few of the ins and outs of a Surrey fatter's business, also the best breeds and crosses should any of your readers care for same.

P. S., Miniota, Man.

Poultry Ailments and their Remedy

Judging from the numerous inquiries recently received for remedies for poultry ailments, there has been much sickness among young stock throughout the country and it is to be feared in many cases, much loss. In one case a correspondent writes:—"My chickens have something the matter with them. They have a slight swelling at side of the head. Their wings droop and in a few days they die." Another writes:—"I had 59 fine young turkeys a short time ago—now I have 17. They are well fed, but get sick, droop, and die. On opening one which had just died, the liver was much swollen and spotted all over." And still

another:—"My young turkeys seem to have cold. They appear to have lice also. A number have died and several are sick." And so on. And this sort of thing is repeated every season with almost unvarying monotony. It shows either utter ignorance of sanitary conditions or a fatal indifference to effects.

No sanitary law can be violated with impunity either in horse or cow stable, or poultry house. When will men and women, who are careful and painstaking in many departments of farm work, realize that prevention of disease among their live stock is far easier than cure! Particularly does this apply to poultry. A farmer may be scrupulously clean in his dairy department and yet his poultry be neglected and their premises seldom cleaned. While almost cranky on keeping up a good strain of milk cows, no attempt is made to keep up a prolific egg-laying strain of Rocks, or Wyandottes, or correct market type of Cams. His turkeys and fowls may be inbred from year to year, or they may be kept in an unclean, ill-ventilated or delapidated and draughty poultry house. As for his chickens, they come and they receive scanty care. If they get any food, in many cases it is of improper quality, in too great quantity and not cleanly fed. The most elementary hygienic laws are violated and the result is roup, lice and liver disease of the most acute type.

The remedy for disease is obviously to prevent it. It is difficult, almost impossible to cure sick turkeys or other chickens, but it is easy by cleanliness and care to prevent disease. Cleanliness in poultry house and surroundings, and method of feeding, care in selection of robust parent stock. Care in housing and feeding of the young chicks. This has been stated by Mr. Warrington, an eminent English chemist, that for her weight there is more profit in a hen than any other animal on the farm. And yet she is frequently the most neglected! A visitor to a farmer, who kept poultry at a profit, noticed that the farm hands cleaned out the poultry house with as great care as they did the dairy. "Why do you do so?" asked the friend of the farmer. The reply came quickly, "Because," said the farmer, "I make 200 per cent. profit from my fowls as against 10 per cent. from the other." It is said to say that the farmer had no sick hens or turkeys—A. G. Gilbert, Manager Poultry Department, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Macdonald Institute Announcement

The Macdonald Institute of Guelph will open on September 14th next. The outline of study provides for two general courses, one for teachers and the other for young women who do not intend to teach. The teachers course is divided into two sections, nature study and home economics, with a two year, a three months' and six