

bred poultry, who are so lacking in the essentials of poultry management that they will sell well-bred fowls without fattening them. This is to a great extent throwing away all that is gained by the keeping of improved poultry. The large and improved breeds have been bred with a view of fattening. Pains have been taken to produce birds having strong, vigorous constitutions, large frames, heavy, strong bones, and extra-good digestion. Their value consists in their ability to turn feed into rich, tender flesh, and to do it so rapidly that a minimum of nourishment is consumed for purposes of mere sustenance during the process of fattening.

One of the disadvantages experienced in fattening scrub chickens is that they have not the constitutions to withstand the somewhat trying ordeal of rapid fattening. The ideal system of fattening for the production of fancy-priced fowls for the table is called the crate system. The birds are placed in clean, well-ventilated crates, from four to six birds in each compartment. Here they have room to feed and drink, and so change their positions as not to become tired or seriously inconvenienced in their somewhat cramped quarters, but they have not room to walk about or take exercise, while fighting is out of the question. Birds fattened in this way take on flesh very rapidly, and because they take no exercise while being fattened, the muscle or lean meat which they acquire is extremely fine in texture, almost free from fibrous formation, and it might be almost compared to jelly in the quality of tenderness. When such a bird is properly roasted, and put upon the table, the work of the carver is a sinecure. Legs and wings will drop beneath the mere touch of the carving-knife, and the meat may be separated with the fork, without using the knife in cutting. The muscles have had really no training during the days devoted to the fattening of the bird, and are devoid of those qualities which make for strength, endurance and activity. Such fowls are table luxuries, and they sell to persons who care little for price, as long as they can secure the desired quality in what they put on their tables.

It must be remembered, however, that even among the best breeds not all will prove strong enough to undergo the ordeal of crate-feeding, while it would be folly to attempt it with a scrub chicken. It means that the bird must have

an exceptionally strong constitution and strong frame upon which to stow a great coating of flesh; a vigorous appetite, and a quiet, contented disposition. In breeding birds for crate-feeding, the poultryman must secure pure-bred birds having plenty of size and bone, and, in addition to this, they must be stout and compact, rather than tall and rangy. The shoulders should be broad, and the breast wide and full, but not too prominent, as a high breast-bone always is undesirable in a table fowl. The legs should be short and stout, and the whole physical make-up stout and massive, rather than lengthy and graceful. Having secured these qualities, it is not at all necessary that the bird should be within the weight limit supposed to be ideal for the breed. The heavier it happens to be, so long as it has the other characteristics of the breed, the better.

But even if the poultry-raiser be ever so careful in the breeding of his table birds, he cannot expect to secure all of them of the desired type for crate-fattening. There are excellent fowl which will not withstand the strain of heavy feeding for ten days without exercise, and still keep in perfect health.

For these—because no fowl should be allowed to go to waste on a well-ordered farm—the room-feeding is the best expedient. From 50 to 300 fowls are put into a room of suitable size, and fed and watered liberally. Here they have space to walk about and take a fair share of exercise, though they are sufficiently crowded to keep them quiet. Sometimes they will fight, but as the belligerents are apt to inconvenience the more peaceably-inclined members of the community, such outbreaks are discouraged, and generally come to an end before either contestant has been much hurt. Almost any healthy fowl, even a scrub, will stand room-fattening, and it is very generally resorted to among practical poultrymen who have not a liberal proportion of really choice utility birds in their collections. Fowls fattened in this way usually take on a lot of flesh during their ten days' confinement, and they sell well in the markets where really high prices are obtainable, but they cannot very well compete with dressed fowls which have undergone crate-fattening.

Nevertheless, room-fattening is to be commended, and, where it is not advantageous or

profitable to crate-fatten, room-feeding should be adopted. All poultry for market should undoubtedly be fattened. The farmer can do this work profitably, and the labor entailed is never arduous nor onerous. General instruction and example, and properly-operated co-operative systems of producing and marketing poultry, will educate the farmer to the advisability—the necessity—of fattening his poultry before marketing, and there is hope that gradually, but surely, the empress of the farm, her majesty the hen, will attain the position which she and her products, by reason of their value, certainly deserve.

Poultry Profits.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Through "The Farmer's Advocate" I have received quite a few ideas about poultry. I think there are very few things on the farm pay so well as poultry, if properly looked after. This is my first year's experience with poultry. I started March 17th, 1910, with 48 hens, and kept a record of the eggs laid until December 1st. In April I set 15 hens, which hatched 147 chicks; out of these, there were 65 pullets. In September, I sold the roosters alive, at 9 cents per pound.

RECEIPTS.

Eggs sold, 301½ doz.	\$54.54
Eggs set, and for table use, 63 doz.	10.71
Total for eggs	\$65.25
Chickens sold	\$18.90

This doesn't include December, as the eggs laid in December were mostly by pullets. Those that started before Christmas I marked, and intend breeding from them. This year, in December, they laid 27 dozen and 2 eggs. I feed them five times a day, and keep plenty of clean litter for them to scratch in. I feed sunflowers two or three times a week, and plenty of warm corn at night.

Oxford Co., Ont.

BEGINNER.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

To Our Subscribers:

Particular attention is called to our "RENEWAL OFFER EXTENDED," as announced on page 50 of this issue. This offer is good till January 16th, and if you have not already taken advantage of it, by securing the required new name at once, you will yet be in time, if you send it in immediately.

Subscribers will still have the opportunity of taking advantage of our "EIGHT MONTHS' CREDIT OFFER," which is as follows: Any subscriber may have the date on his own label advanced 8 months by sending us the name of one new subscriber to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," accompanied by \$1.50.

Thousands have availed themselves of this offer, and a great many are still coming in daily. Let us credit your label in the same way.

The Huntingdon Conservation Congress.

By Warren H. Wilson, Ph. D.

Two hundred delegates, representing several churches and the Grange, sat for two days in Huntingdon, Pa., in early December, through a discussion of the economic and religious interests of country communities. The speakers were President Kenyon L. Butterfield, of Amherst; "Farmer" Creasy, Master of the State Grange of Pennsylvania, and various others representing national and State agricultural and religious agencies. The meeting was under the direction of the Department of Church and Country Life of the Presbyterian Church.

The point of closest agreement in these sessions, in which the whole body was in constant agreement, was the need of uniting all community agencies in the country in the interests of country life. It was agreed that the churches, especially, must unite, or fail to serve the best interests of the farmer.

The recreative development of the country community was urged, and it was agreed that the church and the school must cultivate the young people and the working people of the country.

The annual convention of the Ontario Good Roads Association will be held in Toronto, March 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The Association will meet in the York County Council Chamber, Adelaide St. All phases of road-making will be discussed, and anyone interested in road-making is welcome to attend.



"Not much to look at, but maybe it will help me to make a better job of the new year."