

POULTRY.

Favors Pekin Ducks.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

A short time ago there appeared in these columns an article praising the new "Table Egg" or Indian Runner ducks, which, by the way, is not so very much "newer" than are the other varieties which have been imported into America. When I read this article, I could not resist replying in defence of the ever popular Pekins.

The point emphasized in the article regarding the Runner ducks was their heavy laying qualities. It is true that they lay a large number of eggs in a year, but I have a bred-to-lay strain of Pekins that lay as many eggs as do the Indian Runners. At present I have a pair of yearling ducks that began to lay about the first week in March and have laid their egg a day since, with one morning off about every two weeks. A point in favor of the Pekins is that the eggs they lay are very large in comparison with the Runner eggs. Even if the Pekins do not lay as many eggs as the Runners do in a year, yet if the weight of all the eggs were taken I do not doubt but what the decision would be in favor of the former, and where the eggs are used for home consumption, as they generally are when not used to set, one obtains the same quantity after all.

Pekin ducks can be kept in close confinement and still lay as well as when given their liberty. Indian Runners can also be confined in a small yard, but they are such active birds that they cannot seem to endure their imprisonment, and do not lay as they otherwise would.

In regard to raising the young ducks and selling at ten weeks of age as green ducks, here also the Pekins show their superiority over the lighter breeds. This breed of ducks are very fast growers, and if properly fed and cared for, will, at the age of ten weeks, weigh from five to seven pounds each, and it does not take much more feed to raise and fatten them than it does the Runners which weigh, as green ducks, two and a half to three pounds each.

Pekins have been the leading ducks in popularity ever since they were introduced to America from China by way of England in the year 1875. Since then they have been introduced into this country, the breed has been greatly improved, until now, breeding stock are being taken back to Japan and China to improve the ducks there.

The fact that the Pekins are the only breed of ducks raised on the majority of the large duck farms in the United States and Canada goes to prove their superior qualities when raised in large flocks.

From the standpoint of eggs the Indian Runner ducks are, on the whole, undoubtedly superior to the other breeds, but for those who desire a general-purpose duck for the farm, I advise the Mammoth Pekin ducks every time.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

PEKIN.

FARM BULLETIN.

Opinions and Opportunities.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

May 3rd. This week I feel like issuing a warning against forming opinions on public questions.

I wanted very much to form some opinions for use in this column, but after an earnest attempt gave up in despair. It was impossible for me to get a verbatim report of the proceedings of the Meredith-Duff Commission, which at this writing is investigating the Kyte charges in Ottawa, so each morning I got a leading Conservative paper and a leading Liberal paper, and read the reports which they gave. Each morning I found that these papers gave reports that flatly contradicted each other. To add to my confusion the editors of these papers are personal friends whom I have known for years—men whose word I would take on any subject—except politics. The correspondents who forwarded the news from Ottawa are also personal friends whom I esteem highly, and never hesitate to believe when they talk about the weather or some similar non-controversial subject. But it will never do to jump to the conclusion that either group of correspondents and editors were lying. They were simply selecting from the proceedings such points and incidents as seemed to favor their party, and that would be likely to please the multitude of readers who were looking to them with unquestioning faith for the truth about the unwholesome mess. As I pointed out some weeks ago the mess is unwholesome whether the charges are proven or not. If they are proven there has been disgusting greed and unfaithfulness to duty. On the other hand, if they are not proven there has been disgusting suspicion, and petty politics. About the only illuminating point so far has been the defection of Dr. Michael Clark from the Liberal ranks. But on the other hand the investigation was largely forced by the defection of the Hon. Andrew Broder from the Conservative ranks. So, as the old saying goes—"you pays your money and you takes your choice." Perhaps if you are wise you will not choose either. This is a time for the Canadian citizen to adopt President Wilson's policy of "watchful waiting." And while waiting it might be a good idea to put a rod in pickle for some unknown person or party who must be dealt with when the light finally shows the truth.

Talking about affairs in Ottawa reminds me that a few days ago we cleaned out the cement cellar which we put in a side hill near the house. Charges had been brought against it by everyone who had gone after apples or potatoes for the past month. At last I headed an investigating committee and started to clean things out. It was not hard to locate the chief source of offence. There was part of a barrel of sauerkraut that smelled like a Hun gas attack. After we had stopped using the stuff sometime in the winter it either *saured* too much or *krauted* too much, I don't know which, but we almost had to put clothes pins on our noses while carrying out that barrel. When we reached fresh air it certainly seemed good, but we realized at once that we must get that sauerkraut buried or expect a visit from the officer for public health who would not hesitate to have us committed for maintaining a public nuisance. After getting rid of the sauerkraut a few spoiled squashes and some rotten apples and potatoes seemed like the "perfumes of Araby" by comparison. Of course, I know that the cellar should not have been allowed to get into such a state, but one can't do everything, and when the habit of procrastination has been formed in youth it is hard to overcome. But in spite of the trouble we found in the cellar we got one surprise. Half a barrel of Pewaukee apples that the children could not be induced to touch while the Kings and Spys lasted was found to be in as good condition as

when put in the cellar last fall. I always understood that the chief charge against Pewaukees has been that they do not keep. I understood that they are fall apples and must be used before Christmas, but we are at present enjoying sound apples of this variety in the first weeks of May. What is the answer?

* * * *

If I were going into the hen business at the present time I would work along new lines. The country is at present suffering a grave crisis in the hen industry, and to the alert man a crisis is always an opportunity. As other occupations made it impossible for me to go in for hens I want to pass along a quiet tip to some ambitious reader of "The Farmer's Advocate." There is a modest fortune awaiting the man or woman who will carefully develop a strain of "clucking" hens. People who raise hens on a small scale are not so fond of incubators as they were a few years ago, but the hens they have are all of the non-sitting egg-machine types; and for some springs past I have noticed an increasing demand for good reliable cluckers. This year the scarcity has almost reached the point of a public calamity. The hens we have may show symptoms of sitting, but before the eggs given them are half hatched they "go off the cluck." At the present time everybody who meets anybody else in the country asks, "Do you know where I can get some clucking hens?" But alas, nobody seems to know. The old-fashioned sedentary, ever-clucking Brahmas and Cochins of my earliest recollection seem to have disappeared from the land. As I remember them our great difficulty was to get them to lay enough eggs to hatch on, and kind-hearted people used to buy china eggs at the store to make them enjoy life. In spite of all that may be said in favor of incubators and non-sitting hens, I wouldn't be afraid to wager that if anyone were to advertise a breed of permanent cluckers there would be a great demand from March until May next spring. I know where scores of them could be sold at this present minute.

An Ambulance from Potatoes Grown by Children.

In the spring of 1915 the Ontario Department of Agriculture offered to supply children taking part in the Rural School Fairs with sufficient potatoes to plant a plot 1 by 2 rods if they would agree to dispose of the crop and contribute the money to some patriotic cause. Applications were received through the District Representatives and the children showed great interest in the work. Thirty-four counties taking part in the work reported sales from over 2,500 children's plots, and the Department has received up to date \$1,843.18.

Before deciding upon the disposition of the money received from the children, the officers of the Canadian Red Cross Society were consulted, with the result that a McLaughlin Motor Ambulance was purchased and formally presented to the Red Cross by the Hon. Jas. S. Duff.

All children in the Province who contributed will be interested to know that Col. Noel Marshall, in his reply to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, expressed his gratitude to the children, and added, "The knowledge of each of these children that they have contributed to the comfort of the brave fellows who are serving us at the front will, I am sure, amply repay them for their efforts."

Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo and Other Leading Markets.

Toronto.

From Saturday morning to Monday, May 8, receipts at the Union Stock Yards, West Toronto, were 161 cars, 3,125 cattle, 1,617 hogs, 51 sheep, 39 calves. All classes of steers and heifers steady; cows 15 cents higher; bulls firm; several loads of heavy cattle sold \$9.25; sheep, lambs, calves firm at unchanged value; hogs, packers bidding 40 cents less, only 78 on sale, all the rest going direct to packing house. \$11.80 was paid for small lot.

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock Yards for the past week were:

	City	Union	Total
Cars.....	35	410	445
Cattle.....	449	4,941	5,390
Hogs.....	577	11,148	11,725
Sheep.....	147	245	392
Calves.....	552	1,975	2,527
Horses.....	57	423	480

The total receipts at the two markets for the corresponding week of 1915 were:

	City	Union	Total
Cars.....	36	477	513
Cattle.....	354	5,277	5,631
Hogs.....	179	7,388	7,567
Sheep.....	75	210	285
Calves.....	234	1,261	1,495
Horses.....	127	2,339	2,466

The total receipts at the two markets for the past week show a decrease of 68 carloads, 241 cattle, and 1,986 horses,

and an increase of 4,158 hogs, 107 sheep, and 1,032 calves, compared with the corresponding week of 1915.

Receipts of live stock were moderately liberal in cattle, calves and hogs. On Monday the receipts of heavy steers, many of which were not more than half finished, had the effect of reducing values from 10 to 15 cents, which was fully regained. Choice butchers steers and heifers, weighing 1,050 to 1,100 lbs., were in active demand, and at no time during the season did they sell for more money; the best load of this class, all dehorned steers, sold at \$9.10 per cwt. One load of choice 900 lb. steers sold at \$8.90; several lots of 5 and 10 cattle, of the heavy weight steers sold at \$9.25. Cows, and bulls, sold at firm values all week, bulls sold as high as \$8 and choice cows up to \$7.75. All classes of fat cattle bring high prices, quality considered.

Stockers and feeders. There was a moderate demand for these classes at firm price. Short-keep feeders 1000 to 1100 lbs., sold at \$8.50; feeders, 800 to 870 lbs. sold at \$7.75 to \$8.15. Common off colors, 600 to 650 lbs. sold at \$6.50 to \$7.25.

Milkers and Springers.—There was an active demand for choice cows, at firm values. About 6 choice cows reached the \$100 mark, 2 sold at \$110 each. Not enough cows came forward to fill the many orders.

Veal Calves.—There were larger deliveries but prices were still firm.

Sheep and Lambs.—Light receipts kept prices very firm. Light sheep sold up to \$10.50, and yearling lambs, \$11 to \$13.50, with spring lambs at \$7 to \$10 each.

Hogs.—Packers again tried to get prices down but failed. The bulk of the hogs sold at \$11.90 to \$11.95 weighed off cars.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice heavy steers, at \$9.00 to \$9.25; choice butchers, \$8.75 to \$9.00; good butchers, \$8.50 to \$8.75; medium butchers, \$8.00 to \$8.25; common butchers, \$7.50 to \$7.75; choice cows at \$7.50 to \$7.75; good cows, \$7.00 to \$7.25; medium cows \$6.50 to \$6.75; common cows \$6 to \$6.40; choice bulls, \$7.75 to \$8.00; good bulls, \$7.25 to \$7.50; common and medium bulls, \$6.25 to \$6.75.

Stockers and Feeders.—Short-keep feeders, 900 to 1,000 lbs., \$8 to \$8.25; steers 750 to 850 lbs., \$7.75 to \$8.00; common off colors, \$6.25 to \$7.00.

Milkers and Springers.—Choice milkers and springers, \$9 to \$100; and a few of extra choice quality at \$105 to \$110; good cows, \$75 to \$85; medium, \$65 to \$70; common, light, \$15 to \$55.

Veal Calves.—Choice calves, \$10 to \$10.50; good calves, \$8.50 to \$9.50; medium at \$7 to \$8.00; common, \$5 to \$6.50; heavy, fat calves, 400 to 450 lbs., \$7.50 to \$7.75.

Sheep and Lambs.—Light sheep sold at \$9 to \$10.50; heavy sheep at \$7.50 to \$8.50; yearling lambs sold at \$11.50 to \$13.50; spring lambs, \$7 to \$10 each.

Hogs.—Selects, weighed off cars, \$11.90 to \$11.95; selects fed and watered, \$11.65, and f. o. b. cars about \$11.20. For sows \$2.50, and stags \$4.00 less than prices paid for selects.

Toronto Horse Market.

On Thursday the Hon. Adam Beck assisted by Robert Graham, commenced purchasing horses at the City Cattle Market, for the Canadian Government. They bought 31 on that day, suitable for artillery purposes, at good prices ranging from \$190 to \$200 and over. They purpose being at the City Yards on Tuesday and Thursday of each week.

Country Produce.

Butter.—Butter declined again on the wholesales during the week. Creamery, fresh made lb. squares, 31c. to 34c.; creamery, solids, 30c.; separator dairy, 29c. to 30c.

Eggs.—New-laid eggs remained stationary, and were quoted at 24c. to 25c. per dozen.

Cheese.—19c. to 19½c. per lb. Poultry.—Live-weight: Chickens, 18c. to 20c. per lb.; ducks, 18c.; turkeys young, 20c.; fowl, 20c. per lb.; Squabs.—\$3.50 to \$4 per dozen.

Hides and Skins.

Lamb skins and pelts, \$1.20 to \$1.25; sheep skins, city, \$2 to \$3; sheep skins, country, \$1.50 to \$2.50; city hides, flat, 18c.; country hides, cured, 16c. to 17c.; country hides, part cured, 15c. to 16c.;

THE O.

Capital
Capital
Reserve F
Total Ass

HEAD

Branches
of the

Acc

Sal

Savings

country hides, per lb.
18c.; horse
horse hides,
No. 2, \$3 t
to 7½c.; w
wool, reject
unwashed, 2½

Red clover
\$27.50; red
\$25.50; alsike
\$22; alsike, l
alfalfa, No. 1
No. 2, cwt.,
1, cwt., \$12
\$10.50 to \$1

Wheat.—C
\$1.03 to \$1.0
to \$1.03; No
feed wheat,
(Track, Bay
\$1.27; No. 2
northern, \$1

Oats.—On
46½c.; com
Manitoba oar
2 C. W., 54
No. 1 feed, 4

Peas.—Acc
No. 2, \$1.60
to \$1.50.

Barley.—A
malting barle
60c. to 63c.

Buckwheat
outside, nomi
Rye.—Acc
No. 1 comme
according to

Corn.—Am
No. 3 yellow
Toronto), fe

Flour.—Ma
jute bags, \$6
bags, \$6;
bags, \$5.80.
ing to samp
Toronto; \$4.1

Hay.—No.
to \$22; No.
to \$18.

Straw.—Ca
track, Toron
Bran.—Per
Shorts.—Pe
Middlings.—
Good Feed

Wholesale
Canadian
appearance, f
sold at from \$
The Californi
\$5 per dozen

New vegeta
in quite freely
Thursday, se
at \$1 to \$1.1
\$2.25; carrot
\$1.25; radish
hamper).

New cabl
is likely to g
selling at \$3.
Canadian h
of poor quali
50c. per dozen

Potatoes h
New Brunswi
to \$1.85 per
per bag, (car
bag lower).