



Is it Profitable to keep Poultry in the City?

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—The question is often asked of me, "Are chickens profitable when reared in a city?" My experience and mode of treatment warrant me in saying, "yes." The following conditions I consider necessary:—A warm, clean house; small grass yard to run in; at all times a supply of pure water; best grain in variety, say corn, barley, oats, buckwheat, wheat mixed, and so given in a self-feeding hopper, that they may feed whenever they wish—(I have a small one holding two bushels, sufficient to supply thirty or forty chickens, proof against rat or mouse, and so constructed that no food can be wasted)—lime screenings, gravel, ashes, a quantity of pressed gravels (obtained at the candle-chandler's at two cents per lb.), to be given once or twice a week. It stands as a substitute for worms, bugs, flies or meat, which are all essential to secure good laying and health. Have a stock to begin with free from disease and hardy. I consider Grey Dorkings the best.

Here is an experiment with twelve pure bloods, commenced 11th Nov., 1865,—ten hens and two cocks—debit and credits follows:—

The original hens and their chickens have laid between 11th Nov., 1865, and 11th Nov., 1866, 80½ dozen eggs, or 966 (which averaged 20c. per dozen in Hamilton market), exclusive of those set for hatching; 23 chickens killed at different times. Market value ascertained at the time—10 sold out of the stock for \$8, owing to their purity of blood; 30 stock still on hand. They have made 6 bushels of droppings, eaten 31 bushels of grain, and \$1.75 of gravels.

RE-CAPITULATION.

Cr.	
80½ doz. eggs, 20c. per doz.....	\$16.10
23 killed, 25c. each.....	5.75
10 sold.....	8.00
6 bushels droppings.....	1.50
30 chickens on hand.....	7.50

Dr.	
31 bushels grain, 77c. per bushel...	\$23.87
Gravels.....	1.75
White-washing house.....	25
	\$25.87

Profit.....\$12.98

Had I felt disposed to increase the quantity of chickens reared, the profit column would have been proportionately great. I intend to do it another year.

W. H. MILLS.

Hamilton, 12th Nov., 1866.

PRICE OF LEONARD'S SAWING MACHINE.—We find that we were quite wide of the mark when we stated in our last that we thought the cost of this machine was about forty dollars. Mr. Leonard informs us that its price is seventy-five dollars when time is given, and ten per cent. off that figure for cash. We are at a loss to account for our erroneous impression.

IMPORTATION OF CHOICE SHORT HORNS.—Mr. John Snell, of Edmonton informs us that he has just imported from Kentucky the following Short Horns, selected from some of the best herds in the State. They are all red in color, and deep in the famous Duchess blood. From Jeremiah Duncan, Medora 4th, by Burnside, 4618, dam Medora 3rd, by Duke of Airdrie 2743. From Geo. M. Bedford, Zora 7th, by Meade Massie 5951, dam Zora 5th, by Grand Duke, 2933, and 6th Duchess of Goodness by Lord Derby, 3086, dam Goodness 3rd, by imp. Senator 2nd, 958. From H. W. Rice, Red Bud by Havelock 2958, dam Caroline by Master Mason 4161. From W. H. Renick, Lorena, by Gen. G. B. McLellan 5666, dam Cora by Star Davis 2258. From Abraham Renick, the Bull Calf Marmaduke, by Duke of Marlborough 3866, dam Mayflower 3rd, by Airdrie 2478, the Sweepstakes Bull at the late Kentucky State Fair.

CANADA WEST POULTRY ASSOCIATION.—A Society with the above name has recently been organized in this city, for the improvement and advancement of poultry interests. We have received from Lt. Col. Hassard, the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Association, a copy of its Rules, List of Members &c., and regret that the communication did not come to hand in time to receive a full editorial notice in our present issue. We are glad, however, to chronicle the formation of this Association. It is a movement that has been much needed. Our Local and Provincial prize-lists, and the general business of judging poultry, need the watchful eye of parties who understand the points of well-bred fowls. In other respects we can see a wide field of usefulness open to such an organization. We wish it success, and hope to give a fuller account of it in our next.

NEW INVENTION FOR CLEANING LAMP-GLASSES.—We have received a communication from the Rev. John Durrant, of Stratford, in which he informs us that he has taken out a patent for a new device intended to clean the interior of lamp-glasses. A sample of the invention accompanies the letter. We have tried this lamp cleaner on glasses of differently shaped concavities, and find that it instantaneously and perfectly accommodates itself to them all. It needs no adjusting with slides or springs, like some of the contrivances for the same purpose, being strictly self-adjusting. It is a very simple affair, so much so indeed that it at first excites your curiosity as to whether it really will do the work assigned it. A trial, however, at once convinces you of its efficiency. Mr. Durrant informs us that it will be extensively manufactured forthwith, and will probably sell at \$1.50 per dozen to wholesale dealers, and 20 cents each retail. As a Canadian expedient for what has come to be a universal want and a necessity in every household, we are glad to speak well of this invention.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, NOV. 15. 1866.

Manufacture of Beet Root Sugar.

SEVERAL correspondents have lately sent us letters of enquiry on the above subject. One asks if the manufacture of sugar from the beet can be profitably carried on in this country. Others wish information as to the process by which sugar is obtained from the beet. More than one of the writers who have addressed us, appear enthusiastic on the subject, and evidently think it possible to "strike it" in the direction of beet-root-sugar-making. We are somewhat surprised that this line of industrial enterprise should be attracting attention just now, as we know of no special reason why it should do so, and the almost simultaneous receipt of letters from various parts of the country, asking information on the subject, is a phenomenon we are unable to explain.

It is a thankless office to undermine and overturn castles in the air, yet this is what duty requires of us in the present instance. There is no good reason, so far as we know, to believe that sugar can be profitably manufactured from beets in this country. In France and Germany, protective duties and low-priced labour have combined to build up this branch of business, but without these advantages, it would not flourish even there. This manufacture sprung up in France as a part of Bonaparte's scheme for destroying the colonial prosperity of Great Britain by excluding the produce of England's colonies. Colonial sugar was at the enormous price of four and five francs a pound, and yet was in great demand. It having been found that a crystallizable sugar could be obtained from the juice of the beet, the manufacture of it was encouraged by every advantage which monopoly and premiums could give it, until it became an established and remunerative industry.

In roughly calculating what profits might be made in this line of business, the mistake is often committed of taking the common mangold beet as the basis

of estimate. But it is a small white beet that is used for sugar-making, and the yield of this per acre is much less than that of the common mangold beet. In the Industrial Exhibition of 1851, among the produce of the Grand Duchy of Saxony, Prussian Saxony, Brunswick, Anhalt and Thuringia, beet-root sugar was exhibited, with a notice that an acre would yield 6 tons of beet, yielding 5½ cwt. of sugar. Improved processes have since been introduced, so that a better exhibit could, no doubt, be made now; but it is only under highly favourable circumstances that this branch of manufacture can be made to pay. Another circumstance to be considered is, that the amount of sugar in the beet varies very much with the nature of the soil in which the plant is grown. In rich clay soils the bulbs become watery, and yield but little sugar. Highly-manured land gives a large produce per acre, but the roots contain only a small percentage of sugar. In soil well manured with horse and sheep dung, bulbs are produced which frequently show no trace of sugar, but whose juice, on the contrary, is strongly impregnated with nitre. The saccharine property of the beet lessens by being kept in store. In three months there has been a loss of from 30 to 50 per cent., and even more in consequence of storing. The juice must be worked up very rapidly, or the sugar is lost. If the beet pulp remains only two hours without being put into the press, it will yield very little crystallizable sugar, though it is still capable of producing syrup. In France it is estimated that the average amount of white sugar obtainable from the beet is only about 4½ per cent. Higher percentages have, however, been got in particular factories,—even as high as 7 and 8 per cent. Attempts have been made in England and Ireland to make sugar from the beet, but we are not aware that any of them have succeeded. We remember to have seen estimates in some of the British agricultural papers proving that sugar could only be made from the beet in England and Ireland at a downright loss. We imagine the loss would be even greater in this country. In addition to the advantageous circumstances of protection and cheap labour, the business of cattle feeding is in Germany combined with that of sugar-making from the beet, and is a considerable help toward making it pay. The capitalist farmers are the parties who carry on this double manufacture of sugar and beef. It is only on a large scale that it answers. The sugar factories are very extensive and costly in construction and machinery. Beet sugar refuse is considered worth about 20s. sterling per ton as cattle food. At some establishments, the molasses, after the sugar is extracted, are made into spirits, and thus a triple source of profit is obtained. We regret that we cannot furnish more precise data on this subject. A large manufacturing concern for the production of sugar from the beet was begun in Illinois a few years since, with the view of thoroughly experimenting on this subject. The results we have not met with in the course of our reading, and we are inclined to think they cannot have been very encouraging, since Brother Jonathan seldom keeps his money-making operations from the notice of the public. He is rather inclined to boast of them, and had the beet-sugar experiment been attended with any high degree of success, we have no doubt it would have spread into other States beside Illinois by this time. If any of our readers have in their possession trustworthy information on this subject, we shall be glad to publish it. As we have intimated, our impressions are very decidedly against the profitability of the thing in Canada. The making of sugar from the beet on a small scale, so that each family could have its home-made supply, after the manner of maple-sugar making, is quite out of the question. Large capital and expensive works would be required, and much as Canada needs a fuller development of the manufacturing interest, we are inclined to think its expansion must be sought in other channels, rather than that of beet-root sugar-making.