

est price about May 1; from then until July, the price gradually falls. From July to September, the price remains unchanged, but after September 1 again rises and, in October, ducks that it has cost less to raise than the early ones, again bring good prices. In November, western ducks are sent to market in great numbers, and the price then goes very low.

PRICES RECEIVED.

Last April, Mr. Pollard received as much as 60 cents per pound at retail, and 50 cents at wholesale for his earliest ducks. They then weighed about $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds each. Two years ago, the whole of his first hatch, marketed before the dealers had received ducks from elsewhere, brought him 50 cents per pound. Some of them were sold at this price when eight weeks old and weighing $9\frac{1}{3}$ pounds per pair. Last season, his ducks were sold at wholesale as follows:—April 25, 50 cents; May 1, 33 cents; May 9, 30 cents; May 15, 26 cents; June 1, 21 cents; June 16, 19 and 20 cents; July 2, 18 cents; July 18, 16 cents; from August 1 to October 1, 14 to 16 cents. He expects that the price will go up to 18 cents by October 20, and then drop when the western ducks come in. As Mr. Pollard remarked, "50 cents per pound for young ducks is pretty good and counts up pretty fast so long as it lasts." He has taken pains to secure the best ducks that can be found, and of late years has exhibited at the fall fairs and the winter poultry shows; as a result, the sale of breeding ducks has become an important part of his business.

He has been endeavoring to improve his ducks by increasing the depth and flesh development of the fore part of the bodies, and his breeding birds are, as a lot, very deep bodied. This type of duck, he claims, will be the plumpest, heaviest and most attractive when dressed. With this deep-bodied strain, he won in close competition at the Boston poultry show most of the first prizes. (All but one, and it was afterwards found that the bird that took it was disqualified, so he really was entitled to all firsts)

THE NEW FARM.

Finding he needed more room for his fowls, as well as more water for his ducks, than his suburban place afforded, Mr. Pollard secured, about a year ago, a 60-acre farm a few miles out in the country that is almost an ideal place for duck raising on an extensive scale. This place is made up of hills and hollows, ridges and marshes, and has a stream running through its whole length which furnishes all the water needed for duck ponds. The soil is a gravelly loam over a gravel subsoil. Naturally marshes between gravelly hills and steep slopes leading down to the water give every natural advantage desired in laying

out yards for breeding ducks. The marshes and ponds are as near like the natural home of the duck as can be had. It would seem that several generations of ducks bred with such liberty and surroundings must regain all the hardiness and vigor of their natural state, and that a high per cent of fertile eggs would be insured.

The duck house on this place, put up last year, is 120 feet long, 12 feet wide, 8 feet high in front and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high at the back. It is built as cheaply as possible, of one thickness of ordinary boards and covered with Neponset paper. The inside is divided up into pens, two of which are 12 x 20 feet and five 12 x 16 feet; 27 ducks and 5 drakes are kept in each small pen. The partitions are only three feet high, being made of 12-inch boards nailed across at both the top and bottom with the space between covered with netting one foot wide. The top board is quite desirable, as it prevents the netting from being bent down, and the ducks are less liable to run against the partition or try to jump over. In the front of each pen is a window about three feet square, high enough from the ground so that it will not be broken by the ducks, while in the rear at a convenient height, is an oblong trap-door through which the manure is shovelled out as well as the planer shavings thrown in right from a waggon. Speaking of the Neponset which covered this building, Mr. Pollard said that he liked it, and that it looked the best, but he could buy three-ply felting at the same price, and a barrel of tar enough to cover the whole building, for one-third what it would cost to buy the paint for the Neponset. In the yards adjoining this house and on the ponds connected with them, were flocks of fine Pekin ducks actively feeding or sporting in the water. Four hundred ducks intended for breeding were in sight, over 200 were yearlings or ducks of a previous season, and the rest selected young ducks. At least 300 of these were carried over winter and are being bred from.

Scattered about another and a higher part of the farm were, at least, 800 white chickens. About 600 of them white Wyandottes and the remainder were white Plymouth Rocks. These chickens, previously mentioned, were reared artificially and brought out here when well feathered, and sheltered at night in wired-in sheds scattered about the place. Twenty-five of these sheds were of the well-known Hodgson make (the retail price of which is \$5), and had given satisfaction. In very windy weather, they may be overturned in the day time unless staked to the ground. At night, however, the half-grown chickens on the roosts generally weighted them down sufficiently to prevent their