

and broilers, we would choose one of the American breeds—Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, or the Orpingtons—depending on your fancy. These are all good utility breeds. On a farm of this kind, I would leave the raising of broilers to the specialist, and only market the surplus cockerels at broiler age. These, besides paying for their own keep, would almost pay for raising the pullets to laying maturity, and from these layers you could clear at least \$1.50 a head per year above the cost of feed, so that 500 layers should give you an income of \$750 for your labor. One hundred colonies of bees should give you another \$750 a year, which would not be a bad income for a working man.

"Ten acres I would consider ample to support such a plant as I have outlined, though, if you could secure suitable help, it could be enlarged, if you wished. A part of this small farm could be planted with fruit trees, or, better yet, should be already planted, which would be benefited by the poultry, and would make an ideal shade for them in the hot summer days. Small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries and currants, ripen at a time when you would be very busy with the bees and young chicks, and for that reason, if grown, you would require considerable help at that season, though, if you have a good berry market, they pay well for the labor.

"The above outline will give Young Farmer an idea of what could be expected from such a farm, though it is impossible to place a limit on what could be accomplished on such a farm, suitably located and skillfully managed."

POULTRY.

The Hen on the Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It seems to be the fashion for nearly every speaker at all sorts of agricultural meetings to overestimate the prices of eggs and poultry. The ordinary farmer must be satisfied with about half the prices these men talk about. The price the consumer pays, and the price the producer receives are altogether different. Still, for all this, the hen will pay her board and leave a fair profit if she is given a fair chance. Below I will give my last year's experience; some may do better, all can do as well.

Started on November 1st with 10 hens, 45 pullets, and 4 cockerels. Eggs laid during the year, 6,100; money received for eggs, \$106.84; chickens and old hens, \$36.07. Set 240 eggs, raised 209 chickens. Have now on hand 100 pullets, 2 old hens, and 5 cockerels. Eggs from which cockerels were hatched were bought, the setting costing \$1.35.

PROFITS FOR YEAR.

Receipts.	
Eggs	\$106.84
Chickens	36.07
Pullets	50.00
Hens	1.00
Cockerels	3.75
	\$197.66
Expenditure.	
Hens and pullets	\$ 27.50
Feed	69.50
Cockerels	3.00
	\$100.00
Profit—\$97.66.	

These hens got no special care or attention. The chickens were hatched under hens, and, when a week old, were moved out to the orchard. The hens were kept in coops; the chicks had a free run. The feed was grain and grass in summer, and grain, wheat, oats, barley, corn, buckwheat, bran and mangels, clover chaff and meat scraps, for the winter. Hens averaged 112 eggs each; price, nearly 21 cents a dozen; chickens sold from 17½ cents in July, to 10 cents in October. For winter eggs, early pullets, well fed and well developed, are the right kind. T. W. L.

Bruce Co., Ont.*

220 Eggs Per Pullet.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It may be of interest to some of your readers, as laying records are the order of the day, to know what a pen of pure-bred White Wyandotte pullets did for me in the year 1910. These pullets began laying January 1st, 1910, and in the year, ending December 31st, 1910, laid an average of 220 eggs each. At 35 cents per dozen, these eggs would bring \$6.41 per hen.

Two years ago, a pen of our Barred Plymouth Rocks averaged 218 eggs each, which we considered a very high record. Up to this year, our Barred Plymouth Rocks have led as heavy egg producers, but must now take place as close second to the White Wyandottes. L. R. GILL, Wellington Co., Ont.

B. C. Poultry Association Annual Meeting.

Organized only last August, the first annual convention of the British Columbia Poultry Association proved a great success. The policy of the Association is to assist the poultrymen who are handling poultry on a commercial basis; it does not cater to the poultry fancier. There are at present 350 members, and from these, some 60 delegates were present at the annual meeting, representing all the poultry districts of the Province. Much of the success of the organization, and its present flourishing condition, is no doubt due to the work which has been accomplished by the energetic secretary, M. A. Jull, Live-stock Commissioner, who has been fortunate in having along with him on the directorate a group of men deeply interested in the welfare of the industry.

The day's programme, besides the business of the Association, consisted of a number of very practical addresses.

The staff of the Provincial Department of Agriculture has been increased by the addition of J. R. Terry, late poultry instructor at the O. A. C., Guelph, to take the place of M. A. Jull, who has been appointed Live-stock Commissioner. Mr. Terry comes to the Province with a long experience in poultry-raising and experimental work, and will, no doubt, prove a valuable adjunct to the poultry industry in British Columbia.

The officers of the Association are: President, E. B. Gale, East Burnaby; Vice-President, W. E. Nochtie, Victoria; Sec.-Treas., M. A. Jull, Victoria; and ten directors, representing all the districts of the Province.

Quick Fattening.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of January 12th, 1911, in the article written by Thos. W. Lee, he says 10 days is sufficient to fatten chickens. If properly done, it can't be done in 10 days. I would like to hear from Mr. Lee as to his personal experience in fattening chickens, because it would be a great boon to the business if chickens can be properly fattened in 10 days. Let us hear from Mr. Lee through your next issue. D. BURCH, Norfolk Co., Ont.

[Note.—We expected some crate fatteners to take exception to the statement about ten days being sufficient, as most poultrymen feed for a longer period, and authorities recommend longer feeding. Let us hear again from Mr. Lee.—Editor.]

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Mushrooms.

By Peter McArthur.

If a man is feeling ugly, one thing will do as well as another to spend his bad-temper on. This morning I must have got out of bed on the wrong side, or put on the wrong shoe first. Anyway, I have been going around like a bear with a sore head—willing to bite at anyone or anything that gets in my way. And here comes a letter from the Editor of "The Farmer's Advocate," which says:

"We want to lay before our readers in detail your method of raising mushrooms."

Did you ever hear of such foolishness? Who are the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate"? Why, the solid farmers of the country, of course. "Once every week," to quote a letter from Clayton Duff, of Bluevale, "our post office turns yellow with 'Farmer's Advocates'." The men who take it are the farmers who are interested in pure-bred stock, good horses, and improved methods of farming. They are the bone and sinew of the country, the serious-minded men who are producing the food of the world and making money. Think of telling them how to raise mushrooms! Why, there isn't one in ten of them who makes a pretence of raising ordinary vegetables, except roots and pumpkins for the cows. Of course, they all like mushrooms, just as they like cauliflower and celery and parsnips, but they have no time for such track. If the women folks feel like going in for such things, well and good, but don't expect the men to do it. When they meet at the post office or blacksmith shop, they talk about fat steers and big crops. People would laugh at them if they talked about garden sass and such luxurious trifles. Of course, mushrooms are all right when the children pick them on the way home from school and don't waste time that would be spent on chores. But, as for raising them, what nonsense!

Still, the editor seems to want an article on the subject. There is no accounting for the ideas that get into the heads of these editors. Why, they sometimes go so far as to print arguments in favor of having running water in the houses, and content waxes around the place, and things like that, so as to make work lighter for the women folks. Then they are at the time harping on kitchen gardens and things that it would

be beneath the dignity of men to potter at. Can't they ever get it through their heads that farmers, like poets, must "Scorn delights and live laborious days"? Can't they understand that many farmers are secretly proud of the narrowness and hardness of their lives? It seems to make them feel that they are heroes of some sort.

To try to get any enjoyment out of life, other than the joy of making money, is a sign of weakness and lack of serious purpose. And yet these editors keep on telling us that if we took the trouble to make the most of our lives, we could live like kings. Things that are luxurious to city people could be on our tables every day if we took the trouble to have them. We have the land and fertilizers to make good gardens, and if we haven't the time, we should take it. They tell us that a good garden, by varying our diet, will save more in doctor bills than it will cost, besides enabling us to enjoy our meals. Well, perhaps that's so, but I think some of these editors are college fellows. That's why they are so full of womanish notions about gardens and such things. And now they want to explain how to raise mushrooms! O, very well; but after this I'll have to sneak into the village on off hours to get my mail, for they'll laugh at me for months for writing this article.

Mushrooms require less labor to raise than any other dainty you can have on the farm. A few minutes' work each day for three or four days is all that is needed. After the bed is spawned, there is no hoeing or weeding to do, and you can forget all about it until the mushrooms are ready to gather.

In the winter, the bed can be made in a warm cellar, and in the summer in any shed or out-building, or even in the lawn or any patch of sod. I say they are easy to raise, in spite of the fact that I failed dismally the first couple of times I tried. But once I published a wailing paragraph about my bad luck, and then J. McPherson Ross, of Balmy Beach, came to my rescue with instructions so simple that I succeeded at once, and have succeeded ever since. Others who have tried have had equally good luck. This is the way he told me to do it:

Gather the fresh horse manure every morning, and mix it with an equal amount of good garden loam. Keep adding to the pile each day until you have enough to make the size of the bed you want. See that the manure is free from straw, and fork it over whenever you add to it, so that it will not heat. Make the bed in a dry spot, with boards around it that are at least ten inches high. After you put in the mixture of manure and loam, pound it down hard. This is important. Pound it down as you would the earth around a post that you are setting. When finished, the bed should be ten inches deep. Then lay a thermometer on it, face down, so that you can easily keep track of the temperature. As a rule, it will rise rapidly for a few days, and will then begin to fall. When it falls to about 85 degrees, break the brick of spawn into lumps about the size of walnuts. Then poke holes into the bed with a stick, about six inches apart, and drop in the lumps of spawn, covering them carefully. Then leave the bed as it is for eight or ten days, until all the rank heat has escaped. After that, cover it with loam to a depth of three or four inches, and your work is done. In the course of six or eight weeks, you should begin to have mushrooms. If you have the bed in a cellar, it will thrive best in a temperature of about sixty-five degrees.

Mushrooms can be raised at any season of the year, though there is less chance of success with beds made in May and June, on account of flies. For summer beds, an empty stall in the stable is about the best place. It is very important that the bed be placed where it will be dry, as too much moisture delays the growth of the mushrooms. If the bed should get too dry, it should be sprinkled with water that has been warmed to about one hundred degrees, or with liquid manure. But, wherever you make the bed, be sure to pound down the mixture of manure and loam as hard as you can, and have the bed about 10 inches deep.

Probably the very easiest way to raise mushrooms is to make little beds in the lawn or grassy fence corners, or in any patch of sod. Cut out a sod about eighteen inches square, and then dig a hole about eighteen inches deep. Fill this hole with a mixture of two parts of fresh clean horse manure, mixed with loam, and pound it down hard. Leave it for a few days to let the first heat escape, and then put in the spawn and replace the sod upside down. In due time you will have plenty of mushrooms.

Another easy way to raise mushrooms is to fill a barrel with the mixture of loam and manure, and then bore two inch auger holes in the sides. Put in the spawn through these holes, and in a few weeks the mushrooms will begin to appear through these openings.

There are many ways of cooking mushrooms, and they are good in every way. For stews, they are as good as oysters. When fried with steak, they make a dash of for a king. They may be fried in butter, broiled over the coals, or baked