

* The Farm. *

Curing Timothy Hay.

This valuable fodder crop is much more easily cured than clover. Less time is required in the curing process, and also less labor. But in the ease in which it can be cured lies one of the greatest dangers, viz., that of over-curing it. This mistake is committed to a grievous extent in all parts of the country, but nowhere is it so often made as in the prairie sections of the West and Northwest. When allowed to lie in sun before being housed or stacked until it is so dry that it breaks off easily on being twisted, its feeding value is but little better than that of straw. Timothy should be cut before the bloom has left it. Authorities are not quite agreed as to the best time for cutting it. Some argue in favor of the season of early bloom, others favor cutting when in full bloom, and a third class claim that it should be cut when in the "second bloom." When the blossoms come out on the timothy head they do not show themselves so quickly at the top of the head as on the other portions of the same. Soon they fall to the ground, but since they appear last on the upper end of the spike they also remain there for a short time after the blossoms have fallen from the other portions of the same. The period is usually referred to as the period of the "second bloom." Storer would seem to favor cutting at a still later stage, when the greatest weight and nutriment are to be obtained. But weight and nutriment in a fodder will not avail when it has lost its palatability, and timothy is certainly less palatable after it has passed the period of second bloom. The only objection of weight brought against cutting timothy when in full bloom is found in what is termed "dust" arising from the dried blossoms, which shower out when the hay is being fed. But timothy should not be allowed to stand longer than the period of second bloom. When the timothy and clover grow together the time to cut must be decided by the dominance of one crop or the other. The first season clover will dominate the crop, and the time for cutting should be fixed to save the clover when at its best. The second year the timothy will be more abundant, and the period of cutting should be fixed to cure the timothy when at its best. And when a very large area is to be harvested the cutting of the crop should commence when it is underripe, otherwise much of it will be overripe before it has all been cut. The loss from cutting underripe hay is always less than that from cutting it overripe, the weather being equally favorable to the curing in both instances. When cut underripe the fodder is very palatable, hence there will be no waste when feeding it, and the residue of energy still left in the plant produces a good growth of aftermath.—Exchange.

Poultry For Profit.

Raising poultry is a peculiar and at the same time a fascinating pursuit. The person who enters into it must, above all, have a great fondness for it. It at no time becomes mechanical or commonplace. The foreman of a canning factory would not therefore succeed in raising chickens if he ran them on the same principle he had been running his canning room on. As each season comes around there is something new, something different to learn about chickens. As a rule, it is all in the line of improvement, and with an aim to be more successful each year. When disaster and bad luck overtake the breeder, it is his great fondness for the pursuit which carries him through. He must also have a sufficient quantity of common sense and knowledge of his business to be able to make up losses and finally come out with a prosperous season.

The secret of the failures of well-equipped poultry plants where capital is plentiful, lies in the fact that the owners think to make a profit by hiring some man—of course, a poultryman preferred—to run the establishment and make it succeed for them. This is not an impossible thing to

do, but one of the first requisites is the poultryman, or, in other words, the ability. First-class poultrymen out of employment are as scarce as hens with teeth. Again, a first-class poultryman hired by a man who knows nothing about raising poultry soon becomes a second-class man at everything. There may be exceptions to the rule, but they are scarce.

Of course, there are many instances in other business enterprises where one man invests capital and another man tries by ability to make a profit for the concern, but in such a case the capitalist must have confidence in the ability of his partner to make a success or he would not intrust money to him. So it should be in the poultry business. If a capitalist hires a poultryman to provide the ability—which means, or should mean, successful experience—the former ought to get a fair return for the wages at least. But the truth of the matter is that there are no first-class poultrymen to be hired. They are either all working for some one else or are in business for themselves.

The second quality necessary for a successful poultry plant is capital. Without this all the ability in the world cannot succeed. The capital may be great or small, but capital it must be, and available at the start. There is really more chance for success for a man with capital who is willing to learn by experience than for a man with ability and no capital. At the beginning of one's career in poultry-raising there are houses and yards to make, stock and eggs to be bought and a living to be paid for before any returns can be counted on. Investment of capital should be by easy stages, never putting in more money than you can control. One man may succeed with a hundred hens who invests a few hundred dollars for their housing and keep, and another may fail who invests largely and goes into the venture on an extended scale. One should learn to creep before he walks, in this as in any other business. Master the numerous details step by step, and eventually master the business.

There may not be any large fortunes to be made in poultry-raising, but there is a handsome living for any one who has the love for the pursuit, the ability to raise and care for stock, and a small capital to start with. These three things must go hand in hand; separately they do not bring success.—(E. O. Roesele, in Country Gentleman.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphing Wednesday says: A slight Chinese outbreak occurred this morning in the American settlement. The police charged the mob and arrested five leaders. It is reported that an arrangement has been made with regard to the Ning-Po joss house. The French agree to abandon their scheme for carrying a road through it in exchange for an extension of the French concession.

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