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Poultry Pointers.

(By the Editor of the "Encyclopaedia of Poultry.")

Of late some peculiar ideas have been promulgated concerning the treatment of these chickens and adult hens with a view to promoting growth in the former and egg-production in the latter. We have heard, for example, of stimulating the growth of chickens by means of electrical currents and other devices for hustling Nature which are equally novel and weird. The very latest is subjecting poultry to confinement under stained glass, red-colored glass being said to be favorable to increased egg-production and blue glass to quick growth in the chickens. Practical poultry-keepers can hardly be blamed if they regard these measures with a certain amount of scepticism. They seem almost on a par with the notion of the American poultryman who provided his hens with clouded spectacles, so that they were precluded from seeing the eggs they laid, and, under the impression that they had not laid, made another attempt, and so were induced to "shell out" two eggs daily instead of one!

My own personal view is that if chickens are hatched from strong, vigorous stock and fed on nourishing food, being at the same time kept under strictly hygienic conditions, they need no artificial inducements to grow and prosper. Nor do laying hens require anything beyond that to yield a sufficiency of eggs to justify their keep. On poultry farms where the 200-egg-a-year hen is found the only color scheme that enters into the business is the green of the verdant sward, and the only "currents" the chickens experience are those of the pure country air.

Egg-production, as I have frequently pointed out, is largely a matter of "strain" in the first instance, and good feeding, combined with exercise, in the second. The foods that are best calculated to assist egg-production are those that contain the constituents of which the egg is composed, and there are plenty of reliable foods advertised which save the poultry-keeper the trouble of discriminating. The same applies to the growing chicken. Dry chick foods blended in exactly the right proportions, to promote growth, are to be obtained with ease from most corn-chandlers—some, of course, better than others—but all more or less to be depended upon to fulfill their object. With these foods at his disposal the poultry-keeper can afford to regard such devices as those referred to as "quacks."

I have made mention of the 200-egg-a-year hen. Some people are very sceptical as regards the existence of this bird, but I can assure them that, although hardly so common as black-berries, such hens do exist; and, moreover, owing to breeding by selection being more often the rule now than formerly, they are on the increase.

To obtain this ideal is what every poultry-keeper should make his aim, but it can only be accomplished by systematic breeding. If you are breeding, bred only from your best layers, and keep on doing so season after season until you have built up a laying strain. If you are purchasing eggs for sitting—as you will possibly soon be doing if you are out for early chicks—see that they are derived from a reliable source, and, above all, don't "beverage" giving a good price for your sittings.

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London Outlook

Criticises U. S. in Severe Way.

London, Dec. 13. — The "Outlook" weekly instalment on vituperation of the United States, is based this week on the speech by Ambassador Page at the Savage Club, in which he referred to what has been called "A new version of the Monroe Doctrine."

The "Outlook" says Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Salvador are being coolly offered by the United States the privilege of becoming "kept republics," and asks "what else is this but the cynical ruthlessness of a Simon Legree trafficking in the honor and freedom, not of individuals, but of nations?"

Referring to the situation in Mexico, it wants to know whether or not the "burning passion of the United States for the observance by other peoples of an abstract theory of Government, will wipe out the stain of savage and useless bloodshed in Mexico, for which the intrigues of Wall Street and the advice of trust-fund Senators and the State Department, are responsible."

It finishes by talking of the United States "as adding to its record the foul crime of extirpating the manhood of a nation."

The "Saturday Review" also falls foul of Ambassador Page regarding his saying that Americans speak better English than Englishmen.

"It is absurd to pretend that they speak good English," says the "review."

"Their English and their spelling of English are most unpleasant; their twang is even more so, and American literature is not of much account."

It excepts Emerson, Whitman, and one or two others.

"The list of their writers of genius or even of high talent is painfully restricted," it adds.

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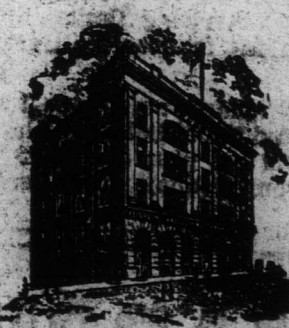
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"Army V Obey," S

London, Dec. 8. — "Punch" last week hit off in characteristic fashion the humorous anomalies of the "Army of Obey."

A hapless German visiting London is portrayed gazing with astonishment at a billboard on which are displayed posters announcing the existence of the "Army of Obey," the first Nationalist "Army," and the various other armed forces that are being raised in these islands.

"Moin Gott!" exclaims the German. "All these armies and Germany has only one!"

A good deal of enthusiastic exaggeration must be allowed for in the published accounts of the recruiting of these several armies, their drill and other preparations for the fray. Mrs. Pankhurst's arrest at 10, north showed that the police were fully competent to deal at least with one section of the suffragette army, and the fact that there has been no collision with Sylvia Pankhurst's special corps of East End toughs indicates that Scotland Yard believes in the measure of another section.

As a matter of fact London has never taken the stories of the suffragette armies seriously. In regard to the possibilities of armed resistance to Home Rule in Ulster, the case is different. There has always been an element of belief, more or less politely expressed, in the possibility of the Ulster threats of organized armed resistance being actually carried out, but at the same time there has always been a fear that the incendiary agitation led by Sir Edward Carson might have deplorable results.

Premier Asquith's warning last week, however, had a marked effect, and the Unionist leaders to whom he referred particularly are now hurriedly retreating from the ground they took up.

"The doctrine that soldiers or police officers or men," said Mr. Asquith, "are to discriminate at will between their orders is undermining to government. We have no doubt as to the duty and power of the State to enforce obedience to the law."

The Earl of Derby was the first Unionist to call a halt. Speaking on Monday, he asserted that there must be no attempt to drag in the army to over-awe Parliament.

Sir Edward Carson, "curiously enough," was the next to recede from the position previously occupied.

"It is a foul lie," he remarked, "to say that the Ulster Unionists are trying to tamper with the British Army. It would be a bad day for the country if the army, under any circumstances, were to refuse to obey lawful orders. Nobody would blame the army for shooting upon Ulstermen."

In order to understand this "new development," it must be remembered what position Lord Derby holds in English politics. He is a great landlord, a more than usually able representative, a peer, and a sound business man, and is looked upon as the embodiment of that sound common sense which made the late Duke of Devonshire (who possessed abilities of a far lower order than Lord Derby) a power in the councils of the nation. It is significant that Lord Derby, who a year or two ago vetoed a tariff reform policy and recently blocked the Unionist plan for demanding the refusal of the royal assent to Home Rule, has now prevented his party from appealing to the army against the Government.

Lord Selborne followed Lord Derby's lead, saying that he "would never hear at the time of this crisis or any other crisis the suggestion

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