

also troubled, but to a less degree, while ducks and geese are worried little if at all.

In British Columbia the vermin pest is even greater, though this is needless, than it is in any other part of Canada. But it can be controlled with comparative ease if proper methods be adopted.

So great has been found this plague to fowls that certain concerns have found an eager market for all kinds of patent fixtures for the positive prevention of the vermin pest. I term such fixtures luxuries and stamp them as non-essential. But it will be necessary for us to know something of the kinds of vermin which infest poultry houses and the fowls themselves, as well as something of the nature of the same, before we can intelligently discuss their prevention as pests.

Vermin pests are of two kinds, viz., lice and mites.

The lice stay on the fowl and are mostly the large grey louse.

Kinds of Lice on Fowl.

1. *Lesser Lice*.—These are a small louse similar to the large grey louse.
2. *Large hen louse*.—Very common and very prolific; it trails a tickler behind it, making a very irritating sensation; lives chiefly on feathers. Hence it is a parasite and stays on the bird all of the time.
3. *Burnett's hen louse* is similar, though not so large as the large hen louse.
4. *Chicken louse*.—This louse is usually found upon young birds, is very small and very prolific.
5. *Long chicken louse* is similar to above but different in shape, as its name denotes.
6. *Common hen louse* is a medium size, with habits similar to all of the above.

In fact, all of the six kinds of chicken lice above mentioned are similar in their habits as they are in appearance, though differing much in size. Some are so small that they can scarcely be seen with the naked eye; others so secretive in habits as to be scarcely discernible among the feathers. The lice usually seen on the bodies of birds are the "large" and the "common" lice. When lice are plainly seen, even though it be only one here and there, it is a sure sign of great numbers of the pests.

Among the varieties of lice there is also:—

- The common duck louse.
- Squallid duck louse.
- Clear duck louse.
- Clear goose louse.
- Blithing louse of turkey.

Mites.

These are of two kinds, viz.:—

1. *Chicken mite* (4 legs), sometimes white and grey, but blood-red when full.
2. *Itch mite*.—About 1-80 of an inch in length, thus being so small as to be not discernible to the naked eye. It affects the legs and comb.