

the adjacent States will agree that the choice was a good one. A yard where only a few varieties are kept would not answer our purpose, as the difficulties of the fancy are increased with the number of varieties kept. In their yards there were a great many varieties kept, and not one of them but year after year have been exhibited successfully both in Canada and the States. Thoroughbred poultry is kept by Butterfield & Hanes not merely as a fancy, but as a matter of business, and there is nothing whatever enters into their arrangements that is not of practical necessity for the promotion of the object in view; neither is there anything omitted that their experience has found necessary. We may safely say to the beginner that what is considered by this firm as all actually necessary for the accommodation and proper management of thoroughbred fowls, will be found so, as we have no knowledge of another that has been so successful.

We certainly expected to see more substantial structures, built with a view to greater warmth, but as no frozen combs were visible, and all the birds were healthy and bright, we had evidence that the buildings were sufficiently warm,—at least for the climate of this part.

They are what is known as scantling frame, and merely covered with inch lumber, well battened. The only part lined is the north-west side, which is covered with tarred paper, but all cracks are well closed, and there was no chance for drafts. All were well shingled.

The houses are three in number. The first is 52ft. long by 9ft. wide, 8ft. high at the front and 5ft. at the back. It is divided by lath partitions into eight compartments of equal size. The second is 60ft. long by 9ft. wide and is divided into ten compartments. The third is 2 ft. long by 12ft. wide, and is furnished with twenty four coops or cages in two rows, one on top of the other. Those are about 2ft 6in. square, are furnished with neat wire fronts, and have feed hoppers fixed at the partitions, with troughs at convenient height to receive the food, which drops down as required, and is always fresh and clean. It is here that surplus cocks are kept, and many of the exhibition birds spend six months of the year in these small coops without injury. In these cages the birds are also prepared for exhibition. The partitions in houses and yards are all closely boarded about 2ft. high, and lath above this. Lath 4ft. long are found sufficient, when nailed near top of boards, to restrain the fowls in the yards, making a fence about 5ft. 9in. high. There are no hallways; the doors forming part of partitions between coops.

No floors of any kind—just earth and sand. The roosts were inch boards about four inches wide, extending from one end of the coop to the

other, placed near the rear or lined side, and about eight inches from the ground. There was but one nest box in each compartment. This was a very simple article, being a box 18 inches or 2ft. long, without a bottom; a hole sufficiently large was made near one end of the outer side, and in the other end the nest was made on the ground; they were all movable, being merely placed over the nest. The feed troughs were of wood, about 3ft. long and 3in. wide, shallow, and nailed to partitions about 6in. from the ground.

There is a yard to each compartment in the first and second houses; they are the width of the compartment and about 60 yards long, well shaded by trees and shrubs.

Corn, cracked and whole, is the chief food here; very little other grain is fed the year round. Mr. Butterfield does not believe in much soft food. Middlings or shorts, from country mills where not too closely run, he considers good.

When the hens are laying they are liberally supplied with food, but when the breeding season is over they are put on short allowance—one meal a day—until time to prepare for exhibition when they get all they can eat, and come into much better condition than if fully fed all along. He don't believe in condiments; when their use is once commenced it must be continued. If a fancier is seen going around his fowls with a box of pills in one hand, and a bottle of some mixture in the other, it may be taken for granted there is something wrong at home as well as in the show room.

The young chicks never get water till six weeks old, but all the milk they can drink. Mr. Butterfield says their food is wheat only (but we will whisper here to our readers that Mrs. Hanes told us privately that many a dozen of eggs, boiled hard and chopped fine, and other tit-bits are given them that the men have no knowledge of; and she carries a beautiful gold watch, presented to her by them as a reward for the excellent success she had last year in bringing forward the premium chicks.)

So far they have had to depend on hens to hatch the chicks, but it is their intention to put in an incubator as soon as they are satisfied that they can get one that will do the work satisfactorily. They are now awaiting the result of trials of two or three, and will be guided largely thereby.

When hatched, the chickens are left with the mother until able to eat freely, and are then removed to the artificial mothers, several of which are in use, and give good satisfaction. The chicks in them are very lively, and apparently hardy, running out when they wish during the day if not very cold. They were here ranging from eight