

the city of Montreal for himself for all the stock he can raise from his own eggs and buys from others to keep his incubators going from the first of November until the first June. During the winter of 1896 he told me that on the first of June he could not supply the demand for broilers at long prices varying from 35 to 50 cts. per pound. And he intended to increase his plant from year to year as he considered it the best paying product of his farm. As it occupied time during the winter months that could not be otherwise utilized on the farm work, he is now using three incubators and a brooder house heated by a spence heater. The house is 180 feet long and 18 feet wide divided into pens suitable for the chicks until they are sent to market from the time they weigh from 2½ to 3 pounds per pair live weight. I am not writing this for the sake of writing, but from the facts with which I am personally acquainted, and with the hope of inducing other of our young farmers to go and do likewise. What one man can do another one can possessed with the same will and energy. Do not think for one moment that I am in favor of the common fowl or scrub hen over thoroughbreds of the improved varieties, for it is not the case. I believe in improved varieties of fowls, believe that thoroughbred and very high grade fowls will pay the farmer and market poultry raiser better than common fowls. Just as certainly as the thoroughbred and grade Jersey or Ayrshire cow will pay the farmer and dairyman better than a common cow. There are very many of our farmers who have been reading the Agricultural Journals and attending the conferences of Horticultural and Agricultural societies who know the benefit that has come to them from that source, who have also been taught to always begin with the best implements, stock and seeds. Many possibly think that it will not pay to start until they have money enough to buy a flock of high priced thoroughbred fowls, and I am trying to show them that it will pay to start with just the common hens they have already on the farm and improve the stock as they go along.

In the second case I have mentioned, the young man started with a single incubator of 100 egg capacity and bought eggs from the farmers in his vicinity taking the best he could get from them, selling the cockerels for broilers and keeping the best of the pullets for eggs in the next season, selling off the following spring those which were not good layers, he has made it pay its way right along, so

that the third year he cleared \$300.00 between the first of November and the first of July from his poultry plant alone, he is now using one incubator holding 100 eggs, and two holding 200 eggs each, his brooder house is not expensive, not costing him over \$130.00, he has found it to pay him as well if not better than his small fruits or orchard, his laying stock and young pullets have the entire range of his farm in the summer after seeding time until the snow comes, the result is that now he has laying stock enough to supply or nearly so enough eggs to supply his incubators, in any event it pays him to buy eggs at 35 cts. per dozen for hatching, for broilers which he has no trouble in selling in the city of Montreal at good prices, live weight, therefore, has no expense for dressing or killing, he raises all the food for them on his own farm, although not a large one, showing the result of pluck, energy, and perseverance.

Last winter I met a farmer at an exhibition who said he was clearing \$1.00 a year per fowl, plus what was consumed by the family. I was not surprised to hear he had cared for and loved poultry from boyhood up. He said, as stormy days came, when other farm work could not be attended to, he desired no better amusement than sitting down on an overturned box or measure in the poultry house watching and studying his hens. Does it not take patience, ultimate acquaintance and considerable ingenuity to reach and please our human friends or relatives? Why then should any poultry farmer expect less could make a success of his feathered companions? Know your birds and their habits and you will be surprised at the pleasure as well as profit you will gain by so doing.

S. J. ANDRES.

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#### IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.

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Very often the question has been asked as to the best method of starting poultry keeping or of improving the present stock and I shall endeavor to consider the matter. Now that it seems to me that the farmers are paying more attention than formerly in the direction of keeping better poultry more especially with regard to the profitable side rather than for the pleasure of it, it is essential that the first steps taken shall be on right lines; otherwise they may have to be retraced at great expenditure of both time and money.