

stay at home since Mr. Gutelius has been fit to break the agreement that induced them to forsake the city and try country life.

I wonder if the railway authorities were aware of all these things and gave them consideration before making these changes. Years ago the suburban people had to have a heart-to-heart talk with Messrs. Brady and Tiffin before they gained their point. Has any attempt been made to arrange a conference upon this occasion, or is it felt that it is useless for the people living along the "People's Railway" to appeal to Mr. Gutelius?

Why should it be useless? For reasons that will be apparent to all it would be preferable for those in sympathy with the administration to make the move, but whatever is necessary, let it be done at once, for without effect the suburban train service country life in the communities referred to is nearly as enjoyable, or suburban property nearly as valuable as before the change.

I am yours truly,
E. S. CARTER.
Fair Vale, Feb. 2, 1914.

FOOLISHNESS OF RULERS

(Toronto Globe.)

"Heaven has dealt kindly with our people, but the foolishness of our rulers has made the goodness of God of no effect." The quotation from the Charter of the Dominion of Wales, which John Bright, has been fittingly repeated by Hon. Mr. Lemieux in calling attention to the Canadian conditions. The only change since the time of the petition is that the people are now the rulers and suffer from their own foolishness. We live in the best possible world. If we have a penny's worth of common sense, Grace there is nothing we could ask that has not already been given in superabundance. We have, in overflowing measure coal, iron, copper, tin, lead, zinc, silver, and other minerals, and a multitude of useful forms of vegetable life, water perpetually renewing its purity, evaporation, and supplying inexhaustible energy and soil capable of perpetual fertility. From this limitless bounty the cunning hand of man brings all things necessary to human sustenance and comfort as if by the touch of a magician's wand. Yet through the foolishness of our rulers poverty stalks abroad in the midst of abundance, and the proportion live in the perpetual menace of want.

When thought was first directed to the persistence of poverty despite the multiplying of resources, especially the great waste and spoliation of trade, the cause was disclosed. But experience showed that conditions under unimpaired commerce again deteriorated, and the cause was disclosed. The next disclosed cause was the land system which steals away the products of every improvement, including commercial liberty. If every rule was to become otherwise capable, if every other waste were stopped, and all other parasitic suspended, even if everything necessary to human sustenance and comfort fell ready from the clouds, the existing land system would cause widespread destitution. It is disapplying to cure other economic evils while it continues. What our rulers has dealt kindly with our people, but the foolishness of our rulers has made the goodness of God of no effect.

A Real Liberal Triumph.
(London "Advertiser.")

The Manitoba Conservative Legislature has unanimously passed a resolution in favor of free wheat. Insofar as the whole wheat grain-growing was concerned, Laurier's reciprocity platform is thereby fully endorsed, Alberta and Saskatchewan being already in line, and by the men who were so free with their mouths when they were in power, and three years ago. It would not be fair to argue that the adoption of the "free wheat" policy is not a manifestation of the greatest desire to do right. What is the principal goal that the west has to offer, and just as it wants the duty on the most important article removed, so will it want barley and oats and potatoes, or whatever else there is to be relieved of the tariff burden. It is simply a case of Liberal wisdom being adapted to the needs of the country. We have no slurs to throw at Manitoba because it did not stand with Laurier in 1911. We believe that Manitoba has come close to the hordes of that campaign, and had for some time been a good crowd at best. We believe that the whole country had a similar awakening, and that it would sweep the Jordan government to defeat on the reciprocity issue tomorrow.

Free wheat is reciprocity. That the ultra-conservative Roblin government should demand it without one dissenting voice shows that public opinion is bound to find the firm ground if given time.

Moncton Transcript.—J. A. Maryna is able to be out again. Mr. F. A. McQuinn, who has been confined to his home for some months past, has been able to leave his room in a few days. J. S. Macgregor, who has been confined to his home through illness, hopes to be able to be out next week. George Stone, who has been in the Moncton Hospital for the last seventeen weeks, was able to be removed to his home this week. William Hoyer, who suffered from an accident in the I. C. R. recently, is improving, but it will be some time yet before he is able to leave the hospital. J. V. Johnson, who has been laid up for some time, is improving, but he is still confined to his room.

ABE MARTIN



When some distasteful feature of housekeeping is mentioned there's always some fellow who says, "I'll tell you I won't be the ordinary everyday folks who pay cash it wouldn't be possible to conduct any kind of business."

AGRICULTURE

Some Interesting Facts About Poultry—Young Chicks Will Be Like the Old Hen—Hereditry in Poultry—Its Value to the Breeders.

(By Lewis Nelson Clark in O. A. C. Review.)

The most interesting part of the poultry industry and the most pleasant change from the poultryman's round of "chores," and sometimes rather onerous duties, is the study of hereditry in birds and the inheritance of certain characteristics which he wishes to produce or improve. Any line of endeavor soon grows tiresome and loses its flavor if there is not some incentive, or ideal toward which a man is striving. The making of money, or attainment of a livelihood is never a sufficient incentive by itself. No one can complain that this incentive is lacking in poultry work. From one year's crop to another the poultryman is looking toward his ideal. The breeder of show-birds is working toward perfection in shape and color; the breeder of market poultry is striving for a strain that will produce large, well-fleshed, plump fowl, and the egg-farmer has a task which is far more complex, and, at the same time, more interesting. He has to produce a strain of hens that will, year after year, produce more eggs per hen, and produce them at the season of the year that eggs are most valuable—money, in the form of early winter. He has no stationary ideal toward which he is working for the record continually is raised so that, whereas fifteen years ago, the hen that produced 180 eggs a year was probably most unusual, we now have hens that produce from 230 to 300 eggs a year, and we do not even stop to marvel at them, but keep moving steadily onward. In whatever branch of the industry we are working, there is one result that we are all after and that is to keep in our strain high vitality, vigor, and health. The breeder who is so intent on getting the results of appearance, size, or egg-production that he is chiefly after, to lose sight of these necessary qualities, is making the worst kind of a mistake. What the increase means.

It is from the standpoint only of the egg-farmer that I am in any way qualified to speak. And I think that the following table, showing the increased production in my own flock of hens in only three generations of selective breeding, may prove interesting. The first column shows the production from Oct. 1st, 1910, to June 30th, 1911; the second column the production for the same months of 1912-13, and the third column shows the average net price of eggs sold (both retail and wholesale) for each month of the three years. The production of pullets only is given:

	1910-11	1912-13	Per Doz.
October	8.1 p.c.	31.2 p.c.	42c
November	9.1 p.c.	31.2 p.c.	42c
December	10.1 p.c.	40.1 p.c.	65c
January	12.1 p.c.	48.1 p.c.	85c
February	13.1 p.c.	46.1 p.c.	80c
March	15.1 p.c.	62.7 p.c.	27c
April	16.1 p.c.	67.2 p.c.	28c
May	17.1 p.c.	64.1 p.c.	30c
June	18.1 p.c.	64.1 p.c.	30c

The increased production per one hundred hens for the nine months given is 4,614 eggs, having an actual net value of \$165.75. It will cost about 90c per year to feed a hundred hens, and the net gain to a hen laying as in 1910-11. This brings the comparative gain in producing value of 100 hens for nine months to \$165.75, which is two-thirds of the total value of all the eggs laid by the hens of 1910-11, the value of their eggs per 100 hens for nine months being \$217.11. The feed and management of the hens has been exactly the same as during the three years, although some slight changes have been made, undoubtedly for the better, and both years, the pullets were almost equally divided as to breed—one-half of their number being Barred Plymouth Rocks, and one-half S. C. White Leghorns.

Accordingly the astonishing difference in egg-production and the consequent difference in the income derived from them is due almost solely to one thing—breeding.

There still remains a difference of opinion as to the best method of producing the egg-production of a flock can be increased. But I think there can be no doubt that the introduction of a male bird of heavy-laying strain has the desired effect. One can be as for-hatching the eggs laid by the heaviest producers in the flock, and whether this will increase the production of the next generation or not it is hard to say. Dr. Raymond Pearl, of the University of Maine, who is the foremost poultryman in the United States today, says in the summary of his bulletin, "Mode of Inheritance of Fecundity in the Domestic Fowl," which is a most complete and scholarly paper covering the results of five years' continuous experiments:

"High fecundity may be inherited by daughters from their sire, independent of the dam. This is proved by the numerous cases presented in the body of the paper (Bulletin No. 209, University of Maine), where the same proportion of daughters of high fecundity are produced by the same sire, whether he is mated with hens of low or of high fecundity. High fecundity is not inherited by daughters from their dam, etc."

That Prof. Graham is of the same opinion I know. He said to me several years ago:

"Always remember that the male bird is the 'flock improver.' The rooster is two-thirds of the flock."

When we have the assurance of such eminent men on this point, it seems to me the best thing for us practical poultrymen to do is to follow their advice and get cockerels or hatching eggs from the best strain possible, and wait until they can tell us more on this interesting subject.

Early Maturing Pullets Are Heavy Producers.

As I have said, there can be no harm in breeding from our best layers at the same time that we use good cockerels. If the daughter inherits high fecundity from her sire, it is certain that the son of a heavy-laying dam will give this quality to his daughters. Contrary to my usual heavy producing pullets of the winter before, a pen of thirty having averaged 54 per cent. egg production in November, 62 per cent. in December, and 69 per cent. in January. The results were most satisfactory, as shown by the performance of the pullets from these matings the following year.

There is a very simple method of choosing the heavy layers for those who do not use trap-nests. It is in every case the early-maturing pullet that is the heavy layer all through her life, and it is the active, hungry bird, the one that ranges further, and is first off the roost in the morning and last on the roost at

night that matures first and lays best. If you have a flock of pullets this summer, a hundred, or a thousand, select a few of them that get red combs and start hatching before the others of their own age. Keep them in a separate pen, and I will promise you they will lay twice as many eggs as their slower sisters with exactly the same care and feeding during the winter months, and in fact until they finally wind up their earthly careers in the pot.

I have spoken of the necessity of keeping up vitality and vigor in the strain as well as improving it for egg-production. I really had no idea as to what perfection in these qualities was until I bought last winter some White Leghorn cockerels of the Cornell University strain, well named Professor Rice's High Vitality Line. Of all the vigorous, hardy fellows I have ever seen, these four cockerels were the best, and as a result from the matings that they headed were very remarkable. Of nearly 5,000 White Leghorn eggs set, the hatch averaged 84 1/2 per cent. of total number of eggs set. The first four weeks of age, and are still growing like weeds. Each one of these cockerels was mated to twenty-five two-year-old hens (on free range), which proves to have the least same about the vigor and vitality in the chicks is not so much a matter of mating a few females to a male, as of high-vitality and constitutional vigor in the parent stock. I was so pleased with this strain that I bought 800 hatching eggs from Cornell University last spring. I hatched separately the eggs from pens No. 29 and No. 30, and have for next year's cockerels, sons of their record hens, and one cockerel, the son of Lady Cornell, whose record is 287 eggs for her first year, and 640 eggs for the first three years of her life.

The Breeder's Instinct

There are many other interesting characteristics which are directly transmitted in poultry, but perhaps the strangest of all is the "brooder instinct." Set the eggs from a farmer's flock, or from any hens that have for generations been naturally raised under hens, and you will find considerable difficulty in raising the chicks in brooders. They do not seem to care for the least same about the order of the brooder, and crawl each other to death if left a few minutes alone. One can be so constantly with them, pushing them under the hen when they get cold, or pulling them out to feed, for the first few days. The chicks from a strain artificially brooded, whether in incubators, or under hens, show a marked contrast; they seem to take naturally to the brooder, run in when called and come out to feed over the first day, and the attendant's work is very materially reduced. 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