

**EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 2.**

**DOMINION OF CANADA.  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.  
EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.**

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**ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION.**

BY

**F. C. ELFORD.**

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**ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION.**

**BUYING AN INCUBATOR.**

If more than 100 chicks are wanted an incubator as a rule will be found more satisfactory and profitable than sitting hens; better not buy an incubator however, if you are not prepared to give it proper care and attention and when you buy do not get the cheapest incubator you can get, simply because it is cheap. The best is none too good, and cheap machines are usually dear at any price. The first cost is nothing compared with the expense of keeping a poor machine supplied with eggs. Buy also from a reliable firm and as near home as possible.

**HOW TO TELL A GOOD MACHINE.**

Nothing but results are an absolute guarantee that a machine is good, but still there are certain marks that indicate the probable value of a machine for hatching. The first of these is the general appearance. It should be well made, good workmanship and good material entering into its construction. The doors should hang true and fit without friction, the glass large enough and neatly puttied or battened, the paint or stain applied evenly and the machine should present the appearance of a finished piece of furniture. Good insulation also is absolutely necessary. See that the walls are double and likely to maintain a comparatively even temperature.

There are besides the above many other points of more or less importance. The lamp should have a large enough bowl to last at least thirty hours, convenient to fill, easy to take out and replace, good workable burner and chimney, the mica opening so placed that the whole of the flame is readily seen when the observer is standing, the heater well insulated and made so that it can be cleaned. A reliable thermometer and thermostat, egg trays that slide in and out without catching and the height of the machine should be convenient for working.

**THE SIZE TO BUY.**

As a rule not more than three hatches can be taken off in one season and usually two hatches are better, therefore get an incubator large enough to hatch in two settings all the chicks desired. With an ordinary sized flock, a 125 egg capacity will be found more convenient than one double the size. If more accommodation is wanted another incubator can be purchased.

**CO-OPERATIVE HATCHING.**

A new system of hatching has lately been introduced into Canada, that of custom or co-operative hatching; usually mammoth incubators are used for this purpose and