



RASPBERRY CANES COVERED.

Experimental Farm, Brandon.

The Poultry Yard in July.

One of the pleasantest months to the poultryman is the present. This is the month he gets an idea of "where he is." If the earlier work of the year has been thoroughly done, the eggs from strong, vigorous and well-mated stock, he will be able to congratulate himself as he complacently views the well-grown, well-feathered specimens. But the work is not all done. The "dog days" are here, and an abundance of shade must be provided, not only for the birds, but for the drinking water as well.

The hot days are also the breeding time for lice—lice of all sorts and descriptions—and they must be fought persistently. Do not fancy because you have a pure-bred strain of birds, or incubator and brooder-raised chickens, they will not have lice, for they will. There are varieties of chicken lice, and each have to be tackled in their vulnerable parts.

The "red mite" infests the houses, and wherever there is a crack or a crevice you may be sure the red mite has a nice home there during the day. During the night he will sally forth and feed on the birds, destroying their vitality, lowering their egg-production, and wasting your good feed. A coat of lime-wash, in which is mixed some crude carbolic acid, either sprayed or laid on the walls, settles their hash for a long time, and brightens the birds' quarters. Another good way is to stop all ventilation and burn a few sulphur candles in the house. This is a somewhat dangerous mode, and precautions are necessary that the fowl house is not burned down, and the house must be well ventilated before the birds are allowed to enter, or they will be suffocated. The body lice can easily be seen; if the birds have been supplied with dust baths, they will cleanse themselves some, but a good dusting with insect powder does them good; or a simpler way can be used. If you regularly, every month, paint the dropping-board and roost pole with a composition of coal oil in which naphthalene flakes have been dissolved—about one pound of flakes to a gallon of oil—you will find the lice question to have no terrors for you. The same applies to the coops, colony houses, or whatever you raise your chicks in.

While the lice question is the bete noir of poultrydom, a little work regularly done always keeps them under. If your birds have free range they will supply themselves with both animal and vegetable foods; but if confined these must be supplied to them—the former in small and the latter in large quantities.

Do not forget the grit. This is as necessary to your birds as your teeth are to you. Many, many cases of so-called cholera and of indigestion can be traced to a lack of grit, and nearly every case of diarrhoea is the result of "no grit." The red and gray granite boulders occasionally found on the prairies make capital grit, and a stone-chisel and stone-hammer, properly applied, soon reduces the rock to suitable proportions. If the granite rock is not handy, limestone grit is better than none, and is made in the same way. This month, too, the fattening crates should be

seen to. These are not much used in this country, but will come more and more into favor. A fattening crate may be anything up to a slightly darkened room. The object is to confine the birds; prevent them exercising to any extent; thus causing all the food consumed to increase the weight and appearance of the bird.

Three weeks to a month is quite long enough in the fattening crates. If you are skeptical about the good of the fattening crate, give them a trial. Take, say, a dozen chickens, treat six as you usually do, and confine the other six. Have fresh, clean water before them all the time. Feed them three times daily all they will eat up clean in twenty minutes, with soft food, not too wet, composed of shorts, oat and barley chop, wheat chop, plenty of green food, and a little meat food twice a week, and see the difference in your two lots.

The ideal food for birds in a fattening crate is the hull and husk of the oat, ground to flour. (I do not know if it can be bought in Manitoba.) In the Old Country fattening poultry is quite a business by itself, the birds being bought by the fatteners while in but fair condition, and the increased weight, coupled with the increased price per pound, amply pays them for their work.

Winnipeg.

W. J. C.

Poultry Farming in Manitoba.

BY A PRACTICAL POULTRYMAN.

"There's one thing I like about a hen—her egg, or, more properly, my egg."

In general terms the above would be the expression of nearly every man, woman and child throughout the country. Eggs, like bread and milk, are staple articles of food, and always in demand. So-called "fresh eggs" find a ready market, while "strictly fresh" eggs are always in demand at a premium, and sometimes are actual luxuries—and bring luxurious prices.

Further, the hen is responsible for products other than the egg, as the spring chicken, the tasty broiler or the roasted capon all testify, and the demand for all the above is somewhat above the normal.

How does the farmer view this demand? Last year, 1902, a few thousand dozen eggs were marketed, and less than 50,000 pounds of poultry, including ducks, geese, turkeys and chickens. To supply the local demand, the Winnipeg dealers had to import from Ontario five carloads of poultry (they wanted three more), each carload weighing 40,000 pounds, at a price averaging 14 cents per pound, f.o.b., Winnipeg. This represents \$28,000 lost to us, and besides this, there was two, if not three, carloads of eggs imported about the same time, realizing 19 to 22 cents per dozen. As a matter of fact, all this should have been grown locally, and the money, or some of it, gone to swell your—your—bank account. Not the other fellow's, Mr. Farmer: your own personal bank account.

The trouble with the average farmer is that he is too apt to look upon the chicken or "hen" business as altogether "too small" for his personal attention, and is satisfied to let the women and girls keep a few hens. It used to be that way in the States until lately, but to-day the hen and her products top the agricultural products of America, and the \$400,000,000 hen business of 1901 were figures that did away with considerable misapprehension. Neither the wheat, corn, beef, hog or cotton crop could touch those figures, and some of them added together could not equal that "small" business, the hen business.

Let us get back to Ontario for a little and enquire, how can they produce in such quantities, pay freight, and compete with us in Manitoba? They simply make it part of their general farming operations to produce poultry, and then plans are laid accordingly. Buildings are erected upon suitable grounds, incubators and brooders are brought into use, and as much intelligence and care used as upon any other of the farm operations. The result often is that about Christmas the manager comes home with a good fat Winnipeg cheque in his pocket, and soliloquizes, "If those Manitoba farmers knew anything, I'd be a bit poorer to-night than I am."

The Canadian poultry authorities are not quite positive as to the annual cost of the keep of a hen: the figures vary from 75 cents to \$1.00 per year; that is, in Ontario, and when all the food has to be bought. In Manitoba it would be a trifle less, but upon a Manitoba farm the cost of keeping a hen would not be half that sum. The chaff from the separator, the cockle and small wheat from the cleaner would all be used, and instead of becoming a burden would become a producer.

The cost of keeping the bird should hardly be considered. It is the reproductive qualities we should look at. A mare and cow reproduces its kind once a year, and three or four years are required for the young to grow; a sow from six to ten of its kind; but the little hen, thanks to the incubator and brooder, will produce from 50

to 100 of its kind, fully grown and matured in the same year. If there is anything else on the farm that will do this, trot it along; I want to take my hat off to it. But it won't. And the price about now—July—20 to 25 cents per pound can be obtained for spring birds, later gradually lowering until 15c. and 12½c. per pound is reached, and with slight fluctuations this holds through the following winter.

In conversation with a farmer near Winnipeg recently, he told me he averaged 25 cents per pound the year round for young birds, cleaned, dressed and plucked, and "could get that for all he raised." A dealer told me that for strictly fresh eggs he never paid less than 16c. per dozen, less express, and in the winter months would gladly give 40c. per dozen, but could get but few. At such prices as these there is money in poultry for somebody, and the first in the field will reap the best profits. Do not fear over-production, for, contradictory as it may sound, with all the immense product in the States, the continual cry is "More, more," and prices for the best increasing.

W. J. C.

Institute Workers Convene.

The American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers, which is composed of Farmers' Institute workers from all parts of the States and Canada, met in convention this year at Toronto, Ontario, on June 23rd to 26th, inclusive. During the past year, Prof. Latta, of Indiana, has been president; Major Lee, of Baton Rouge, La., vice-president, and G. C. Creelman, Superintendent of Institutes for Ontario, secretary-treasurer.

The President, in his annual address, outlined the work that lay before the Farmers' Institutes, and measured the great distance between the average and the ideal farm condition. Practical questions pertaining to the conducting of institutes were discussed by representatives, and the different methods in vogue in different Provinces and States were compared. Ontario's institute system was highly commended by all the American visitors, and was generally conceded to be the best organized and conducted system extant.

Mr. Geo. Harcourt, of Regina, was present at the meeting, gathering ideas to be inculcated into the system of institutes to be introduced in the Territories.

The convention paid a flying visit to the Agricultural College at Guelph, and were loud in their approbation of the institution, and were surprised at the general evidence of prosperity and thrift evident in the Canadian people.

The officers for the ensuing year are: President, B. W. Kilgore, North Carolina; Vice-President, E. E. Kaufman, North Dakota; Secretary-Treasurer, G. C. Creelman, Toronto. Executive Committee—Geo. McKerrrow, Wisconsin; H. G. Easterby, Illinois; J. C. Hardy, Mississippi.

The Parson (meeting Johnny, who is just returning from a bath)—Johnny, can you tell me where little boys who bathe on Sundays go to? Johnny—Yes, sir. Yer come along o' me and I'll show yer.



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