

# Poultry

## POULTRY HOUSES

Not a few find it difficult to get a plan for a poultry house that suits them, and all kinds of structures and super-structures are put up, and devised in which to house the poor biddy. To aggravate these conditions most "expert" poultrymen and teachers advise, and differ over, a whole lot of internal fixtures none of which ought ever to go inside a poultry house, unless it is one for fancy birds, and that can have the constant care and attention of an attendant. The moment a farmer puts up or puts in any of these permanent flat roosts, approaches to nests, dropping boards, trap nests and forty and one other things so often prescribed, just so sure, after the novelty has worn off a little, they will all become catchers of filth and nesting places for vermin, and hinderers of keeping clean and free from disease and parasites. We know this, for we have "been there" more than once, and we have seen much more than we experienced.

It does us no good, either, for experts or others to lecture the average farmer and tell him what he "ought" to do. He does what he can, as a rule, and is gradually doing better or trying to, and that is the end of it. Show him some simple way in which he can improve his stock, or buildings, or other surroundings and no man is more willing to try to improve by it than he, but advise complicated, impractical things and add "ought" to it, and nine times out of ten there will be "nothing doing," principally because circumstances, in a large per cent. of the cases, are against him.

Now we have seen many poultry houses and poultry establishments, and we know of no better house for rich and poor alike, than a plain 4 to 5 feet high in the rear, 7 to 9 feet front, shed roof house.

The man who sold the highest priced fancy eggs last year—thousands of them at \$2 each—keeps those same birds in one of these plain houses. His are built 4 feet high in the back, and 7 feet in front, 18 feet deep, 9 feet wide. We prefer 5

feet in the rear unless the 4 feet is put on a foot or so of cement or other underpinning, and enough higher in the front to insure good slant to the roof. We like 16 feet for length too, as this lumber cuts better than larger lengths. Fourteen feet is all right, but the building would have to be longer for a given number of birds.

This building should always be on high dry ground, if an artificial raise has to be made by hauling in earth. It should always face the south, of course, and have ample windows there.

For ventilation, which is all important, we like at least a few large panels of tightly drawn cloth. If single cloth is used, we think two panels in different or opposite parts of the house, not larger than 1½ feet by 2 or 3 feet, will do for a small hen house. When a part of the south front is made of cloth, and it is an excellent plan, both for light and pure air, the cloth should be white and double; that is, one part drawn tightly inside the studding and the other on the outside, making a dead air space that keeps out the cold, but filters ample pure dry air through. We have seen these pretty far north and in very cold weather where all was sweet and clean inside and cosy and comfortable.

When it comes to nests and roosts we have so often expressed ourselves as friendly to the plain round roost hung from the ceiling by wire; and the portable single box nests with nothing else inside but dusting box, that we hardly need repeat it. We like a plastered wall inside, but a smoothly sealed one will do if frequently whitewashed. In either case there should be a dry dead air space between the two walls to prevent frost and keep out cold in winter and heat in summer.—Ex.

## NOTES AT EDMONTON FAIR

There are certainly many things of interest to be seen at a big fair, especially to people who have been outside for a few years. The city people and those

farmers in the immediate neighborhood of cities, do the fair year after year and find a sameness. They do not realize that there is something to be learnt in almost everything one meets. On my return journey, the train was crowded and I found myself seated with a bunch of those who make their living by selling to the fair visitors. They pronounced Edmonton a good town, because they took away money. They had never seen a fair having so good a wind up day, though they admitted the prospect on Monday and Tuesday was gloomy, and one more day's rain would have killed the fair. Three days of rain, however, would have been exceptional in Sunny Alberta. After having seen these men with their jewellery stands and noticed their quickness in making sales, and their dexterity in making and engraving jewellery, and the fact that they simply pushed their business for all it was worth, then hearing them discuss the prospects for a homesteader:—"There was no money in homesteading. It was simply a case of eighteen months thrown away making victims for the insane asylum." One of them had put in eight straight months on an American homestead, and had eaten his savings in the first seven and lived on his memories the eighth. Another was wintering on South African Scrip land and had invested his savings again in Indian scrip.

One could not help thinking that if the homesteader would push his business for all it was worth, not be satisfied with eighteen months on it, nor with a paltry thirty acres of breaking done, just make all he could in all ways connected with his farming, just take a leaf from the book of the fakir, I believe if that same bunch of "man workers" became land workers with equal vim, there would be money in it for them.

The special attractions at the fair cost the exhibition board a large sum of money. It is looked at as an investment to draw the crowd and not from an educational standpoint. Yet we find it good. What woman can sit watching these acrobats, etc., and not have her household worries forgotten. What farmer, who has become cold and grey in worrying over his dried-out, gopher-eaten crop, does not feel invigorated mentally and feel like bracing up physically, watching the trick bicyclist, the graceful supple figures of

the tumblers and trapeze actors? We may not do likewise but we may exercise some of the stiffness from our joints. No doubt the small boy or girl will practice turning summersaults or swinging from a bar, both exercises being good for lungs and other weak spots. Then too, the thrills, the excitement of a closely run horse race; the music of the bands; the influence of the crowds of people, all have a stimulating effect on the entire system.

Of course the stock raiser learns something touching his special line. The poultry man, the dog fancier, all are out to get points to improve their work. The fair boards have something yet to learn of women's work at fairs. No fair board is quite a success that does not include two or three practical women. The judges too, do not seem to understand judging bread, biscuits, preserves and pickles. Practical housekeepers could tell them a few things about these things, though it is not always the women who can bake nice bread, that can tell how and why the prize tickets should be placed.

The many churches having refreshment booths on the grounds speaks well for the enthusiasm of their women workers, but not so well for the religion and business heads of the men members. It is true each booth would show a good balance on hand, but of course no account was taken of the cash invested in the contributed cakes, etc. No account was taken of the volunteer help. Each woman's time means something. Each woman's cake has a cash value, but it is also worth something to be able to obtain fresh, clean, home-made foods.

The manufacturers' exhibits pleased me most. One tannery company had such a beautiful display of rugs, robes, coats and leather. Another company exhibited electrical cooking utensils, and we hope the day will come when they come our way. Then the exhibit of concrete tiles and mantels; the furniture and the Western prepared pickles of all descriptions, vinegar etc., the lard and packing house products and the manufactures from our various grains. It seems as though we ought to soon be rid of the cry, that it is the freight that makes everything so dear. The exhibit of British Columbia fruits should teach a lesson to the Ontario fruit grower.

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