

POULTRY YARD

The Poultry Business of the Future*

John Robinson, Boston, Mass.

Permanent poultry culture, on any scale, must be simple-intensive methods on a large scale are not advisable. Chickens are land birds, so treat them as such, and give them a certain amount of space—they are not cage-birds; there must be certain economic relations between the birds and their surroundings, and between the birds and their keepers. Nothing else but permanent poultry culture should be developed on natural conditions, so that the birds can work for us—not we for them. Adverse conditions, forced unnatural conditions, pay only for a very short time.

We should keep poultry for their products and by-products for our own use. Long ago, and for a long period, families kept poultry for their home use; some gave it up because they could buy cheaper, conditions were not suitable and they had to give it up. This is going to have a great bearing on the poultry business of the future. Small flocks will, and must, become more abundant, and even now they amount to far more than we would ever suppose; it is not improbable that one-sixth of the poultry in the States is kept in this way.

Town people must keep hens in their small yards for their home use; there are very few who cannot do this, and those in the suburbs can keep far more for table—not stock—purpose than before.

Now, where does the farmer come in if town people are going to raise their own poultry? It is impossible for

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every town man to keep his own birds, and there will always be a greater demand for farm poultry than there is production; also, town-men must keep their birds for breeding purposes; they cannot in-breed indefinitely.

In 10 or 15 years there will be better chances for farmers to grow poultry than ever before, because conditions are arising which larger animals cannot be easily and profitably raised.

In all probability, the future will see the farmers getting better stock, developing the poultry industry on their farms and giving it greater attention, and in the idea that large-scale poultry raising is for men and not for women. No able-bodied stay at poultry only; it is well adapted to women and children, because we are leaving the idea that the head of the family is to be sole supporter. In schools greater attention is being paid to poultry only, this brand of poultry raising, because this brand of live stock is the only one children can attend to when at school. This is going to have an enormous result.

Again, farmers will appreciate the gains they will get in poultry apart from the mere selling of it. They will see the manual value of the droppings and the gain in the crops through their destruction. Different breeds will be kept for different parts of the farm for home consumption, as well as for selling, because one breed of hens will flourish in a place where another will not. The land only will not be developed instead of some kind of agriculture on the land. Farmers will raise more geese than they do because geese are grazing animals and will pasture on grass that the other farm animals will not eat. Men will co-operate because they are already learning that co-operation is necessary to get full value out of any kind of breeding stock and raising facilities, but also in the markets.—W. J. S.

Dead Turkeys—Roup Prevention

A turkey that we lost last fall had midgets and large lice on her. Sometimes before her death she dusted hellebore and sulphur together in a bag. She still continued to lose strength. It did not kill all the lice. Please prescribe. How can we prevent such losses on young turkeys? It is a new brand to us.—M. J. S., Grenville Co., Ont.

The dusting with insect powder should have been done before. She was probably too far gone to be saved. Dry sulphur, ground tobacco or any insect powder if used in time should eradicate the lice providing the bird is healthy. Your bird was probably ailing either from the effects of the lice or something else in addition.

The best way to prevent roup in young turkeys is to keep them growing in good clean, dry quarters with plenty of fresh air. Should they catch cold, a pill, made of equal parts of ginger, pepper and mustard, mixed with lard and rolled in flour in pills about the size of marbles might be given once or twice a day until cured. In case of a swelling accompanying the cold take Conkey's Roup cure and follow directions, or buy some Permannate of Potash. Feed one spoonful of this to a pint of water. Swab the turkey's mouth with the mixture and dip its head right into it.—F. C. E.

A Young Man and His Farm

(Continued from page 4)

put up last summer to contain it. This silo is somewhat of a novelty. It is built in a corner inside the barn. That part in the basement is of stone, the upper part is plank; it fits neatly into the corner bent of the barn. While discussing his corn crop, Mr. Northcott said: "I do not think I can have a silo; I could not handle corn to ad advantage in any other way. It was a big problem to save seven or eight acres of corn without one. It was a lot of hard work, and required a lot of room, and then about half of it was wasted. The silo cost me about \$75 in actual outlay, besides my own time and work—\$100 would cover all."

ALFALFA INDISPENSABLE

Alfalfa also has a place upon this farm. It was first seeded four years ago. It yielded three cuttings the next year and two cuttings the year following, in addition to considerable pasture. Last year it was pastured entirely, as the plot is close to the barn, and was very convenient for that purpose. "In its best year," said Mr. Northcott, "my alfalfa yielded at least five tons to the acre. It is somewhat difficult to cure in wet weather, and there is always danger of waste from the leaves falling off, but I would not like to do without a piece of alfalfa. It grows well either in a wet or a dry season. I do not know how I would have gotten along a year ago had I not been provided with this alfalfa to pasture. There was nothing else available at the time (late summer). Other pastures were all dried up, but the alfalfa was green and growing well. I know that alfalfa will pasture alfalfa if one wishes to retain a continuous stand, but it does not last so long. It is not so good when stock are kept off, so long as when stock are kept on, so long as when pasture early in the spring and late in the fall, the two seasons when it is the most difficult to get pasture of any other kind. It grows most rapidly in the spring, and attains a height of several inches before red clover gets started."

Since Mr. Northcott has been farming for himself for the few years only, he has not as yet acquired a very high-class herd of cows. He is proceeding along the right lines, however. Through testing and keeping individual records of his cows, he has found

that a few of them were not paying for their board. These were being fitted for the butcher. Mr. Northcott said that he would knock them on the head rather than keep them and have them return no profit.

The stock of horses are more attractive. Several heavy Clydesdale mares are kept, and these are a distinct credit to their owner.

SOME LABOR-SAVING CONVENIENCES

Much attention has been given to wards, contrivances and labor-saving contrivances. The barn is fitted with a water system that places water at all times in individual basins in front of the cattle. Water for the horses is provided in a cement trough at the rear of the stable. In the implement shed, the heavy work, such as lifting hay-racks and wagon-boxes is made easy through one of the ingenious contrived set of pulleys and ropes, the power being applied to these from a winch. While providing means of saving labor at the barn and elsewhere on the farm, Mr. Northcott has not overlooked the house. A sink and drain relieve the workfolk from carrying the wash water from the house. Soft water is obtained at the sink from a pump beside it. A complete system of plumbing including a bathroom with all modern equipment, hot water, etc., has lately been installed. All told, Mr. Northcott's position is an enviable one. Although he has been farming on his own account for a comparatively short period only, he has proven with satisfaction to himself that the farm is a most attractive spot on the 'ole 'n' live; that it offers ample scope for the application of up-to-date ideas, and that, best of all, it gives a high rate of remuneration, and rewards one handsomely for energies expended.—C. C. N.

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