

birds having large single combs, are more apt to have them frozen unless they receive the very best of care. In this cold climate despite the best of attention, large combs will be touched. The Leghorn has but two strong faults—large combs already mentioned, and small size. It lays as many eggs as any breed, rivaling the Hamburg for quantity and surpassing it in weight, and but for the liability of its big comb to freeze, the Leghorns would hold the position of "king of breeds." It has more friends perhaps, even with its drawbacks, than any other breed. For these reasons, the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Langshans, and early hatched light Brahmas and off Cochins, are more especially recommended for us in the north. In the south where the winters are more mild, the Leghorns, Minorcas, and that class in my opinion, should do very well. The smaller the combs the better guarantee for winter laying. One egg in winter is worth from three to four in the summer so that the quantity of eggs in the year is not so much in value as the bulk of them in winter. Light Brahmas, as fowls, however, are not usually good birds for an egg farm, but early hatched pullets from carefully selected egg strains will lay a good many eggs in winter. A good white Wyandotte cockerel crossed upon light Brahma hens will give good, early, maturing broilers, as well as excellent winter layers. One point gained by this cross is a rugged constitution, while another is the absence of the large comb.

Mr. A. G. Gilbert, manager of the Experimental Farm, in his evidence before a select committee of the House of Commons a few years ago, says he would recommend the average farmer to raise Plymouth Rocks. He considers it the best fowl for them, closely followed by the Wyandottes. He says it costs no more to feed a hen that lays a large egg than one that lays a small one. That a dozen Leghorn eggs weigh one pound and ten ounces, black Spanish, one pound and eleven ounces, and the light Brahmas, one pound and thirteen ounces, but when confined they would only weigh one pound nine and a half ounces. He calculates a hen will eat a bushel of grain in a year, and puts the price at a cent a pound. All hens should be supplied in winter artificially with the same as they would pick up, when running around in the summer time. He strongly recommends farmers who make a business of selling eggs to do away with the male bird

except in breeding time, as the unfertilized eggs will keep very much longer.

An important factor, which needs careful consideration, is how and when farmers should dispose of their surplus stock. Recommendations are invariably being given that for shipping purposes, the killing should be done by cutting in the roof of the mouth, while the fowl, be it chicken or turkey, is suspended by the legs, making it impossible for any mutilation to be seen on the outside, or for the feathers to be soiled by the blood. This is held to be a painless method of killing. It also bleeds the fowl completely, if the cuttings are made lengthwise, and across, and deep. In every case the bird should be fasted for twenty-four hours or longer before killing. Cases are said to have occurred where poultry have arrived in England in a very damaged condition, caused by the fermentation of food in the crops, and intestines, spoiling the whole of the birds, and making them unfit for human food. The English buyers prefer to receive the birds in the feathers, and not drawn, and many of them want the birds alive. Of course the farmers will have to meet their preferences and send the birds in the condition in which they prefer to buy them. Special care should be taken to keep the feathers clean. The birds should be cooled before being packed in boxes. If they are started right they can now be carried so as to arrive right.

Now in conclusion I would say again if you are thinking of going into the poultry business, go in for the very best stock you can procure, it will save your years of study, trouble and disappointment. Go to the poultry shows, show your birds and see what others are showing too. An amateur can always use the fall county shows to destroy or confirm his own views of his own stock, and if his ideas and those of the judge coincide, he prepares for the winter exhibitions, prepares to learn how and what others have been doing during the season, and where he has been idle. No amateur can get along and breed good birds without showing his stock. He will learn more in this way than he possibly could by a considerable amount of study at home. True he may have some of the conceit taken out of him, but if he is not easily discouraged a defeat will only be an incentive to him to try and have better birds next time, by correcting their faults in his next matings, so that if he and his