

"A short journey of half an hour brought me to the village, where I was most kindly received; and Mrs. W. at once gave me full particulars as to her method of feeding and managing the hens. In the morning, about six, they receive a good meal of small round maize. Directly afterwards they go roaming over the grass fields, always returning punctually at noon for their dinner. This second feed consists of the best Indian meal, mixed with a fourth part of very superior Scotch oatmeal, sweet and fresh; a sprinkling of spice is added, and the mixture made with boiling water. This they eat ravenously, and then rush off again to the fields. About five o'clock a duplicate meal is given them, after which they go to roost.

Mr. W. has not more than 200 hens. The breeds are mixed. In some I could see Andalusian blood; in others the nodding tuft and speckled plumage of the Houdar were apparent; Cochins and Brahma, as well as Dorking characteristics might be observed in others. From these 200 hens Mr. W. has obtained, from May 1st to September 1st, £30 worth of eggs, the highest price obtained being 1s for seven, and the lowest 1s. for seventeen. In April and May he several times collected 1,000 eggs per week. The average yield during May and June was 100 to 130 egg per day. At this moment (September) he is bringing to market from 350 to 420 eggs weekly, the hens laying from 50 to 60 eggs.

"The hens are many of them in their fourth year, at the commencement of which they are killed. Mr. W.'s experience satisfies him that birds bred from laying strains do not reach the height of their powers till the completion of their second year.

"Referring to the ravages hens are supposed to commit in their ranging, Mr. W. spoke highly of the benefit conferred by poultry on grass lands, by devouring insects and manuring the soil. He informed me that when he began to farm his present tenement, thirteen years ago—consisting of sixteen acres—he could not make enough hay to winter three cows, but that now he keeps ten with ease. It is evident that in this case the "eye of the master fattens the steed," as the old proverb has it; but Mr. W. gives much of the credit to his poultry. Buttermilk forms another article of diet in the chicken yard; this or sweet milk is given in troughs, and especially during the autumn and winter months forms a valuable heat-producer. On inquiring as to what method Mr. W. pursued in breeding his laying birds, he replied, "Whenever I see a good layer I buy her, and set a few clutches of her eggs, and always, when setting from my own birds, select the eggs of those which lay the largest ones, and that most frequently." The cocks are of the same mixed breeds as the

hens. I think I saw about twenty in all. The soil is dry—a mixture of loam and sand, with here and there a good deal of limestone. The fowls' houses are of the most simple description, and they have a free run over the grass fields. I left Mr. W.'s farm with a feeling of real pleasure. It is delightful to have found even one English farmer who allows that poultry will pay, and who demonstrates it so practically. All around his neighbors echo the old cry, "Fowls don't pay," and in many cases have given them up in despair. Great cleanliness, great care and punctuality in feeding, personal attention, and a simple and practical rule in breeding have brought about these excellent results."

There are hundreds of places in Canada now comparatively idle, where poultry farming might be carried on as extensively and with as great success as in the case here given.

The establishment of A. C. Hawkins affords another example of profitable poultry farming. We copy from the *Country Gentleman*:

"A poultry farm of 8,000 Plymouth Rocks is owned and carried on by A. C. Hawkins, of Lancaster, near Boston, Mass. He calculates to have about 8,000 fowls every fall, and carries over about 2,500 laying hens during the winter. At the present he has about 12,000, including all sizes. His farm contains twenty-five acres, and his poultry buildings occupy an acre and a half. They are situated on the south side of a hill, and comprise six or seven sheds 200 feet in length. Each shed is divided into apartments of 12x20 feet, and about 25 hens are kept in each division. A yard is made in front of each apartment so that the members of each are by themselves. Mr. Hawkins believes that if confined poultry have all their wants attended to, they will do as well in egg-production as if allowed free range. He bases this belief upon several tests. In hatching-time he sets 200 hens on one day, and puts 500 eggs in an incubator, which is due to hatch on the same day, the chickens from which will be distributed among the 200 hens. Boston is one of the best markets for fancy prices for eggs and poultry, and his sales of eggs and poultry at fancy prices are large, about 90 per cent. being profit. He also has a standing order for sixty to ninety dozens of eggs daily, for which he gets the highest market price. Mr. Hawkins began at the age of twenty-one with 100 hens, and by careful management and economy his business has enlarged so that at the age of twenty-nine he has a very handsome income. The manure from the poultry is quite an item; he sold last year 500 barrels at \$1.50 a barrel."

In this case we have the business of breeding and selling fancy poultry carried on in connection with the regular market business, and there is no