

**LAKEFIELD FARM,**

Bondville, P. Q.

January 3rd, 1900.

*To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE :*

Dear Sir :—

I think it quite possible that all who wish to take part in the rearing and shipping of poultry to Great Britain will be both interested and benefited by our experience here in fattening poultry.

Our greatest difficulty has been the finding of suitable chickens.

If the farmers of Canada wish to take hold of this new industry successfully, they must raise a better class of fowls, and give them better care ; especially is this necessary here in the Eastern Townships, as we are very far behind Ontario in this respect.

In buying chickens for fattening, I did not find one farmer in ten with really suitable chickens.

Most of them had lots of chickens of the small breeds, mongrels, and so forth, which they were quite anxious to sell, as they said they did not care for chicken themselves.

Quite evident why they did not, as any chickens which they had, would, when cooked, be composed mostly of bone and gristle, with a little dry, dark meat. How I should like them to try one of our fattened Plymouth Rock chickens. I think they would change their minds.

When I found a farmer who had good Plymouth Rocks, Wyandotte, or Bramahs, I often found it quite hard to buy them, as the owner would say, with a very suggestive smile. "Oh ! we don't care to sell them. We like chicken, I have a good home market for them."

I think, on the whole, Plymouth Rocks are the better variety, with a preference for the barred.

What few Wyandottes we had were quite equal to the Plymouths, but we did not find them at all plentiful. We also found some very fine chickens of both light and dark Bramahs.

Anyone in selecting one breed cannot do better than to try the Plymouth Rocks, unless their fancy leads them to one of the other breeds mentioned.

The chicks should be well fed from the first, giving them all they will eat up clean. Do not

be afraid of their consuming more than they will bring at the market price, as they cannot do it.

I made a perfectly accurate trial, this year, with 28 Plymouth-Rock chicks, keeping account of all food consumed, from the time they were hatched till they were placed in the coops to be fattened. I found, when weighed that they had had cost in food consumed 4c per lb, and at the market price of 6c per lb, left 2c per lb profit.

This plainly shows that the net profit depends only upon the amount handled.

When we can purchase plenty of the right sort of chickens, we'll care for and fed without stint from the time of hatching till they are placed in the coops, then the fattening of chickens which will satisfy the British market will be made comparatively easy.

Yours truly,

A. P. HILLHOUSE,

(Manager of Bondville Poultry Station).

**The Horse.****LAMENESS IN HORSES.**

The following, from a correspondent of the *London Farmer and Stockbreeder*, is worthy of consideration :

Among the causes of lameness are weak conformation of bones, muscles, etc., tissues being too frail to stand the strain ; the fetlock may be too long, causing an extra strain on the tendons ; the hock may be too angular, predisposing the animal to curb, or to straight up and down, predisposing to spavin ; the hoof may show too high a heel, favoring contraction ; or too low a heel, favoring corns, puncture, bruises, inferior shoeing—that is, fitting a shoe while too hot ; having the shoe press upon the sole instead of the walls ; overtaxing muscles, tendons, and ligaments by pulling a heavy load over rough and muddy roads ; constant jerking and blows from the wagon pole and harness—all these are causes of lameness.

How to discover when a horse is lame or where he is lame is not so easy a matter as some may imagine. It is best to observe the animal first standing. If the horse points persistently—that is, places the foot in front of the normal position—the lameness is very apt to be below the fetlock. If the knee is affected it is often kept in a bent condition, while in shoulder and fetlock