

3. That the progeny from parent stock which have moulted during summer, in the majority of cases, have usually moulted at the same period.

4. That moulting hens are much benefited by a run in a field where clover, grass and insect life may be found.

5. That where moulting fowls are confined to limited quarters that meat in some form and green food should be regularly supplied.

The foregoing information, if followed, will be found of great service to the farmers of the country and this, I am sure, is what your Committee desires. It has direct bearing on the production of eggs and market poultry.

INCREASED INTEREST IN POULTRY KEEPING.

I now proceed to briefly bring to your attention my third point, viz.: 'The great and rapidly developing interest that is being taken, principally, I am warranted in saying, by farmers in their poultry branch of farm work.' I have a publication issued by the Provincial Department of Agriculture for 1907 entitled 'Crops and Live Stock of Ontario.' It is issued annually. It has for years quoted the opinions of farmer correspondents at different points of the province on the value of poultry as a branch of farm work. In the report of last year there are the opinions of 53 correspondents given. Of this number 50 reports speak favourably—some very strongly—of poultry as a paying department of the farms, two are unfavourable and one non-committal. As instances of the favourable comments you will, I am sure, allow me to quote the farmer correspondent at Harwick, Kent, who says 'Poultry are the best paying thing on the farm, but they take careful looking after.' Again, the report from Sydenham, Grey, says: 'Poultry are selling high. In fact, the economically kept poultry farm is the best money maker just now, the cost of equipment being taken into consideration.' The report from Minto, Wellington county, says: 'Good, well-bred poultry, if properly attended to, will give their owner a clear profit of \$1 per hen. We get \$4 a piece for Bronze turkey cockerels and \$3 for pullets, and so on.' The point I wish to make is this, that eight or nine years ago there would be only four or five favourable reports as against perhaps 45 or 50 unfavourable ones. I claim this change in opinion shows increased interest in and appreciation of the poultry branch of farm work as a money maker. Another instance of increasing interest in poultry keeping is, I think, fairly shown by the great increase in the number of letters received in our Poultry Division, particularly in recent years. For instance, in 1900 the letters received by the Poultry Department numbered 1,590, while the report for 1906 gives the number as 5,098, and report for 1907 now being prepared will, I am sure, show larger figures.

SOME DETAILS OF EXPERIMENTAL WORK.

As to my last sub-head, I briefly refer to some interesting features of the experimental work of the past year. I may state that the good results of breeding from the best layers have been satisfactorily shown in several instances. I give only one or two, as fuller details of results will be given in our annual report.

One is the case of a pen of White Wyandotte pullets which showed an average each of 62½ eggs per year in their first year. In their second year as hens they showed an average of 81 eggs each per year.

The progeny from the above White Wyandotte fowls showed in their first year, as pullets, an average of 65 eggs each per year, a slight increase only. But in their second year, when hens, they showed an average of 104 eggs each, a marked improvement.

Correspondents who have purchased eggs from trap-nested selected stock express their satisfaction at the improved laying qualities of the birds hatched from these eggs.

As to the cotton front, results, in fertility of eggs, as shown by testing on the sixth or seventh day, after being put in incubators, is in favour of this cotton front