

advise the habitant to beware of trusting too much to one crop. My good friend Dr Ross, of the Legislative Council, never addresses an assemblage of farmers without advising them "not to put all their eggs in one basket": and he is quite right.

## THE POULTRY-YARD

### THE WHITE MINORCA.

I have been wondering why so little has been said in our poultry department concerning the White Minorca. It must be because the breed is not yet widely enough known for its many good qualities to be fully appreciated, as faults it has none, that I, as yet, have been able to discover. In egg production it is equal if not superior, as some assert, to the Leghorn, and being from one-fourth to one-third larger it is of course more desirable as a table fowl.

Like the Leghorns the Minorcas are exceedingly active in their habits, good foragers, energetic, and what the dorkies call "shifty." This renders them easily kept, on a short allowance of food in all moderate weather, and makes them healthy and hardy. As to symmetry of form, beauty of plumage, and grace of carriage, the Minorcas are all that can be desired. I have a pure white cock that is the prettiest thing in the shape of a fowl that I have ever seen. He seems fully aware of his good looks, holds himself proudly erect, and struts back and forth as though on exhibition continually. His snow-white plumage is especially noticeable for its long and abundant hackle and saddle feathers, which fall in graceful and glistening points over the shoulders and back, drooping one or two inches down either side. His comb is single, upright, well serrated, and of a beautiful coral red; earlobes, smooth, close fitting, and so white as to appear pearl-tinted; wattles, thin, pendulous, and of a clear bright red—forming a lovely contrast to the glistening whiteness of his plumage. The breast is round, full, and prominent; tail, large, well expanded, and carried upright, with long and beautifully curved sickle feathers. Shanks and thighs are of medium length, stout in bone, and in color white or slightly pinkish. Shanks and feet clean and free from feathers. Altogether, the bird is quite stylish and elegant in appearance. The hen of the White Minorca appears larger in proportion than the male, being long bodied, deep-breasted, and of a substantial build generally, and though she does not attempt quite so many fancy points, is really very handsome in form, and graceful in movement. Her comb resembles the Leghorn in its sidewise droop, and with her scarlet wattles and white earlobes, forms a pleasing contrast to her milk-white plumage.

Since I have kept the Minorcas on the farm, where they have had unlimited range and a great variety of food, the hens, while still great layers, now and then show a disposition to sit. This spring I allowed one that privilege, simply as an experiment, and afterwards gave her a pretty brood of chicks which she did her duty by most admirably, proving an attentive and affectionate mother and not offering to desert them till the proper weaning time. Indeed, after what I have seen of the White Minorcas, I would not be afraid to trust to them as a dependence for raising chicks for home use, that is, after keeping them under favorable conditions for a year or two. The hens too would be so much more satisfactory to keep all the year round, on account of not being such inveterate brooders, or so difficult to break up when they do take a notion to sit.

When we consider the weight of the Minorca—the standard for the adult male being eight pounds, and the female six and one-half pounds—I don't see why the chicks would not answer as broilers for family use. They would require a little longer time in growing than some of the heavier breeds,

but we might hatch them early, and if fed so as to produce rapid growth, their flesh would be tender and juicy, of a fine grain and an excellent flavor.

The chicks seem to stand the cold wonderfully. Last spring I had some hatched in our big snow storm, and they were kept for weeks afterwards in a house without fire and so open that the snow drifted in continually; yet the tiny white birds lived through it all and were as lively as crickets. They feather out rapidly like the Leghorns, and at two weeks are well clothed, trim and shapely. The pullets mature early, and I fully expect mine hatched in March to begin laying before the summer is over, thus coming in when adult hens are moulting. An acquaintance of mine living in Iowa kept six White Minorca hens last winter and says they furnished her small family with eggs all the time; and although they have tall single combs like the Leghorns, yet I find that keeping them up during the severest weather prevents their suffering from frosted combs. The poultry house is not heated either.

There are many persons like your correspondent, T. F. E., who "would prefer to make eggs the main consideration, and the table poultry to be secondary." To such, it seems to me, that the White Minorca, kept of course under the proper conditions, would come nearer giving satisfaction than almost any other breed. As H. S. B., on the same page, truly says, it is unwise to expect the best layers to be first-class table fowls; but I am very sure that the prolific egg production of the Minorca would more than compensate one for the lack of weight in the young cockerels. The eggs of the White Minorca are of a fair size, nearer spherical than those of any other breed I have ever seen, and of a chalky whiteness, being distinguishable from both the Leghorns and the Black Minorcas.

The Black Minorcas are quite as desirable for laying purposes as the White, but according to my experience do not make as good brooders. Though indeed, mine have had but little opportunity in that line; the hens are so exceedingly fractious that I never let one stay on the nest long enough to see what she would do. They are the kind that like to catch your arm through a thin sleeve and give it a tweak and twist at the same time; while the White, though a little nervous, are not near so pugnacious. Lest any one should think that I am not wholly disinterested in praise of my pets, I will add that I have no fowls for sale. A FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

Country Gentleman.

### Dairying in the Province of Ontario.

This progressive province contains two dairymen's associations—an eastern and a western—and a creameries' association. The former two have been in existence 15 years, the latter 7. From the latest annual report of these associations we quote from President Eager's address at the eastern. His advice is suited to the United States, and is in line with much that has been said in the *Country Gentleman*:

"Never in the history of our country have the farmers received so much of the attention of the legislators and economists as at the present time. Both the provincial and federal governments are doing all in their power to assist the farmers in every way that they possibly can, but we as dairymen should not depend too much on government help. We should rely upon ourselves. The sure road to success is having confidence in our ability to solve the difficult problems that crop up in our business from day to day. The secret of our success is to discover the forces and tendencies about us, and turn them to our use. Many people spend their time opposing and bemoaning the changes that come up in their business, and thus waste their strength fighting against the inevitable. Others with a finer instinct discover the power that lies in