

try, of over twenty years. My hens have each supplied an egg daily, with the exception of a few days, for months on the ration given.

C. E.

Poultry for Profit.

Poultry-keeping is being considered, from a commercial point of view, much more now than it was a few years ago, and it is encouraging to find that such a deep interest is being taken in this most important branch of agriculture. Although there has been such a marked improvement in poultry-keeping, there is much more to be done, and I cannot help thinking that if properly looked after poultry can be kept both in town and country and be very profitable to their owners, who themselves are better, alike in health and pocket, whether their fowls are kept in small or large numbers.

It must be remembered that fowls must be kept clean and healthy, and for the encouragement of those who have only a backyard let me state that it is quite possible to produce as many, if not more, eggs during the winter months in small confined runs than farmers can whose fowls run about, on the farm with plenty of liberty. Nothing stands in the way of anyone keeping fowl if they are kept on the right principle. One reason why poultry should be kept and studied more is that they are able to convert all the refuse from our tables into good and delicious food, and the larger the family the more scraps there are wasted, as a rule. For these scraps I keep an iron pot on purpose. When I empty it in the morning, I half fill it with water and set on the back of the stove. Into this goes all the scraps from the table, scrapings from the plates, refuse food, potato peelings, etc. This is all boiled up through the day and in the morning is mixed up with bran and shorts to a crumbly condition and given to the hens for their morning meal. It is astonishing to see the large amount of refuse food which is daily thrown away, which might easily be converted into eggs and meat.

Those who cannot afford a bone-cutter, in which ordinary green or fresh butchers' bones can be ground up or crushed daily, should purchase it; otherwise, as nothing so much as a green bone ration gives vigor and bone to poultry and greatly increases egg production. If poultry-keepers would give their birds green bone, the eggs will always prove more fertile and the chickens hatched will be hardier, as the composition of green bone contains nearly all the elements of an egg. Finely cut clover or alfalfa as a winter feed deserves to be better known, as it contains the elements necessary for egg production and is a natural diet. A great many poultry-keepers use it with great success, as it has been found to be high in nutriment and feeding value in itself, but when mixed with cereals and a small quantity of meat, it is one of the best substitutes for grass and insect life that we have. Out clover is admirably suited for fowls in close confinement and will insure plenty of rich eggs. It is equally good for fowl at liberty, and is largely responsible for a rich color and flavor of the yolk, also for exceptional vigor in the male bird, thereby ensuring greater fertility. This food when allowed to stand, after being moistened very much, increases in bulk and becomes of a spongy texture, enabling the fowls' stomach juices to permeate the mass. Clover and clover meal, particularly alfalfa clover, I have found has been largely used in laying competitions and contains a large percentage of protein and carbohydrates, which, together with the lime and salts it contains, makes it most important in a winter diet.

It is necessary now that fowl be confined to a certain extent, but that plenty of exercise be taken. If let fill up on grain or soft feed, and not compelled to exercise, fowl will very soon become a back number.

It is not an expensive matter to provide two or three inches of straw, chaff or dried leaves, and to rake all the whole grains fed into this. I consider it a most satisfactory sign of health and vigor to see my fowl busy scratching from early morning till night, and those who follow this plan have good results.

Another point worthy of consideration is that scratching sheds tend to economize the grain given to poultry, and there is no waste as when it is carelessly scattered on the ground.

Apart from the feeding, farmers should endeavor to introduce new blood into their flocks every year in the shape of pure-bred males from the best laying stock obtainable. By doing this, they can in a very few years greatly improve both the laying quality and the appearance of their flock, no matter how mediocre it may have been to start with.

Carleton Co., Ont.

MONA.

I think "The Farmer's Advocate" is the only magazine worth turning the pages.

Ontario Co., Ont.

FRANK DISNEY.

Poultry Work in Ontario County.

The pioneer county in this province, as far as co-operative poultry production and marketing is concerned, is the good old live-stock county, Ontario. About four years ago Whitby, the county town, saw the advent of a district representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. This man, J. H. Hare, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, opened an office and began work among the farming community of the county. Various lines of work were followed, as is done in all these offices, but seeing the possibilities of the poultry industry and realizing the indifferent attitude, on the part of a large percentage of farmers, towards poultry, Mr. Hare determined to make this phase of agriculture one of the main

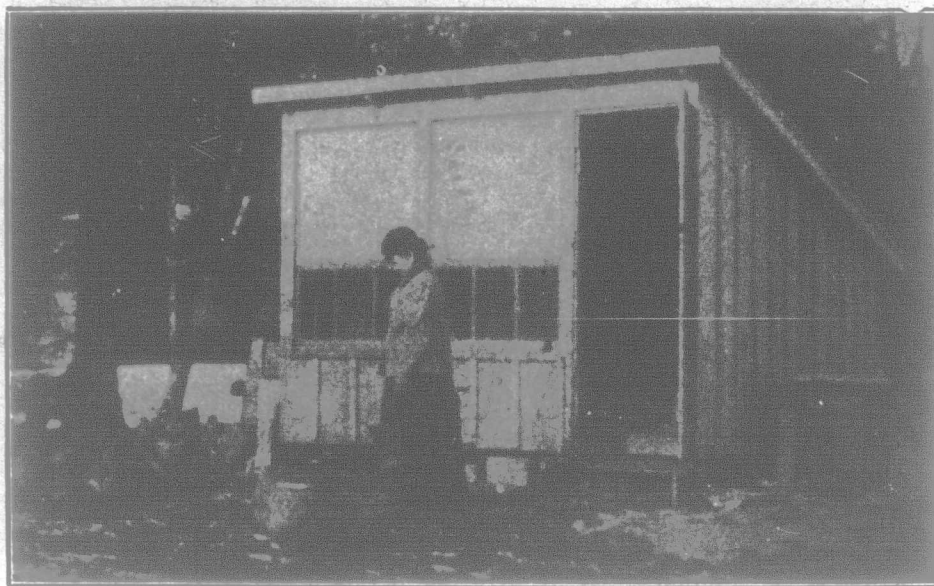
penses for feed were \$37.80, leaving a profit for one year, from 30 pullets, of \$184.84.

That there is an advantage in breeding good stock was shown by the results from this flock. The thirty original birds, which composed the flock, laid in December, 1911, 162 eggs; while the same number of pullets in December, 1912, the pullets being sired by a bred-to-lay cockerel obtained from the O. A. C., Guelph, produced 360 eggs.

These are results which are doing much to convince the people of Ontario County that there is money in poultry properly attended to. The house is an inexpensive one. Note the open or curtain front.

Mrs. Hare is now putting forth every effort to affiliate all the various egg circles in the county under one management with head quarters to be

situated at Brooklin, where the circles will have their own store-house and candler, and where eggs will be put up in the circle's cartons and everything operated by the people composing the circles themselves. The magnitude of the business may be estimated when we consider that between \$12,000 and \$15,000 worth of business has been done by the Cannington Circle alone during the past year. When all the circles come under this central management, the business is likely to grow until it covers the entire county, and is sure to mean many thousands of dollars to the



The House in Which the 30 Pullets Made the Good Returns.

points in his work. Seven poultry circles have been established with 500 members. Each circle has seven directors and the manager gets a small percentage on all eggs handled, while the producers have received a considerable increase in price of eggs over that paid by local buyers.

In connection with the work a demonstration breeding station has been established. The demonstration house, as shown in the illustration, is not a large one. It is situated on the farm of Mrs. S. L. Brown, President of South Ontario Women's Institutes, who started with thirty pure-bred Barred Plymouth Rock pullets in the fall of 1911. Previous to getting these birds, which were of very ordinary quality (not bred to lay), Mrs. Brown had not been able to get winter eggs. These pullets were early-hatched, and commenced to lay in November. In November, 1911, they produced 12 eggs; in December, 162 eggs; in January, 299 eggs; in February, 353 eggs; in March, 472 eggs; in April, 663 eggs; in May, 528 eggs, and from June to October 31st, 1,200 eggs; a total for the year of 3,689 eggs, and an average of 123 eggs per hen. Very good for the common hen. Eggs from these pullets were sold for hatching, but the price was limited to 30 cents per dozen (not much higher than circle prices) and male birds were sold for \$1.00 per bird (very little in excess of market prices).

farmers of the county. The average "dunghill" flock is being changed into a profitable productive, well-housed, well-fed and well-bred flock, with results which cannot but increase the improvement.

Besides this work Mr. Hare and his assistant, Mr. Hogarth, have visited 448 farms, making an investigation into the business to find out the weak points, and to plan their work of bettering conditions. They know whereof they speak on poultry and poultry conditions, and are sure to make great progress in improving the poultry business.

Drainage and orchard demonstrations have been held; short courses are put on each year and everything possible is being done to educate and interest the agriculturists of the county in their profession, and to help them to increase their cash returns which are always the measure of man's success.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Handling Orchard Soils.

"Probably the best scheme ever devised for handling the majority of orchard soils, where the lay of the land will permit, is a combination of clean cultivation with cover crops," says Professor Wendell Paddock, of the Ohio College of Agriculture. "This method includes the plowing of the land as early in the season as the weather will permit. The plow is followed, at intervals, by the harrow, in order that the surface of the soil may be kept mellow throughout the growing season. Usually in the latter part of July or the first of August, at the close of the growing season for trees, a crop of some kind is planted and this is allowed to occupy the land until the next spring. The land is plowed again as early as possible, and this is followed by clean cultivation and a cover crop as before."

Have taken "The Farmer's Advocate" since 1891 continuously, and consider the price money well invested.

York Co., N.B.

JOHN A. CAMPBELL.



Oxford Down Yearling Wethers.

First in class, and winners of breed cup, at Smithfield. Exhibited by Miss Alice de Rothschild.

The eggs sold brought \$88.84, exactly \$7.12 more than if they had been sold through the circles, which was very little advantage from being sold for hatching. Poultry sold live and dead brought \$78.68; poultry now on hand, \$45.20; poultry consumed, \$10.00; a total for poultry of \$133.80. Add to this \$88.84 received for eggs, and a grand total of \$222.64. The total ex-

is plowed again as early as possible, and this is followed by clean cultivation and a cover crop as before."