

so placed that the hens may take a warm bath at will.

In order to raise young chicks successfully it is necessary to guard against dampness and pay attention to the selection of proper food. There are two ways of hatching eggs, namely, by hens and with incubators. The incubators are now coming into general use among those who make a business of raising broilers for spring and summer market, but the "old settin' hen" will probably take the lead with the average farmer for some time.

Poultry is especially profitable on farms, for what is picked up by the fowls is saved and utilized, whereas otherwise it would be a clear loss. Much stress should be placed on winter laying, for the greater price more than repays the extra cost of furnishing warm quarters and the hens must be fed whether they lay or not. Over-production need not be feared until the winter production shall equal the present supply; a condition not likely to exist until poultry raisers give the attention to their vocation that is found necessary to success in other lines of business.

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### A DAY'S WORK.

BY MR. HUNTER IN FARM-POULTRY

If anyone thinks the feeding and care of poultry, and the raising of a thousand chickens "all play and no work," they would change their minds after spending a day of April or May on our farm, and seeing how the work is done. Not long since a poultryman told us of the great amount of time wasted on his farm, one man's time being wholly taken up with the care and feeding of about two hundred fowls in twenty breeding pens, the other man's time being "put in" in caring for three incubators, and four hundred chicks, all in one brooder house. We assured him that on our farm one young man did more work than his two, and he requested us to furnish a "time-table" of the manner in which our work is done; we did so, and found it so interesting we thought it worth while giving it here.

We have, at this writing, (middle of April), three hundred and fifty head of laying stock and just about one thousand chicks. In twenty-four hours to eight weeks old. To give our young man more time to do the chick-work we have relieved him of the watering of the fowls and cleaning of the droppings from the roost-platforms. With those

two exceptions he does *all* the work of feeding and caring for our stock—and his time is divided up as follows:—

5.30 to 7 A. M.—Feed the hens, feed and water chicks.

7.—Breakfast.

7.45 to 8.—Visit brooders to turn down lamps and replenish water in lamp-pans.

8 to 9.—General work.

9 to 9.30.—Feed chicks.

9.30 to 11.—General work.

11 to 12 M.—Feed hens, feed and water chicks.

12 to 12.15 P. M.—Start fire in cook stove, and put on kettles for mash.

12.15.—Dinner.

1.—Make mash (three buckets).

1.30.—Feed chicks.

2 to 3.—General work.

3 to 4.—Trim and fill brooder and incubator lamps.

4 to 4.30.—Feed hens.

4.30 to 5.30.—Collecting, marking and sorting eggs.

5.30 to 6.—Feed and water chicks.

6.—Supper.

6.30 to 7.—Shut up chicks and hens and make all snug for the night.

The above time-table gives three and one-half hours to general work, which consists of cleaning the brooders, making pens for chicks (around the brooders) getting out more brooders when a hatch is due, renewing nest-material when more hens are to be set, looking after the sitting hens, etc. There are always things enough to do!

The above schedule may not be followed to the minute. One piece of work may take a few minutes more or less than schedule time; and on Wednesday and Sunday no mash is made—the breakfasts of Thursday and Monday being dry grain. On Wednesday and Saturday mornings, also, there is about an hour spent at the bone cutter cutting up thirty to fifty pounds of fresh bones. Two or three times a week the chicks have fine-chopped cabbage, or onions; about twice a week bread crumbs have to be ground to be ready for the breakfasts.

In fact, there isn't much "sojering" on a poultry ranch of the size of ours, if the work is well and faithfully done. Still, one can find an odd half-hour for a row on the river, a tramp over the hills, or other recreation. Sunday we do as little work as possible—the necessary feeding and watering only; hence find time for church services, reading and rest.

The essential thing is to have the appliances so arranged that there is no

time wasted, no useless steps. Our chicks are in seven small (detached) brooder houses, and fourteen Peep O' Day Brooders, all so placed that they are reached, one after the other, without the loss of a moment; all of which means study and planning for, but pays well in the end.

That thousand chickens now means early laying pullets next fall.

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### NEEDED HERE AN EXPERIMENTAL STATION.

Comox District, notwithstanding its importance, has received very little attention from the Dominion Government. Of course we have not been entirely overlooked, we have had accorded a weekly mail! There are now fully 3,500 people in the district not counting the Indians. We are in the centre or heart of Vancouver Island, once a colony of itself. We have here one of the best agricultural districts on the coast. Our climate is radically different along the coast from what it is inland, and our fruit trees, vegetables and grains require to be selected with special reference to the conditions of soil and climate which prevail here. For these reasons an Agricultural Experiment station should be located in the Comox valley. There is one for the Mainland which is of comparatively little value to us, and another should be stationed on this Empire island of ours; and as a matter of course, Comox from its geographical situation, and agricultural importance is the best place for it. It is needed here, and at this point would accommodate the moist belt of the province. Comox valley is equidistant between the north and south limits of our agricultural area. It is true that the area of farms in cultivation to the south of us is by far the largest but this condition will rapidly change. Besides the southern part has been recognised in various ways, the cities by large, costly public buildings, and the farming section demands that its interests shall be considered.

We trust our member Mr. Haslam will give this subject his attention. Since his election about all this part of Vancouver Island has asked for has been the establishment of two or three small post-offices. Here is an opportunity now offered whereby not only this section but the entire wet belt may be greatly benefited, and this part of the island, hitherto neglected, be properly recognised.—*Union News*.