

their supplies at six cents per dozen. The low price of corn in the Western States has enabled poultrymen to feed it with good results. The interests of producers and merchants in Canada will be best conserved by an absence of exaggerated values at the opening of the season, which must lead later in the summer to a reaction and consequent demoralization of the markets.

The following table will show the prices of eggs at New York and Toronto, at the end of March, during the past eight years :

	1891	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98
Toronto,	16	14	17	16	15	16	11	10
New York,	24½	14½	18	14½	12	11½	10½	10

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### WINTER EGG PRODUCTION.

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WRITTEN FOR POULTRY ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

**D** ID you ever take up a newspaper containing the market reports of such large centres as Montreal, Toronto, London, etc.? If you have you may have noticed during the winter months that fresh eggs are quoted at 20, 25 and even 30 cts. per dozen; but if you look in the reports for the summer months you will see fresh eggs quoted from 7 to 10 cents per dozen. What is the cause of this? Simply that in the summer everybody who keeps hens has plenty of eggs to sell, consequently the supply is greater than the demand, and prices go down. But during winter the most people's fowls do not lay, and consequently fresh eggs are hard to get, and prices at once go up. Now, how few ever pause to think of the profit there is in the production of eggs in winter, when prices are 20 to 30 cents per dozen. Doubtless, someone will say that is all very well, but you cannot get hens to lay in winter. Why not? There must be a cause for the non-production of eggs at such a time, and I think we can put it down to three reasons. 1st, Unsuitable quarters; 2nd, wrong class of fowls; 3rd, improper feed and management. On going to the majority of farms where poultry are kept, how do we find them? Generally something as follows: The place where they are housed (if housed at all) is full of cracks; the snow and rain beat in

upon them, and it is colder in the house than it is outside; the house is generally in a filthy state, being cleaned out only about once a year, and lice thrive in abundance; the general system of feeding is to throw out a shovelful or two of grain once or twice a day. The class of stock, as a rule, consists of a lot of scrubs, often four or five years of age, immature pullets, and a large supply of cocks and cockerels all running together. With such houses, such stock and such a system of feeding, how can you expect to have your hens laying in the winter, when prices are high and egg production profitable? Now, what must we do in order to obtain a supply of eggs from our fowl in winter? In answering this, I would ask you to look back and take notice of the hen at a time when eggs are got in abundance, namely, in summer time. In doing so what do we see? The hen picks a blade of grass here, runs there for an insect, picks up a sharp piece of gravel somewhere else. This is where the whole matter lies; in order to obtain a plentiful supply of eggs in winter, we must make it summer time for the hen all the year round. How are we to do this? By providing suitable houses, having a proper system of feeding and management, and keeping the right kind of stock to make summer time for. We will first take the houses. In building, the poultry keeper may follow his own inclination as to style and expense, for what may please and suit one may not another. Taking all things into consideration I would advise having a house with a loft on, for a loft comes in very handy for storing feed, coops, and poultry appliances in, instead of having them littered about the passages. But in building, I would lay before you a few of the more important details: We must, if possible, have our building frost-proof, so that water will not freeze in it during the coldest weather; we must have plenty of sunlight in the house, but must not make the windows too large or too numerous, for unless we have double windows they will allow too much heat to escape during the long cold nights. Our means of ventilation must be such that we can regulate the supply of air and keep the houses free from bad odors or closeness, and as a rule we will find the best results from the ordinary box ventilator carried down near the floor, with a slide in it to control the amount of ventilation; it would be better to have the lower part extensible, so that it could be raised or