



GOOSE BREEDING.

(Continued.)

EDITOR'S NOTE.—We are indebted to Mr. A. A. Brigham, Ph.D., director of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, for advance proofs of this most valuable and comprehensive article on Goose Culture, and also for procuring for us duplicates of some of the engravings to be used in connection with the Report. The copies of REVIEW containing this series of articles should be carefully preserved for future guidance. The first part appeared in November REVIEW.

THE following comprehensive and complete account of the goose business, as conducted by one of the largest breeders in the State, is based upon figures kindly furnished by him. The breeding stock kept, the number of goslings raised each year, the price at which they were sold, and the product per goose in goslings and cash, are given below.

Year.	Total number geese kept.	Females.	Males.	Number of goslings sold.	Average price.	Total value.	Average pro- duct per goose kept.	No. goslings.	Value.
1890....	57			383	\$1.135	\$131.70	6.7+		\$7.626
1891....	57			495	1.091	511.53	8.6+		9.509
1892....	57			125	1.150	488.75	7.1+		8.574
1893....	57			310	1.175	364.25	5.4+		6.390
1894....	75	56	19	235	.815	191.52	8.1+		2.553
1895....	63	52	16	450	1.250	562.50	6.6+		8.272
1896....	66	50	16	478	1.090	521.02	7.2+		7.894
1897....	66	50	16	482	1.210	597.68	7.3+		9.055
Average for eight years					\$1.118+	6.5+		\$7.483

In the fall of 1893 the entire breeding flock was sold, and a new flock purchased for the season of 1894, and the results that year, as compared with subsequent years, show clearly how much less can fairly be expected from young geese, in new quarters, than from

those a little older and well established. The average product per goose for the eight years was \$7.48.

FROM GROWER TO CONSUMER.

Aside from the limited number of those who grow mongrel geese, which are destined almost wholly for the Thanksgiving and Christmas trade, and which cannot be so well fattened until cold weather, comparatively few goose raisers fatten and market their own birds. The goslings are usually sold alive at the door to the agents of a few men engaged in the business of fattening and marketing green geese and other poultry. As high as \$2.00 each for well grown, very early goslings, four weeks old, have been paid, but they are not usually sold until the long flight feathers of the wings have made sufficient growth to reach the tail, and they are nine or ten weeks old. If bred from good stock, and they have had the run of a good pasture and some grain, they should weigh at that age 7 to 10 or more pounds, alive, and have well developed fleshy bodies, which will make a good foundation for the fattening operation. The buyers do not care to have the goslings FAT, much preferring to have a good sized, well grown body, produced by an abundance of nutritious green food and a moderate allowance of grain. The process of fattening and preparing for market will be described in the proper place in this report.

We believe that many more geese would be kept by farmers if better opportunities were provided for the sale of the young birds alive, as the operations of fattening, dressing and marketing are such that the breeder of a few goslings cannot economically do the work. Heretofore, the agents of the fatteners have confined their weekly trips to that section of Rhode Island which lies on the east side of Narragansett Bay, where the greater number of the geese in the State are now kept. The town of Little Compton, in the south east corner of the State, had, in 1885, breeding geese to the number of 3,261, out of a total of 8,677 kept in the State, or about 37.5 per cent. of the total number. The shore towns of Washington county are equally well situated for goose raising, but comparatively few are now kept. The following table is interesting as showing what might be done in these four shore towns. The figures are taken from the State census of 1885: