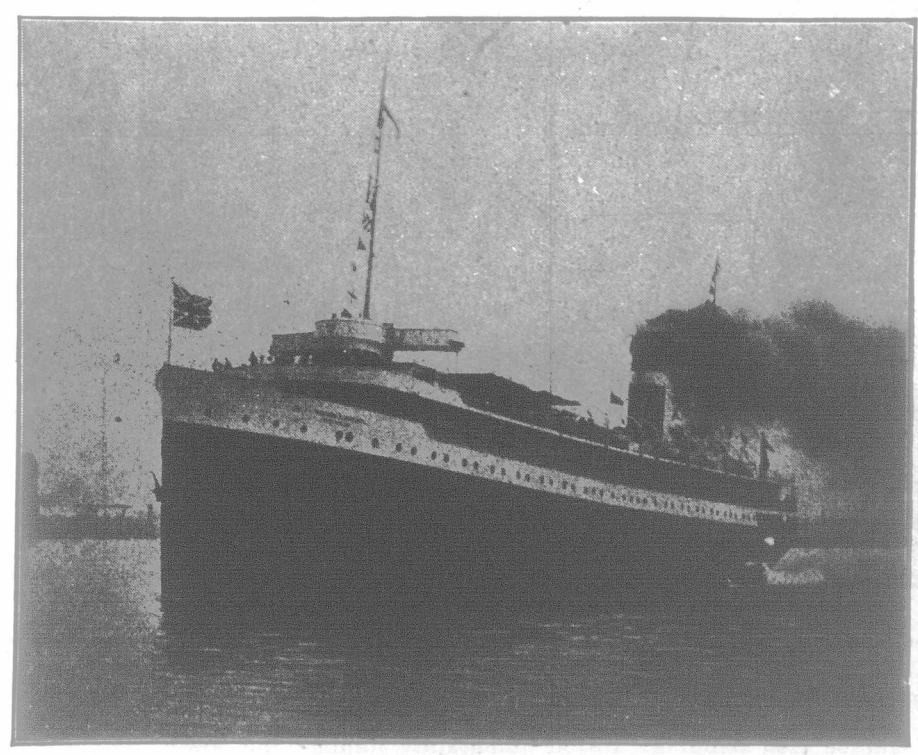


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R. CRAWFORD, Northwestern Agent, 128 Grain Exchange, Winnipeg



POULTRY

Do not neglect the fowl because harvest comes in for first consideration. Hens are profitable, but the biggest returns are obtained only when proper attention is given every week in the year. Under favorable conditions hens and even chickens can forage for themselves, but neglect means loss. Birds that are to go to market this fall should not be allowed to "go to pieces" between now and market time.

Ducks should be marketed at 10 weeks of age, at which time they should weigh at least three pounds or more, and will command in the neighborhood of 28 cents a pound during the run of the season. If kept over later and marketed in the fall, as is usually the case, they will realize only from 80 cents to \$1.00 a pair—much less than they would have realized at 10 weeks, and furthermore during that extra feeding period they would have eaten their heads off probably several times over.

EGG EATERS, EXTERMINATING LICE

1. Can you tell me if there is no other way to cure hens of eating their eggs but killing them?

2. What is a sure cure for hen lice and mites? Is there any way of killing hen lice by putting it in the water or food?

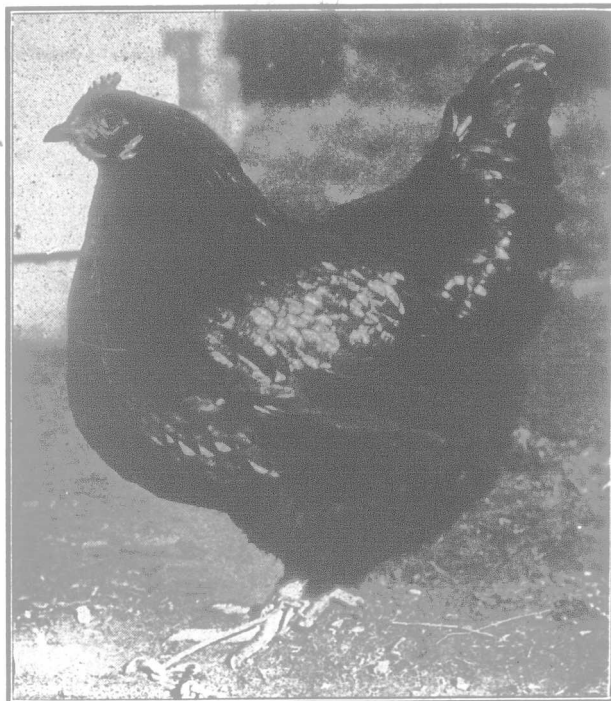
E. M. C.

Ans. 1.—If egg-eating is a confirmed habit, it is difficult to cause the fowls to desist. Some poultrymen have prepared nests with sloping bottoms, down which the eggs gently roll beyond reach of the hen. Some have filled egg-shells with mustard, and pasted them shut.

Others have recommended clipping an eighth of an inch off the end of the bill. Perhaps the easiest and best way is to provide dark nests. The writer cured a flock of the habit last winter by this simple expedient. The hens seemed to prefer the seclusion of dark nests, anyway, and no trouble was thereafter experienced with egg-eating. With a flock badly addicted to the habit, and not receiving a fair supply of lime and meat food, it might not be so easily checked.

2. The following method, suggested by an expert of the United States Department of Agriculture, has proved excellent in ridding houses of mites and lice, when the weather conditions are such as to permit of the birds being kept outside the house for five or six hours. Close all the doors and windows, and see that there are no cracks or any other openings to admit air. Get an

iron vessel, and set it on gravel or sand near the center of the house; place in the vessel a handful of shavings or straw saturated with kerosene, and on these sprinkle sulphur at the rate of about one pound to every ninety or one hundred square feet of floor space. Instead of using the shavings and kerosene, the sulphur can be saturated with wood alcohol. When everything else is in readiness, light the material and hastily leave the house. In case any anxiety is felt about fire, a glance through a window will show if everything is all right. There is very little danger of fire when proper precautions have been taken to have plenty of soil beneath the vessel. Allow the house to remain closed for three or four hours, at the end of which time one can safely conclude that there are no living beings inside. Now throw all the doors and windows wide open, so as to drive out the sulphur fumes thoroughly, and then the fowls may be allowed to enter. Let them in one by one, and as each one enters, catch it and dust it well with insect powder, which will destroy the lice on the birds. Tobacco dust is also good to use, instead of insect powder. The birds and house have now been freed from vermin for the present, but the eggs of the insects have not been destroyed, and in another week another swarm will be hatched out. Therefore, it will be necessary to repeat the operation once or twice before the pests are exterminated. After this, care should be used to see that no strange fowl is admitted to the house or yard without having been thoroughly rid of the lice, for one lousy hen will contaminate all the rest.



TYPICAL BLACK ORPINGTON HEN

FARMERS' POULTRY HOUSE

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Farmers contemplating the erection of a poultry house should apply to A. G. Gilbert, C. E. F., Ottawa, for literature dealing with this subject, which literature is free and contains the most exhaustive information on all types of poultry house in use to-day.

Apart from this, any building which is dry, light and draught-proof, is a first class building in which to house poultry. In our cold climate perhaps the first requisite mentioned is the most difficult to secure, especially if the builder or architect considers that a warm building is necessary.

Experience has proved that artificial heat is not only unnecessary but positively injurious to the health of the birds, but ventilation is an absolute necessity, as only by this means can the building be kept dry and sweet. Of course, the ideal condition would be to have the building both warm and well-ventilated, but as the subject to be dealt with is the farmers' poultry house, and as artificial heat sufficient to warm a well-ventilated house in cold weather is not conducive to great profit, such buildings must be left so the capitalist and fancier, who undertakes the business of poultry keeping for a hobby. The most successful way to ventilate any building in which any class of live stock is to be kept is to provide openings in the south wall, covered with cotton or burlap, through which the air passes freely without creating a draft. These openings may be made above and below the windows, or at each side, and should be of sufficient size to secure the result desired. Our buildings are provided with openings four feet square, being the same size as the windows, with which they alternate, thus forming what is known as a curtain front house. Such a building is quite dry at all times, and never feels cold.

Care must be taken, however, that