

that all  
rs before  
n. Upon  
manager  
advanced  
weight,  
ound for

tuted the  
inued for

he limited  
ots to the  
secure for  
second to  
ear. Our  
res which  
es can be  
e number  
ty-seven,  
e of 3.1  
0 pounds.

e, and is  
siderable  
oint, and  
altogether  
creditable  
e lot was  
farmer a  
cting the  
pound on  
ce to the  
ve weight  
owl. The  
age to be  
a market  
n of hand-  
birds for  
relieving  
sant task  
facilities  
essing for  
umber of  
sitated is  
sometimes  
going into  
with the  
r in this  
a ready  
d extends  
ners, too,  
icinity of  
advantage  
e cooped  
fattening  
defrayed  
lered ad-  
ork while  
e farmers  
that paid  
tions this  
y to hand  
o farmers  
r pound.  
is because  
it on the  
cents per  
nce price  
chickens  
-with no  
elivery—  
34. cents

The foregoing results seem to amply justify the assistance and expenditure of the Department to develop the poultry industry. The price obtained and paid to farmers exceeded the expectation of those in charge of the work, and while it is not a certainty that these prices can be duplicated another year our experience goes to show that one year with another splendid price can be obtained for good birds properly prepared. The high prices this season were to some extent due to the loss of chicks through exposure during the cold spring months, which produced a scarcity.

With the initial undertaking it was to be expected that the class of birds received from the farmers would not be altogether commendable. It proved to be correct, and considerable improvement in this respect may be made in the future. The proper type of birds must be raised by the farmer and delivered to the fattening station, otherwise the management cannot offer for sale birds that will command the highest price because of their superior quality with respect to flesh, plumpness, and appearance generally. To do this some attention must be given to the breeding and the selection of the birds, either by procuring a sitting of pure bred eggs from one known to have good birds of the leading utility breeds, or by purchasing a pure bred male of the desired type and breed with which to head the flock. By either of these methods a proper start can be made, and by subsequent careful selection of the young a flock of creditable birds can soon be accumulated.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture at the illustration poultry stations report their finding on the pure bred and the scrub chickens as follows:—

"When pure bred and scrub chickens were reared under similar conditions the pure bred bird of the utility type made more rapid and economical gains in live weight than did the scrubs."

"In crate fattening the pure bred chickens again made the greater gains. It was also demonstrated that the cost of food per pound of gain was less with the pure bred chickens."

"At the age of four months the pure bred chickens were fattened and ready for the market, possessing a uniformity in quality and appearance unequalled by the others at any time."

"At no age were the scrub chickens as saleable as the pure bred birds."

"For meeting the demands of the higher class local markets, or for export, scrub chickens are not satisfactory."

A careful perusal of these facts should make clear to the reader the value of pure bred birds, and the important part it will have in assisting the Department in securing the best trade for poultry which will give the farmers the greatest returns and also in establishing the poultry industry of the Province.

#### Open-Front Poultry Houses in British Columbia

EDITOR "FARMER'S ADVOCATE:"

I believe in the tightly-built poultry house, but I do not believe in thick walls or houses with air-tight sleeping places. Within a stone's throw from where I am writing is the open-front poultry house which is in use for the second year. The whole of the building is made of ordinary rough lumber. Over the roof and back is a cover of malthoid roofing. The front, facing south, is 6 feet high 2 feet of which is boarded from the ground up; 4 feet is wire netting. The back is 3 feet high and the hip of roof 7 feet 6 in. Width is 6 feet, length 300 feet, divided into 18-foot sections by solid partitions of rough lumber, and door in each, so that you can go from one end of the building to the other inside. There is also a door in front of each section. You will notice, by the cut I am enclosing, that the nest boxes are in the front of the sections, in the center, and over them is a box with slat bottom and front; that is, from the inside of pen, and is used for broody hens and extra male birds. The dropping-board is 18 inches from the ground at the back of pen, and 2 feet wide, with single roosts the whole length of each 18-foot pen. Six inches from the dropping-board, in front of the roost, on the center scantling, is a curtain of canvas, which drops just below the dropping-board, for use during the winter and cold nights. The floor is just the sod covered with sand and gravel, also scratching litter, so that the whole of the floor space is available as a scratch pen. I keep an average of 18 birds in each pen, which allows six square feet to each bird. On the under side of the ridge-board is a cable, on which

a pulley traveller, with hooks attached, carries the feed, water and eggs from end to end, which makes it both easy and quick work to feed and clean out, etc., besides being under cover during the wet seasons, which is also far better than doing the work from the outside, with the rain from the roof trickling down your back. Another advantage of going through your houses is that the birds get used to you and become far more tractable. You also see whether there are any eggs laid in the litter, or notice if any are sick or out of condition. Since having put my birds out of the solid houses to the open-front pens, I have had scarcely any sickness, the birds are more contented, their plumage is much brighter, and their egg production greatly increased. Feeding trough and water fountains are under the nest boxes.

Since this photograph was taken, runs have been put up, which adds much to the appearance of the houses, and all who have seen them admit them to be the best, and the most handy and economical houses yet invented. And they have proved so successful that two more are under construction.

E. M. WROUGHTON.

Adare Poultry Farm, Victoria, B. C.

#### Tuberculosis in Hens.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

My hens get sick, seem weak in the legs, and act dizzy as though they could not see well. Heads or eyes do not swell but are very pale, have ravenous appetite but get very poor, if they run they fall over. Please prescribe.

HARRY S. STRONG.

Owing to lack of more definite information it is difficult to prescribe in this case. From the symptoms given it would appear that the flock is infected with cholera, and in the meantime should be treated for such. The disease is fatal and prevention of further spread is all that can be advised. The affected birds should be killed and burned without delay. Isolate any birds showing symptoms of disease which is highly contagious. As a preliminary precaution the house and runs should be thoroughly disinfected. For this purpose a solution may be made by mixing one pound of carbolic with twelve quarts of water. Thoroughly saturate the floor, droppings, drop board, roosts, drinking vessels, feed troughs, and the interior in general to destroy the germs. The building should then be cleaned and thoroughly white-washed. Should the disease prove to be cholera, and the flock is badly infected, it would be wise to destroy the whole flock.

The above treatment should be taken as a precaution and in the meantime if your subscriber will forward prepaid one or two of the affected fowl to the Bacteriologist, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, giving more definite information regarding the housing, feeding, color of droppings, the extent of the disease and the mortality of the flock, I shall be pleased to have the disease diagnosed and send him a full report of same.

A. W. FOLEY.

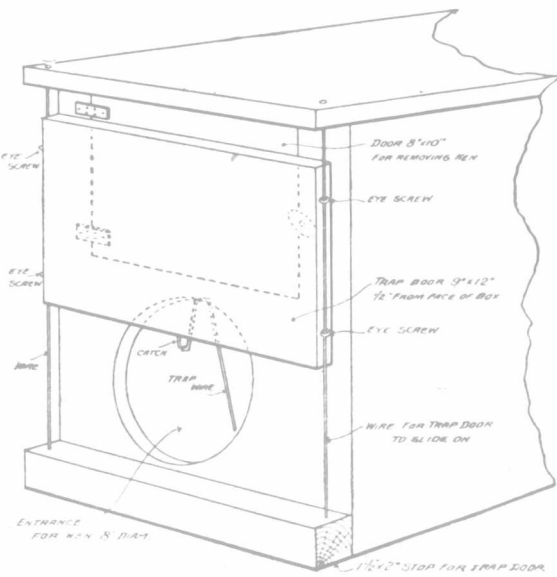
#### Making a Trap Nest: Eating Eggs.

Would you kindly tell me how or where I can get the trap nests you speak of in your columns, and would they prevent hens eating their eggs?

A. T. S.

Ans.—A cut is here given of a trap nest we have referred to frequently in these columns. It is known as the Foley nest, from its inventor Mr. A. W. Foley, superintendent of the Poultry Branch of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. It is made as follows:

The front of the nest should be fourteen inches wide and twenty inches high; two inches from the bottom a circular hole eight inches in diameter is cut. A door is placed at the top, eight by ten inches square, by which the hen is removed. The trap consists of a



board ten inches square, with an eye screw on each side. The door slides up and down on a No. 9 wire passing through the screw eyes of the trap door. A nail bent in the shape of an "L" and filed flat on the bottom side is driven into the centre of the bottom of the trap door with the bottom part of the "L" projecting towards the inside of the box. About one inch above the middle of the entrance a hole is bored large enough to admit a No. 9 wire that is bent as shown. The top side of the bent piece of wire upon which the nail of the trap door rests is also filed flat, and the trap is set by placing the "L" shaped nail of the trap door on the wire as illustrated. The wire hangs on the inside of the nest box as shown. The hen in passing through the entrance on either side of the wire moves it enough to release the trap door and lock herself in. The length of this nest may be from sixteen to twenty inches.

Trap nests will not prevent hens eating their eggs. Their use enables a poultry man to keep tab on the performance of individual hens, and be in a position to select eggs for hatching from the best layers in his flock. In this way strong laying strains are built up.

Egg eating is wholly caused by mismanagement in the first place, but when the habit is firmly established "cutting off the tail of the bird behind the ears" is the only remedy. Do this with all the old hardened criminals, they will make good soup. Lack of grit, oyster shell and vegetable food bring this habit on amongst poultry shut up during the winter, and when spring comes on, they do not forget it unfortunately; however, it can be prevented altogether with proper care and feeding. In eight years I have not had an egg eating hen to deal with, though in their zeal to deposit eggs the hens often drop them in the litter on the floor, but the eggs thus laid remain until I gather them up. Putting the hens' nests where they are more or less darkened will prevent egg eating in a measure. Feeding of meat and bone is not necessary to prevent this bad habit though their value as an egg producing food is unquestionable.

H. E. H.

### Horticulture and Forestry

#### Small Fruits.

By J. W. WHITE, HAMMOND, B. C.

BEFORE THE FRUIT GROWER'S CONVENTION AT VANCOUVER.

When the energetic secretary of this association asked me to prepare a paper to be read at this meeting I told him I would rather he would get someone else who could handle the subject in a much better manner than myself. I feel like apologizing for appearing before so many experts in the business, still I thought if my humble efforts could provoke discussion so that we might gain some information I would feel repaid for my trouble.

During the past year or two there has been a vast number of people come into British Columbia for the purpose of going into fruit growing. During the past season it was a common occurrence to have parties come along enquiring about fruit lands and fruit growing especially about small fruits, because the returns come in a little quicker than from tree fruits. Fruit growing appears to be an ideal occupation, yet like all other businesses, to make it successful it requires a good deal of attention to small matters. Most people that are going into fruit growing want to know what amount of money they can make out of it. The first thing would be to find a suitable location. One authority gives the following as the requisites to success in small fruit culture:

- (1) A love of fruits for their own sake and pleasure in their culture.
- (2) A soil fairly well adapted.
- (3) Markets within easy reach.
- (4) A supply of extra laborers near enough to be promptly available in emergencies.
- (5) Plant no more than can be thoroughly cultivated and profitable marketed.

#### SOIL.

There is some difference of opinion as to what is the best kind of soil for fruit growing. From observation and experience I think a nice sandy loam is the best all round soil. Any soil that is wet and the water stands on it for any length of time will need underdraining. Put in a good system of tile drains. Don't be afraid of getting them too deep and you will have the land in shape for growing good crops.

#### RHUBARB.

I suppose we might class rhubarb in with small fruits. At any rate it is a starter for fruit season. If one has a good piece of deep black loam