

turkeys we will allow \$1.00 for their food and expenses, making \$5.00 for food for the whole flock. This makes our investment \$10.50 and leaves our income \$29.00, or in other words \$10.50 drew in one year \$29 of interest. A man would think he was getting rich if he invested \$29 and gained \$10.50. Let us hope he will consider it profitable to invest \$10.50 in the hope of gaining \$29, which if figured out will mean 276 per cent., and if the profit in cash should be away below the average you can always be sure of 5½ per cent. which is called good interest. I have not invested anything in buildings or fences for the reason that if one can use a hammer and saw there are always old boxes and boards that would be wasted if they were not used for coops and pens, while a warm house is not needed, as, except on very cold nights, trees and fences answer the purpose. But the profits might be larger with a comfortable house and well-fenced pasture. I raise turkeys because I find it brings in more cash than any other branch of farming.

**TURKEYS AS INSECT DESTROYERS.**—There is another and more important reason why turkeys should be kept. It is that they are great destroyers of injurious insects. I would back a flock of one hundred turkeys against any grasshopper machine. These are useful not only for grasshoppers, but turkeys will hunt and devour all kinds of destructive insects. They are constantly destroying insects. The young birds should be hatched in May and June so that in July they are ready to follow the old birds on foraging expeditions, and they will thus capture many of the insects before they have a chance to multiply. A few years ago I had to spend some hours each day herding the flock to protect them from hawks. The grasshoppers were plentiful, and I noticed that though traveling along the sides of grain-fields the birds would never touch the grain but would keep a sharp look-out for insects and worms. One day I was accompanied by a number of children and they took pity on one poor, lame turkey. I carried it and they caught grasshoppers for it and it ate all they could catch. By that time the others were full and ready for a rest while his crop was still comparatively empty. None seemed too large and none were too small to escape their sharp eyes. We supposed they would eat at least fifty five for an average meal, and, as after having an hour's nap, they were ready for another meal, we concluded that each bird would eat five meals a day or 275 grasshoppers, so that our flock of 40 at six weeks old would destroy eleven thousand in one day. At the age of three months their capacity would be doubled and a few million grasshoppers less on a farm would be the result at the end of the season.

**REQUIRE LITTLE CARE.**—Though very much has been said and written

about the weakness of young turkeys and the amount of care required to bring them to maturity, yet I raise turkeys because of the small amount of care they require. It is true that the early birds require constant attention for four weeks or more, yet after that time they require no looking after except to see that they come home to roost, unless of course they are bothered by hawks. A friend of mine who lives on the prairies raised 85, keeping them partly confined for three weeks. Then they disappeared, and she said she saw nothing more of them until in the fall they began to come to the buildings to roost. There is another reason why Ontario women should adopt this business. It gives an excuse for doing less housework and for living out of doors in the early summer, and any man who values his wife's health will prefer to see her living in the poultry-yards instead of running a sewing machine, a scrubbing brush or a rolling pin, for he will know that she is getting farther from the doctor every hour she spends out of doors.

Perhaps the most important reason for raising turkeys and the one that appeals to most people, is the value of their flesh as a food. There is no meat raised on the farm that is so delicate and wholesome as roast turkey. This is true at this time of the year it is expensive if one must buy, but after all when we consider the cost of production, it is cheaper far than beef, pork or even chicken and duck. Then let us all raise turkeys because they are good to eat.

**HOW I RAISE TURKEYS**—The first essential in raising turkeys profitably is to procure good sized, well bred, healthy, vigorous parents. From experience I prefer young hens. They, as a rule, lay a greater number of eggs early in the season and do not wander far from the buildings to conceal their nests. I like to have them always quite tame so that I can go among the flock at any time. The old birds should not be confined in a warm building, nor confined at all, except in extremely stormy weather, and they should not be kept fat. Soft shelled eggs and fewer of them is the result of overfeeding as well as those delicate young turkeys we hear about. I like to have some large boxes or nests under trees near the buildings so that the turkeys when they want to lay will imagine they have found nicely hidden nests. After, however, the first lot of eggs is laid in the stable I like to have a goodly number hatched about the same time for I prefer turkey hens to mother them, but I usually set the eggs under the best barnyard hens I can get. Plymouth Rocks make the best sitters, and sometimes I set a turkey hen at the same time, but I usually break up the incubator inclination as soon as possible so that they will begin laying soon again. With four hens one can almost be sure that some one of them will be inclined

to hatch by the time the eggs under the three or four Rocks are hatched. I like the old turkeys to sit two or three days at least. When the young birds appear, if the nests are rat proof, I leave them for 24 hours. Then I put from 15 to 25 with the old turkey in a nice light, fair-sized coop and she looks at them and decides to adopt them, and I leave them to get acquainted. The evening is the best time. When the young birds are 24 hours old I feed with bread crumbs and I feed at least five times a day. I always enclose the coop with a board pen a foot high, or one of one-inch mesh netting might be preferred if no boards are on hand. In the pen I put a heap of gravel and a heap of loose dust or ashes. These are great preventives of disease and parasites, and "prevention is better than cure." Sometimes I keep the mother turkey in the coop, sometimes let her wander while the young are in the pen, but both pen and coop should be moved often to fresh, short, green grass. I like to have two flocks near, so that after four or five weeks when the old birds and young are allowed their liberty all will go in one flock for there is safety in numbers. An orchard or small fruit garden is perhaps the best place for them to roam in as they are then partially hidden from the hawks.

**ENEMIES TO TURKEYS.**—Hawks, rats and lice are their greatest enemies. One should have a rat proof coop or house in which they can be shut every night, and they should not be kept cooped near buildings or rubbish piles, even in the day if rats are plentiful. If one shows the least sign of drooping in the wings it should be examined on the head, neck and between the flight feathers of the wings, for insects are usually the cause. Butter or grease applied, or dusting with insect powder will kill the lice. There are several remedies, but a pile of dust that they can use will be a great help. There are more turkeys killed by lice than from all other causes, though improper food is a cause of disease. Variety is the spice of turkey food, so I vary the bread crumb diet with thick milk, soft curd, onion tops, oatmeal and custard from infertile eggs, and as they get older I make a porridge of corn meal, pea meal, oat or wheat meal, etc. Some use shorts wet with water, or rather moistened. I never feed sloppy food to anything except pigs. Corn meal raw is not good. Green food of all kinds is good, as are insects if they can get them, and let there be no scarcity of pure water. I have never used tonics or patent medicines, though they may be good. I always take a long time feeding them to see that each one gets enough. I like to watch them and I sit down in the pen and let them climb all over me and eat from my hands. I always call them from the first so that they will know my voice and answer. After they are four or