

POULTRY FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT

CONDUCTED BY A. G. GILBERT, MANAGER POULTRY
DEPARTMENT, DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL
FARM, OTTAWA.

Note- Mr. Gilbert is nothing if not practical and experimental. He will from his rich store of information on the subject of "Practical Poultry," give REVIEW readers each month the results of his experience for the past thirty years. He will be glad to answer questions or afford information on any particular subject.

DURING the third week of April last I had the very good pleasure of visiting the newly established poultry farm of the Toronto Poultry and Garden Produce Company, one mile east of Eglinton suburb. The selection of the site was a most happy one. As regards character and description of land and quality of soil, the farm is an ideal one for the purposes intended. The poultryman who could not be charmed at the beauty of the situation and gratified at its near location to the city markets, must be classified as a crank very much out of gear. Mr. T. M. Wilson, the manager, is a master of detail and an expert in management. Although the company only obtained possession of the premises in February last, at the time of my visit, I found an up-to-date brooder house, 160 feet in length, with over 900 fine strong, vigorous white Wyandotte, barred Plymouth Rock and white Leghorn chicks in it. Not a weakling among them. The old barn had been converted into a temporary poultry house and divided into four compartments, with open scratching sheds. The brick house of the farm was Mr. Wilson's headquarters, and a very comfortable managerial residence it will make when fitted up. For the time being, he had nine 220 egg Toronto incubators at work in the drawing-room, and pleasant music was furnished to the managerial ear as the chickens tumbled out of their shells and gave their first "peep" of satisfaction at their pleasant surroundings.

"Of course you make this your headquarters while in Toronto," said Mr. Wilson. "And what more delightful spot or surroundings could poultrymen desire?" I exclaimed. And stay I did, and any who have had the pleasure of being a guest of Mr. Wilson will tell you that he is a very busy man, but that he has time to be a genial host, withal. It is the in-

tention of the company to immediately erect an incubator room in connection with the aforesaid brick house, and three poultry houses, 360 feet each in length, with runs on each side. It is also the intention to add an additional 160 feet to the brooder house, making it 320 feet in length. But I have no time, and you have no space, on this occasion, to permit of my saying more. I should not forget to state that there are 500 apple trees on the farm, in the prime of their life, and among them the poultry buildings are to be put up.

On another occasion I may tell of a flying visit to the Massey Farm, where I found our mutual friend, F. R. Webber, in charge of the poultry department.

Prof. J. W. Robertson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, will leave in the middle of June for England. It is safe to say that Canadian poultry interests will not be neglected by him.

Several poultry ventures, of more or less extensive proportions, are being established in the neighborhood of this city. As a result sales of incubators and brooders have been lively. It is to be regretted that, in more than one case, the enterprising promoters have little or no knowledge of the difficulties to be met with and overcome. And there can be only one result.

I am informed by reliable authority that a farmer in the neighborhood of Toronto, named Cudmore, has by intelligent management done well with his poultry. Indeed, by their means, he has paid, in a year, for his house-keeping expenses, clothing, fuel, the wages of two hired men and the blacksmith's bill. And yet there are people who will gravely tell you that there is no money in poultry. Why? Because they had not the energy or brains to make the money out of their hens that Mr. Cudmore did out of his.

I was informed by the member in the Commons for North Ontario that Messrs. Dundas and Flavelle of Lindsay are preparing to do a large fall and early winter business in the way of exporting turkeys, geese and chickens to the English market. The firm have recently issued a circular to the farmers in their district, giving instructions as to the birds most desired for shipment, manner of caring for and feeding them, etc., etc. All of which is in the way of progress and usefulness. It is not difficult to surmise that Messrs. Dundas and Flavelle do not advise the