

SOME PHEASANT QUESTIONS.

BY THE PROPRIETOR OF THE CANADIAN PHEASANTRY, HAMILTON, DR. T. SHANNON MCGILLIVRAY.

I AM daily receiving letters asking questions about pheasants, many of these questions are repeated over and over again by different individuals, which if all answered by private letter would greatly increase my volume of correspondence. As the most of the persons who ask these questions are also readers of the Review, I will, if you will kindly permit me, to give in as short a form as possible, answers to the most common questions asked.

When you ask a question concerning pheasants, you should name the variety you wish to learn of, as the class of birds grouped under the name of pheasant are as varied in nature and composition as Guinea hens, peacocks, turkeys and the domestic fowl. For instance, silver and golden pheasants will run together in the same pen, each breeding with its own kind without ever an attempt to cross; the birds are entirely different and should not both be called pheasants. Chinese, English and Versicolor (Japanese), are of the same genus and will interbreed freely and that too without the offspring being a mule.

There are some breeds, such as the English, Chinese and silver, which will cross with the domestic hen, producing a mule, and there reproduction ends. These crosses are rare, and according to our experiments only one egg out of forty was fertile.

The following are very common questions:

1. Give a full description of all the pheasants you breed?

We have ten varieties of pheasants, all of unique beauty, whose plumage is as varied as the rain-

bow, and it is impossible to give a description in a few words. We would recommend a book by George Horne called "Pheasant Keeping for Amateurs," which gives as nearly as is possible, in black and white, a description of the birds.

2. Do pheasants require artificial heat in winter?

No. Most breeds of pheasants will stand as much cold as the prairie chicken. Some of our birds we leave in the open air the frostiest days and nights, when the thermometer is far below zero.

3. If a person wishes to start pheasant raising with but one breed, what variety would you recommend?

If the birds are wanted for shooting preserves, we would recommend the English or Chinese (Mongolian); but for pets probably there is none so suitable as the golden. They require but little room (12 x 12), are very

hardy, easy to raise, readily tamed and always in demand if you wish to sell, as the feathers alone of the adult male will bring about \$8.00.

4. How long do a pheasant's eggs take to hatch?

Golden pheasant's eggs hatch in from twenty-one to twenty-two days; Amherst eggs about twelve hours later; Chinese, English and Japanese, (Versicolor) twenty-four days; Reeves, twenty-five days; Silver and Swinhoe, twenty-eight days.

5. How many hens to a cock?

The Swinhoe and silver mate in pairs, though sometimes the silver cock may be demoralized by domestication to take a number of hens. The Swinhoe is true to his mate at present, but greater domestication may demoralize him, too.

In all the books on pheasants, they give the golden cock at the outside limit five hens. This

3000 PURE BRED CHICKENS FOR SALE.

1500, Fifteen Hundred pure bred B. P. Rock chickens for sale, beside 1500 Black Minorcas and White Leghorns, all at 50 cts. each. I have paid out over one hundred dollars for eggs from the leading breeders in Canada and the U.S.A. No one has better stock. These birds are all farm raised, with free run on farms of 100 and 200 acres.

I have all the different strains, so I can give you fine matings in cockerels and pullets no relation to each other. These chickens were hatched in March, April, May and June. I have a few choice breeding hens to sell of the above breeds and four cock birds at \$1 each for the hens: cocks \$1.50 to \$2.00, sold on approval.

Write your wants. All birds warranted safe to your place. Remember, I have all the leading strains in Rocks, Minorcas and Leghorns—imported stock. Also 25 hives of bees, full of honey, at \$2.00 each. 50 tested Golden Italian queens at \$1 each.

