

## POULTRY YARD

### A Revolution in Poultry Housing Brother Liguori, La Trappe, Que.

Ten years ago we used to task our minds and purses in efforts to render the poultry house warmer, and, as we thought, more comfortable. Nowadays we are planning, rather, to make the coops colder and colder every year, in order to give our fowls what is far better than artificial or accumulated heat; an abundant and constant supply of dry, fresh and pure air, and an abundance of sunlight.

Some 15 years ago we thought ourselves very progressive and up-to-date when we erected on the college plant at La Trappe an artificially-heated hen house, which cost us \$800 and could shelter but 200 birds. Of course the farmers jeered at us, and they were right that time. Still we had

on the front cover of Farm and Dairy this week.

Notice how stingy we then were with cotton curtains. They occupied only about one tenth of the front of the house, the two smaller openings being windows. We have changed our ideas radically since then. The front of our latest poultry house is all muslin curtain, except for one glass window. In the "jackass masterpiece," the first year we did not open the two little curtains every day, "for fear the hens would catch cold." When we did open them it was only for a few hours. At that stage of poultry development, cold, pure air and sunrays were rather considered as a luxury in the hen-house, and a dangerous one too to deal with.

Let us see what part the cotton or muslin curtain plays now in the colony and other hen-houses we have used for some years. The whole front and even one side are cotton, with the exception of space for a glass window. The walls of the house are made of single boards, except for the back of

strongly fertilized than those laid in warmer buildings. Experience has taught me this.

The colony house, a diagram of which is reproduced herewith, is 15 by 15 ft. and holds 50 hens. Last year we built a similar one for 200 hens, 20 feet wide and 50 feet long. It cost \$197. In order to keep the house dry we raised the buildings about two feet from the soil, so that no dampness can come from that source.

The floor consists of two ply rough boards with a layer of building or insulating paper between. Elevating the house in this manner renders it rat proof and no moisture comes from the earth.

The success we have had with open front houses is due not to the cotton, but to the fact that the curtains are kept open in the day time. A wooden front house with large glass windows, such as can be seen at Macdonald College, would serve the same purpose and give equally good results were the windows kept open.

Members of "Quebec Experimental Union," from Ottawa to Rimouski, have tried this style of building, and all are satisfied with the results. In Quebec district, at Lyster, Megantic Co., I lately visited 23 of these houses. There was no dampness in any of the houses and healthy stock everywhere.

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### A Hen House Built on Up-to-Date Lines

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pretty good authorities on our side too.

#### GOOD ADVICE HEEDED

A few years later, Professor Elford, of Macdonald College, the superintendent of Dominion poultry stations, persuaded me to go to Guelph for some time. I heeded the advice. The O. A. C. at Guelph was then experimenting with cold houses. I returned to my own province convinced that cold houses would be just as successful in Quebec as they had been in New England and were promising to be in Ontario.

I dreaded objections in high quarters were I to build a cold house on a large scale, and fearing ridicule whatever might be the scale chosen, I decided to ask for no official help and no official builders. I went to work and had a cold house built "on the sly," in an out of the way spot. Young students are always ready for anything resembling mischief. So was the jackass you may see on the front cover. He hauled the lumber, the boys put up the building, I superintended the work and next day the sun shone the masterpiece of stylish architecture shown in the illustration

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the roosting place, where two boards and building paper are used with an air space between. The curtains are kept open all day except when a storm blows from the south, directly into the house. We have also discarded the curtains around the roosts at night, leaving the roosting place open.

#### HEALTHY HENS, FERTILE EGGS

The hens always have litter to scratch in and vegetables hung up to pick at. Every year, they are becoming healthier and lay just as well in these open front houses as they did in the warm or semi-warm ones. Experience has taught us that the eggs from hens kept in these cold but healthy and sanitary houses are more



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