

POULTRY FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT

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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.

POULTRY IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

POULTRY is bound to become an important factor in money making in the Maritime Provinces. Why? Because it does not require a large outlay to purchase stock or erect a suitable house. Indeed, a portion of a barn or out-building may be converted, with little trouble or expense, into a proper habitation; a great deal of waste can be converted into proper feed. Again, returns are quick and sure. From a trio of thoroughbreds a flock of chicks of considerable numbers may be raised in one season. When of proper age the cockerels should be disposed of for table use, or, if circumstances permit, as breeders. By proper management the purchaser of a trio of thoroughbred Rocks, Wyandottes, Brahmas, etc., should find himself at end of season in funds from sale of his cockerels, and with a number of pullets (prospective winter layers) on hand, as well as the old stock. If necessary the latter will do to breed from another season. Perhaps it will be well to purchase the trio of thoroughbreds in the fall when prices are not likely to be as high as in spring time; but get the thoroughbreds and make a beginning. The farmers of the Maritime Provinces are beginning to give attention to the points enumerated; more, they are beginning to realize that their near locality to the great British market is a great point in their favor. At a meeting in St. John city, New Brunswick, last month a poultry man said to me, "We have only to go to the wharves to see the great quantity of poultry and eggs that come from the west and go by steamship to the British market; and what are our people, who are at the very outlet to this great market, doing?" And new laid eggs sold in St. John throughout the winter at 30 to 40 cents per doz. and not over easy to get at those figures. When the over-production fiend is met

with in St. John he is told, "Yes, there may be something in what you say, but at present we do not have new laid eggs in winter in sufficient quantities to affect prices here, and when we have a surplus we can easily ship to Great Britain." And this statement may be applied to more points than one in Ontario and Quebec Provinces. Already there are live poultry associations in St. John and Halifax. As good birds as can be found in Canada are now held by fanciers and farmers in or around the cities and many towns in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. A member of a firm of shippers at Antigonish, N.S., wrote me some time ago: "We did a successful business in shipping eggs to the English market last season. We lost nothing by deduction for shrinkage. What we want from the farmers are many more large eggs." From the foregoing it will easily be seen that there is every reason for, and every likelihood of, poultry booming in the near future in the Maritime Provinces.

There are many persons who, unfortunately, are more ready to play the part of a doubting Thomas whenever poultry profits are being discussed than to help a fellow mortal on to success by an encouraging word. To tell such an one that by laying her eggs in winter and rearing chicks in early summer a hen will pay a profit of \$2.00 per annum, is like shaking a red rag before an angry bull; and yet, read what Mr. J. D. Lowrey, of Trenton, writes:—"I have closed all accounts for the year. I find my 45 hens have netted me \$1.57 each! No fancy prices received for eggs or for stock, everything being sold on a glutted market. My feed was bought at highest prices." One such sample proof is more than recompense for all the buckets of cold water from all the skeptical sources put together.

Numerous complaints have reached me as to the unsatisfactory output of eggs by numerous flocks of hens in different parts of the country during the past winter. Would it be too much trouble for some of your practical poultry readers to give their experience and their reasons for complaint, if any. The collection of data in connection with the subject would be both valuable and interesting.

The New Brunswick Poultry Association of St.