

by all who are concerned in maintenance of the profitable properties of our different races of poultry.

As one of the older breeders of Leghorns in the kingdom, Mr. Edward Brown, has called attention in his "Report of the Poultry Industry in America (1906)," and his "Report on the Poultry Industry in Denmark and Sweden (1907)," to the fact that in both those countries the original type has been maintained, and that, as egg-layers, the American and Danish Leghorns are vastly superior to British exhibition stock.

With a view to giving a practical test to the laying qualities of these different types, an experiment is being carried out on the College Poultry Farm, Theale, commencing on January 1st, last, and the present is the report of the results obtained during the six months ending June 30th. None of the birds, however, commenced to lay until February, due to the pullets being somewhat late hatched.

**Birds.**—For the purpose of this experiment, the following birds were placed in separate runs on the College Poultry Farm, and were used for breeding purposes:

1. Nine Danish Brown Leghorn 1907 pullets, selected from one of the best breeding centers in Denmark. Two of the hens died as a result of being egg-bound and their eggs are not calculated.
2. Fifteen Danish White Leghorn 1907 pullets, selected from two breeding centers in Denmark.
3. Twelve Danish White Leghorn 1906 hens, selected as above.
4. Four American White Leghorn 1906 hens, imported from the famous Lakewood Poultry Farm, in the State of New Jersey.
5. Four English Exhibition White Leghorn 1906 hens, purchased for this purpose from one of the best breeders in the country. They are heavier in leg than the pure Leghorn, but are not of the extreme exhibition type.

The hens and the Brown Leghorn pullets were used for breeding, and fertility was very high. From these, upwards of a thousand chickens have been hatched.

**Size of Birds.**—Increased size of body leads to decrease of egg production, and, therefore, we find that the heaviest layers are generally small. It is interesting to note the average weights of the birds on January 1st, last, when the experiment commenced.

Lot No.	Breeds.	Average Weights.
1.—Danish Brown Leghorn Pullets.....	3 lbs. 8 ozs.	
2.—Danish White Leghorn Pullets.....	3 " 4 1/2 "	
3.—Danish White Leghorn Hens.....	3 " 3 1/2 "	
4.—American White Leghorn Hens.....	3 " 9 "	
5.—English (exhibition) White Leghorn Hens.....	5 " 0 "	

Thus it will be seen that the English are more than 50 per cent. larger than the Danish, and are nearly 40 per cent. heavier than the American.

**Egg Production.**—With a breed like the Leghorn, results in egg production are the supreme test, both as to number and marketability. The birds were carefully trap-nested, and the records kept day by day. The following are the results for six months:

Lot No.	Breed.	Age.	Total No. of Eggs.	Average No. of Eggs per Hen.
1.—Danish Brown Pullets	7	686	98.0	
2.—Danish White Pullets	15	1,217	81.13	
3.—Danish White Hens	12	1,053	87.75	
4.—American White Hens	4	330	82.5	
5.—English (exhib.) White Hens	4	143	35.75	

Several of the Danish Browns and Whites exceeded 100 eggs; the highest of the Americans was 88, and that of the English 36. These figures are only for half a year, but, as the experiment is being continued, we shall report the annual result after December 31st next.

It is not suggested that No. 5 represents in any sense the production of true English White Leghorns, bred for utility purposes, many of which would equal the Danish, but it is indicative of the results of the effect produced by changing the character of this fowl for exhibition.

**Size of Eggs.**—What is of almost equal importance is the size of eggs produced, because, for the best trade, those of 3 ozs. and upwards are a sine qua non. The Danes have paid special attention to this point, and with remarkable success. This is specially important as regards Brown Leghorns, the eggs of which race in this country are much smaller than the Whites. The eggs were carefully weighed, and the results were:

Lot	Eggs under 2 1/2 in weight	Average weight of Egg
Lot 1.....	1.16 per cent.	2.12 ozs.
Lot 2.....	1.31 "	2.13 "
Lot 3.....	1.14 "	2.14 "
Lot 4.....	0.6 "	2.15 "
Lot 5.....	34.26 "	2.16 "

Thus, it will be seen that in this country the Danish pullets give high-grade eggs, and that, if this country too long in striving

Edward Brown, Lecturer in Aviculture; Will Brown, Practical Instructor in Aviculture, University College, Reading, Eng., July, 1908.

### FEEDING COCKERELS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Give me instructions as to the feeding of birds (five-months-old cockerels). I wish to make them weighty, and in good condition at same time.

K. S.

Ans.—If the fowls are at liberty and have wide range, nothing more is needed at this season of the year than a little grain in the morning, and as much at night as they will eat, and water. If they are confined, then, in addition, they should get some form of animal food, such as cut bone or meat meal, beets, cabbage or other vegetables, one feed of mash daily, and grit. Have grit always before them. Feed during the day in such a way as to induce exercise, giving the grain on litter, and having vegetables stuck on a nail almost above reach. Mixed grain is better than any one kind alone. Wheat, oats, corn and buckwheat are all good. Feed grain liberally, and on bare floor, towards nights. Do not overdose with animal food, but give only as much three times a week as there is relish for. For mash, mix ground oats, shorts and corn meal together, and scald with boiling water. Table and kitchen waste may be mixed in mash. Feed morning or afternoon.



Refreshing.

## THE FARM BULLETIN.

### SHOULD WE SET THE DOG ON THE AGENT?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Re your editorial of August 20th, "The Seductive Agent," permit me to reply that much of the business of the world is done through agents, and your columns are open to advertisements for persons to engage in this kind of work. If the agent is such an unmitigated evil as you represent him to be, why admit such advertisements?

Probably farmers attending the fairs this fall will consider your advice to "whistle for the dog" as timely, and take their dogs along to ward off the agents for "The Farmer's Advocate." But perhaps these will not be of the "seductive" sort!

You refer to book agents as "shabby gentry." There may be shabby gentry among book agents, as there are in other classes, but, with scarcely an exception, those calling on me have been educated, intelligent, and apparently honorable, and some of the best books in my library were subscription books, purchased of agents, and at prices not exorbitant.

The man or woman who places good literature in rural and isolated homes is a benefactor to the community. Many persons will thus buy a book (and, mayhap, read it) who would never visit a bookstore.

The late Dr. Talmage said he would take off his hat to the energetic and successful book agent. Certainly the work of selling good subscription books has not been monopolized by "shabby gentry." Napoleon Bonaparte secured a long list of subscribers for a book entitled, "L'histoire de la Revolution." Gen. Washington sold over 200 copies of "Bydell's American Savings." Mark Twain, Longfellow, Jay Gould, Daniel Webster, General F. S. Grant, James G. Blaine and Benj. Franklin were also book agents at some period of their lives.

W. J. WAY.

Note: That some good has been accomplished by book agents and others of their ilk is not denied, but, as you say, the imposition and botheration inflicted on the public by taking them as a class. As to the necessity of the agent, the necessity of established

local and general agencies, that is discussed in another column. The old admonition about the agent, the gate rather than literal significance, as doubtless it was originally intended.—Editor.]

### FAIR DATES FOR 1908.

August 29th to Sept. 14th.—Canadian National, Toronto.

Sept. 2nd to 10th.—Nova Scotia Provincial, Halifax.

Sept. 11th to 19th.—Western Fair, London.

Sept. 15th to 17th.—St. John, N. B.

Sept. 18th to 26th.—Guelph Central.

Sept. 21st to 25th.—Sussex, N. B.

Sept. 22nd and 23rd.—St. Thomas Horse Show, St. Thomas, Ont.

Sept. 22nd to 25th.—Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Sept. 29th to Oct. 3rd.—New Westminster, B. C.

Oct. 8th and 9th.—Kilsyth Agricultural Society, Kilsyth.

Nov. 28th to Dec. 10th.—International Live-stock Exposition, Chicago.

Nov. 30th to Dec. 3rd.—Maritime Winter Fair, Amherst, N. S.

Dec. 2nd to 10th.—National Dairy Show, Chicago.

Dec. 7th to 11th.—Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph.

### RURAL MAIL DELIVERY.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice in your magazine from time to time short items on rural-mail delivery. I feel that farmers are not taking the interest in rural delivery they should. It has been proven to be a success in the United States. Even in the State of Michigan, I am told by residents, it is a success in every way. Michigan as a State, on the whole, is not any more thickly settled than Ontario, yet they have rural delivery in some very backward places, even where the land is low in value. Then why should Middlesex or Oxford, rich in land value and dairy produce, be behind? It seems to me our Government is slow in this line. I also think the daily newspapers are backward in advocating rural delivery. It would be a great boon to them if the rural people were served daily with mail. They would take daily papers. Country people would get to look for the daily paper just the same as the city residents watch the front door for the evening paper—it becomes a habit. Then, again, farmers, as a rule, have a little leisure at noon time. It would be a pleasure to look over the news of the day, and, more important, the markets. If time cannot be found at noon, it will in the evening. We find some of our local daily papers making deliveries to cheese factories, then to farmers via the milk route. This is giving fairly good service, and very convenient for rural residents. But it cannot be compared to what rural delivery and collection of mail would be. I also think "The Farmer's Advocate" would be wise to devote more space to rural delivery and rural telephones. It is clearly a farmer's paper. This would tend to get the farmers interested in this work; it would also insure prompt delivery of "The Farmer's Advocate." J. J. McNALLY, Oxford Co., Ont.

### THE COUNTY FAIR.

At that season of the year when Christmas is numbered among last year's events, and sugaring must wait for February storms to spend themselves, the inmates of scattered Eastern Townships farmhouses pore over splendid spring catalogues, which certain astute ones have cunningly launched upon a winter world. As the list grows ever longer, and the stubby pencils stubbier, uneasy consciences find justification in rosy previsions of yellow or green bits of pasteboard dangling suggestively from floral creations at the horticultural show in the fall. These previsions, secretly cherished, persist through the intermediate stages of growth and warfare with the cutworm and his ruthless kind, but are scouted at in those neighborly interchanges of visits to see what So-and-so has, and whether one stands any "show" oneself.

Why, yes, it's fair to middling, one discomfited dissenter assents, turning round the "potted plant," which no one was supposed to see till it was proudly deposited in the exhibition building, so that its most unfavorable aspect meets the visitor's critical gaze. "Going to show it?" in response to a tentative feeler. "Good land, no!" and she proceeds to point out its defects with an address which would give the impression that it was hardly worth even dispraise.

However, it, together with the crazy quilts—which only came into existence "because a body can't abide to set all day with folded hands"—toothsome culinary confections, the "pick of the herd," the sultan and his