

learned that the average weight of the chickens fattened by the first "cramming" experiment at Carleton Place and Knowlton is 7 pounds each. That is certainly most gratifying development. The birds are to be killed and forwarded to the London, England market. Surely they will meet with an appreciative market. Experiments and shipments are made under the auspices of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying.

The poultry fattening experiments are bringing out some interesting and important points, such as the capability of the "scrub" or barnyard nondescript with its small frame to carry more than a certain amount of flesh. And will any extra weight over and above a certain figure be in fat? Or will the bird remain stationary? Contra. What will the Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Cochins and Langshans do in the way of putting on weight on their large frames. And how long will it take to get the maximum weight.

One thing is being brought out very clearly and forcibly by the timely agitation now going on for a superior quality of table poultry and larger eggs, and that is the necessity of both being sold by weight in Canada.

By all means have poultry and eggs sold by weight. Then what a rush there will be for the breeds which will put on weight in the shortest time, and the hens which will lay the largest eggs and the most of them. There is a good future in store for certain breeds, looked at, perhaps, a little askance at present. Andalusians were among the earliest and best layers at the Experimental Farm last winter.

It is said that the experience of the English housewife is that the birds which come out of the fattening pens after being "crammed," by having the food forced down their throats by machine, are too fat and greasy for a family dinner of one meat course. They do well to make one of several courses, but are too rich to be partaken largely of. With his thoroughbred Rocks, Brahmas, etc, our farmers will doubtless get the weight, without having to resort to machinery. It is an important point to get the weight in FLESH

rather than FAT. By feeding their young thoroughbreds liberally and regularly our farmers will certainly get flesh on them rather than fat, and without depriving the birds of their run.

The experimental fattening of poultry by farmers at Carleton Place, Ont., and Knowlton, Que., has been most successful. It is a matter of congratulation that it is so, for it marks a most important departure from old methods of fattening birds for local or foreign markets. It is, in fact, a new and advanced phase of poultry development. The birds in each case were about 150 in number, were cooped in specially arranged pens to hold four each, with V shaped troughs in front of them. For 15 or 18 days they were allowed to eat, of a specially prepared sort ration, all they would take. For ten or fifteen days afterwards the food was forced down their throats by a machine, worked by hand or foot, and called a "cramming" machine. The food used in the machine was of a semi-fluid condition. The rations were composed of two parts oatmeal, one of barley meal and one of cornmeal. In one case shorts were used instead of oatmeal. The chickens so fattened at Carleton Place weighed, as an average, 7 pounds each, and were sent to the English market. The second lot, fattened at Knowlton, were also sent to England. I saw some of the chickens and they were certainly very fine. They appeared to be Plymouth Rocks, or crosses of that well-known and deservedly popular breed. It will be interesting to learn what impression they make on the English poulterers and the prices they receive. There can be no doubt that a new and immense trade in such chickens with England is about to open up. The immediate effect, in a large demand for thoroughbreds, can better be imagined than described.

Prof. Robertson informed me that he had from careful experiment found that the difference in edible food between the ordinary barn yard chicken killed and cooked but not fattened, and the same description of bird cooped and fattened was as follows:—

Weight of ordinary barnyard chicken, killed and cooked, but not fattened, in edible food.....	12½ ozs.
Some kind of chicken, fattened and cooked, in edible food.....	40 "