

Farm Poultry in Manitoba

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

The Poultry Industry in the Province of Manitoba is as yet in its infancy. The demand for information on all lines of poultry culture, the rapid growth and expansion of our markets, and the steady awakening of our farmers to the need of better poultry and more of it, are indications of the unlimited possibilities for the future development of the industry. When we consider the great waste of grain on our Manitoba farms, and the opportunity the farmer has to convert the grain into poultry and eggs, and when we consider the market demand for these poultry products at his very door, we begin to realize the immense possibilities of the industry for developing into a distinct and profitable branch of Western farming. In some of the countries where the industry has reached its highest state of development the difficulties were at first far greater than those presented by the conditions in the Province of Manitoba. We need only to refer to the market here, where the demand for poultry and eggs is unlimited compared to some of the markets of other countries, which had to be developed first. Our markets are at the present time supplied with poultry and eggs a large percentage of which are produced outside of the Province. Were this production turned over to the Manitoba farmers we can readily see what effect it would have on the industry and its importance as a distinct branch of Western agriculture. In the outset we may say that we do not advocate extensive poultry farming as an independent commercial enterprise, nor yet for the farmer to go into poultry farming on a very extensive scale; but we rather encourage the farmer to place what poultry he has on a better basis first, and once he knows it to be a profitable investment he can room raise more. Quality first—quantity afterwards, is our platform. In order to make poultry keeping on the farm a paying proposition, there are certain problems which require attention, and among the more serious are those of housing, feeding, care and management, diseases, and that of marketing the products. All of these have a distinct bearing on the success or failure of poultry raising, whether it is carried on as a branch of farming or as an independent commercial enterprise.

The majority of our farmyard flocks at the present time are made up to a mixture of all kinds of breeds, or combination of breeds. There is a lack of uniformity both in eggs and in dressed poultry produced by these flocks, which can be very easily remedied. The average egg-production per hen per year can easily be increased twenty-five per cent. by carefully weeding out and culling off all the hens over two years old, and by selecting and breeding from none but the best layers