

should be avoided. No doubt by so doing you will assist in winning the war, but not by us. As compared with meats, the average householder will find the money spent on a dozen eggs will go about as far and prove to most people more appetizing than the same amount of money spent on any meat.

Poultry and eggs are good foods, are somewhat perishable; then why not consume them in large numbers at home? Again, if you will take the percentage increase in the price of eggs, poultry, pork, mutton, beef, cheese and butter since the beginning of the war, either week by week or year by year, you will find that poultry products are as cheap or cheaper to-day, relatively, than they were at the beginning of the war.

To the producers of poultry there is every reason why you should carry on, at least maintain, production, and, in some cases, increase production. It is true we may have to change our methods a little. We shall have to look after our supplies of wheat substitutes, and not feed as much good wheat. Wheat has been easy to get and fair in price, but hens will lay very well on a mixture of corn, barley, and oats. There is always a little wheat that is not suitable for milling, but try and forget wheat. Then we may be able, with a little patience, to get a substitute in the terminal elevator screenings. While the birds do not take kindly to this now, there is considerable hope that, if they receive it when young, they will eat it readily next winter. Many of us forget that the appetites of poultry vary largely with what they were fed when young. I have seen hens that would not eat corn or wheat, simply because they had never seen them before.

Many of us will have to learn to cull our flocks. In general, it can be said that never was a good laying hen more profitable, and it is equally true that never was a poor layer more unprofitable. Therefore, cull your flocks. Good laying hens lose the yellow color from their shanks; those having white ear lobes, like Leghorns, lose the yellow tinge; the hen's plumage does not appear in perfect condition. The good layer is usually a hustler—goes to bed late and gets up early. She very seldom, when well fed, develops a mass of internal fat. The body cavity, or the space between the pin bones and end of the breast bone, is soft and flexible in good hens. A little practice will assist one to pick out nearly ninety per cent. of the poor producers. A laying hen's pin bones are very seldom close together.

To those who have not been keeping poultry—get enough to supply your own needs. Do not depend on the other fellow, but grow all you need of everything you can.

Hatch your chickens during April and early May. These are among the best winter producers. Market the surplus males and old hens when they are ready. Many keep the old hens and males months after they have outlived their profitable age.

Watch the leaks in your business. Study increased production and decrease the boarders. There is no place to-day for the non-producer.

FRUIT AND HONEY—P. W. HODGETTS.

It has been the aim of our branch for the past two seasons, at least one season, to give just as little devotion as we possibly could to the fruit growers' farms, especially that which required additional skilled labor. Our plan has been to give attention to the saving of labor that was of value.

The situation of fruit growing is somewhat difficult and complicated by the