

## POULTRY YARD

## A Record of Six Hundred Hens

A bulletin is just to hand from the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station giving one year's record of six hundred White Leghorn pullets. On the first of November they were put in a continuous curtain front house allowing a little over four square feet per hen. The average age was five months and the pullets weighed 2½ pounds each. Grain was fed in the litter, and a dry mash in the hopper. The mash was made up of a mixture of cornmeal, wheat, bran, wheat middlings, oil meal and beef scrap. In addition to this they were given grit, shell, green bone, and ensilage. The grain feed was mixed, chiefly wheat and corn. Wheat cost \$1.50 per hundred weight, and corn \$1.15. The total cost of feed for the six hundred hens for the year was \$534.90, or an average of 89 cents per head.

Fifty-four of the hens died, and their places were filled by others of the same age. The highest egg pro-

I have had no moisture in my poultry-house whatever.

The bottom of the house was first filled in with one foot of cobble stones. These were then covered with sandy loam which makes an ideal floor for fowl. The roosting quarters are all enclosed by burlap curtains in front and are lined up inside with tar paper and matched lumber. By a system of my own contrivances I can raise and lower all the six curtains in a moment by one lever. I use no artificial heat whatever in this poultry-house. We had the thermometer to register as low as 40 below zero last winter, yet I had not one frosted comb, and my fowl are nearly all of the single comb varieties.

For outside sheathing I used the Brantford Rubber Roofing, for both the sides and roof. Thus there is no possibility of a draught or leakage, and it makes a very warm building.

My hens layed well all last winter, beginning on the first day of November and never ceased to lay throughout the winter and spring. Every bird I had came through in perfect health and condition.

Late October of 1907, I housed all my stock, about 150 yearling hens and pullets. I have been breeding and culling for the past five years. As I have four varieties of fowl, I have div-

in the season the house can be put on the pasture field, the stubble, the cornfield, etc., and by a judicious arrangement the bulk of the summer feed is obtained for the poultry, by taking them to the feed instead of hauling the feed to them. This system not only does away with the difficulty of keeping the poultry yard free from disease by changing the yard, but it enriches the farm by scattering the manure where it is most needed. If farmers kept two or more of these houses the hens could be put, say 25 in each for the winter, and when spring came and they were out on grass range they could be doubled up and the surplus house used for brooders and rearing the young stock during the summer. As the fall came round again the cockerels would be fed and marketed and the pullets allowed the house for winter quarters and so on. The system of feeding we use is very simple. During the summer, while on grass a hopper of grain is put in the house to which the hens have free access, they also have grit, shell and scraps before them. These hoppers require filling about once a week which is all the time spent in feeding. Though this grain is before them all the time it is the exception to see hens around the hopper when

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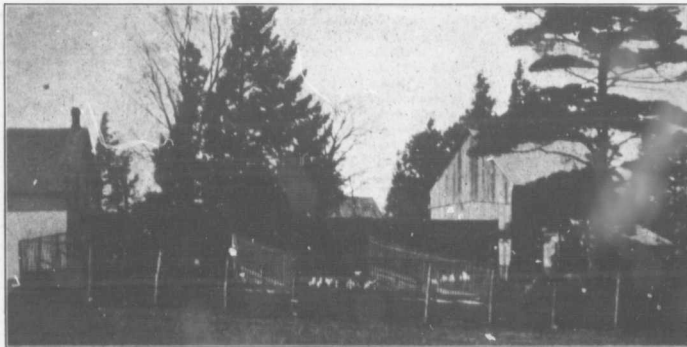
## DOMINION AMMUNITION

you will find good and bad in it. In a flock of 225 hens, made up of four breeds, one half laid over 13,000 eggs, while the other half laid 5,000; this difference was not because of the breeds, for in one breed alone there was a flock that could be picked that averaged 140 eggs each, while another flock in the same pen averaged 14. So much difference within the breeds that I could not recommend any in particular. Be sure you get the right strain, or make it.—F. C. E.

## Shipping Chicks

1. Which is the best way to ship chicks, live or dressed? What breed do you prefer for fattening? 3. Is one pound per week good gain for a bird in a feeding cage? 4. Will salt in the feeding hurt the chicks? 5. Is peas a good fattening food?

1. If you have the proper means of dressing, do so. 2. Rocks or Wyandottes. 3. Yes. 4. No; a pinch of salt is relished, and is good for them. 5. As a mixture it does all right; alone, it makes a hard flesh that is not the best.—F. C. E.



A Poultry House That Has Given Good Results.

The photo, from which the illustration was taken, was first prize in our Poultry House Photo competition last spring. The house is 60 feet by 12 feet. By means of muslin curtain ventilation it has been found possible to keep the walls free from moisture. Last fall the hens in the house began laying the first of November, and continued to lay throughout the winter although the temperature at times dropped to 40 degrees below zero. The house is owned by Mr. W. R. Kaizer, Leeds Co., Ont. See adjoining article.

duction was in March. The average was 113 eggs for the year. Selling at the retail market price for new-laid eggs they brought \$1,428.87. The expenditure was: Feed, \$534.90; labor \$120; dead fowls, \$36; decreased value of stock, \$100; interest on investment, \$665.29, leaving a balance of \$602.28, or practically one dollar per hen.

The feed bill seems lighter than it would be in Canada owing doubtless to their lack of winter. The temperature would go below zero in the houses at times. Free range was allowed almost continually. No traps were used, the hens were kept as near as possible like farmers' conditions.—F. C. E.

## Good Results From a Poultry House

W. R. Kaizer, Leeds Co., Ont.

The illustration on this page is of a poultry-house I built last summer. It is 60 feet long by 12 feet wide. Each pen is suitable for about 30 or 25 hens. The house faces the south. The front, or south side consists of two-thirds glass. One upper sash in each pen is covered with cheese-cloth only, for ventilation. On bright sunshiny days I take out two or more sashes completely. By following this method

I kept the yard varied only in the breeding season. After the breeding season is over shut up in my main birds and allow the hens to run at large.

## Colony Houses for Farmers

A house such as was shown in The Dairyman and Farming World a week or two ago has a few advantages from a farmer's standpoint that might be well to note. It is a simple house, easy to construct, any man that can use a saw and hammer can build one. It is easy to keep clean. No drop board is used and it is cleaned out once a week during the summer and once a fortnight during the winter. There are no dark corners hard to get at and where the lice hide. These houses are sprayed with Zenoleum once a week in the warm weather and less often as it gets colder. Two boys with a spray pump in a cart sprayed these houses at the rate of a minute to the house. In the winter the colony house can be placed near the barn or feed house, where it will have shelter and be convenient, when spring comes it can be moved out to the orchard or any place where it is clean and dry and where green grass will be available for the hens. Later

they can be out on range, they would far rather pick up what they eat fresh from the field, but the hopper ensures a constant supply. In winter the hopper is filled with dry bran or meal, and dry grain is scattered in the litter once a day. No hot or wet manures are fed, the work is light but the results so far are very satisfactory.

## The Best Breed

I want to keep poultry and would like to know which is the best breed to keep.—J. McE., Ontario.

Depends on what you are after; if eggs alone, take one of the light breeds; if both eggs and meat, better take one of the American breeds. Even when you have picked out your breed,



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