

circumstances made us somewhat anxious about the result, but we had a very large crop of roots, which of course would not keep, whereas, if the ensilage was good, we knew it would keep. We did not open it till very recently, and we are glad to say that we are more than pleased. We should have felt very happy with one-half of it good, but we judge there will be three-quarters or four-fifths, which the cattle eat with great relish. All being well, we purpose growing ten or twelve acres this spring, but shall sow two kinds; one an early kind, so that we shall not be driven so late in the season before cutting. We feel sure to those who keep a considerable number of cows and go in for winter dairying, it will be found in Ontario as in Wisconsin, an economical and excellent way of feeding.

WM. DAVIS & SON.

Kine Croft Farm, Markham,
April 11, 1889.

Poultry.

For CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL

Figuring Yourself Rich.

By W. C. G. PETER, ST. GEORGE POULTRY YARDS,
ANGUS, ONT.

Many of the disappointed ones who have (according to their own idea) tried poultry raising and failed, have no one but themselves to blame for their want of success. This was brought forcibly before me lately by the remarks of a friend upon coming in to see my incubator. He began almost directly to ask questions: "What capacity was it?" "How often could it be set?" and the usual enquiry, "How long does it take the eggs to hatch in an incubator?" After we got through, and he had taken out a pencil and made a few strokes, "Why," said he, "at the rate you can put the eggs in you can get so many thousand chickens per year." I could not repress a smile, and he went over his notes again. "Why, yes you can; look here, it's as plain as day. I should think there *was* money in it, by Jove

Yes, said I, but do you know they will not take *figures for cash* in the bank. And so it is with many, they "figure it out," and it is only theory; and when the first disappointment comes, they are disgusted. These kind of people hear of some noted fancier selling a bird or two that has brought him, say \$50. They think, well, I'll get some of that kind if they sell so high. And if he pays a good sum for a pair he is quite surprised that orders do not rush in for them, or he cannot get the price he wished to obtain. He may think his birds as good as they may be, but the old fancier had something besides his birds: he had the reputation he had obtained by years of labor and thoughtful experiments in breeding, and the result of years of expensive advertising. The same applies to those who think that without any previous experience with poultry they can breed and raise them by the hundred, and make an *easy living* out of it. Not long since I had a letter from an invalid lady of reduced fortune asking me how many hundred birds I thought she could attend easily, as she was in poor health, etc. Now it would be simply cruel to mislead such a person for the sake of selling a few birds. No sickly person can attend to hundreds of birds *easily*, not even two hundred, if they intend to do all that implies, themselves. They can do it, but not *easily*. Then there is another point that these easy people are apt to forget. You can't be a "dude" and attend to a few hundred fowls at the same time. In fact the working suits of the "out and out chicken man" are—well—really they are beyond the power of tongue or pen to describe. And if you want to see "a rare fine chicken suit" come down some morning when Mrs. P. and I are at work and you will see two good ones. Another thing people forget—1,000

hens or 500 hens does not look much on paper, and they are easily looked after that way, too. But 1,000 hens or 500 hens to have every day dealings with, etc., represent considerable time and labor. Still the work is not hard; it is all pretty light and easily performed, but it is continually recurring.

It is well just at this season that a person who intends to engage in poultry-raising should consider these things. It is better that those not adapted for the business to keep out of it, and it is well to let every one know that while there is a field of certain profit in which to work, and an avenue of wealth open to all who are adapted for the work, it is no road for the lazy man to travel. The poultry business has many advantages that others do not possess; its quick returns on small capital are without a parallel. But brains are as necessary to a successful issue in this as in any other business. I would say to the beginner, Go slow; get good stock, of either birds or eggs; get them pure-bred at any cost; study their wants, gain their confidence, learn their habits and know the standard of the breed you keep. Do this, and if you are at all adapted for a successful fancier or poultryman you will want more land and bigger houses, and another variety, in less than two years.

Preventing Hens from Eating their Eggs.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—Would you kindly let me know through the JOURNAL if there is anything that will stop hens from eating their eggs. They get lots of lime, gravel, and soft wood ashes once a week. Every second day they are fed grain and soft feed, and also give them milk and fresh water once or twice every day. They have been laying since December.

W. G. MOHER.

ANSWER BY W. C. G. PETER, ST. GEORGE POULTRY YARDS, ONT.

The great cause of egg-eating is idleness, and the nests being so in the light that the hens can bother the one that is laying. She will, in trying to evade their prying curiosity, trample on the egg till it gets broken, when they all strive to get a share of it. And from that time will watch and devour the eggs as soon as they are laid. The best, I may say the *only* preventative, is, give plenty of room for exercise and not allow too many hens to one pen, as there will be more profit from twenty hens in a flock than from thirty unless there is a very large range for them. My plan for nests is as follows: I let the partition between the pens go down to 12 inches from the floor, the nests are made with a back 12 inches deep, and partitioned off to the same depth, the nests being 14 inches between each partition, and a narrow slip across top and bottom in front to hold it firm and keep the eggs from rolling out. The nests are in one piece and extend all the length of the partition of the pen; and so through into the next pen, about four or five inches. There is a flap with hinges on the partition to cover this, and we lift the flap to reach down for the eggs. There is a board running the entire length in front of the nests about eight inches away from them, and this makes a dark alley-way; the hens go in and are not seen by the others. It is the best plan I have yet hit upon, and I think it will prove of value to others besides the enquirer.

It seems from the letter they have exceptionally good management in feeding, and I think there is no more vexing experience than to find them eating their eggs. Some say, kill them; but the trouble is to find the one that begins it, as when you go in, it may be one of the others has taken it from her that began the mischief.

Poultry Papers.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—Kindly give me the address of any paper or papers published in Canada or United States devoted exclusively to poultry and pet stock? By so doing you will greatly oblige,
SUBSCRIBER.

The following are the only ones confining themselves solely to poultry and pet stock that we know of:

The Canadian Poultry Review and Kennel Gazette, and *Pigeons and Pets*, both published by H. B. Donovan, 27½ Wellington street East, Toronto.

The Poultry Monthly, published by The Fenis Publishing Co., Albany, N. Y., containing a Canadian department, conducted by Chas. Bonnick, P. O. box 184, Toronto, Ont.—Ed.

The Apiary.

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL

Bees Taken From Winter Quarters.

By R. F. HOLTERMANN, BRANTFORD, ONT.

During the past month very many have taken bees out of winter quarters, and no doubt, to many observing minds, the past winter, as every winter, has left its lessons: either we have learned that the conditions have been favorable or unfavorable for successful wintering. Of course, that any one has arrived at the best method of wintering is doubtful; yet there is a great difference in the present methods, and a great loss of bees or their vitality, and a great deal more honey required to winter colonies than is necessary.

To leave until the last moment the providing of a suitable repository, will not do. The farmer, especially, has to plan beforehand, and build as opportunity will permit. Then, too, if stone or brick walls are built, several months should be allowed for the wall to dry out.

Bees are kept in all sorts of places, and many of them so unsuitable, although, through ignorance, they are supposed to be excellent, and the bee-keeper has gone to trouble and expense to provide this place, worse than outside by far. How often are we told that "I had no luck with bees." Upon questioning the luckless individual, we find he has wintered his bees perhaps in a garret, or taken great pains to have them in some other *unsuitable* place. There are a few principles to consider, and by following these the place may suggest itself. A dry atmosphere is desirable; a change of atmosphere, an even temperature, just what that temperature should be is a disputed point, but probably 40° to 45°. As to light, it has never been shown to do any good, although probably, if the conditions are just right, light does no harm. On the other hand, if it has never been shown to be beneficial, and adds to the injury if conditions are not right, then we better exclude the light.

From the above it will be seen that a garret, or any other room above ground in a house, will not give us the desired condition. If there is a thaw, the mercury will stand high in the room, and if it turns cold suddenly, as it very often does in winter, within six hours, there will be a variation in temperature of perhaps twenty degrees. Changes in temperature are bad, but sudden changes infinitely worse. Both for ventilation and even temperature, an underground pipe is desirable, below frost and at least 100 ft. long, then another pipe running from say one foot of the cellar floor, or two, and up through the roof, should be given. It can connect with a stovepipe or the chimney.

The place should be large enough to keep the bees at least four feet from the cellar wall, three feet from the floor, and have the hives not more than two deep. The circulation of air is less close to the wall, and my bees last winter, next such a wall, consumed on an average six pounds more honey per colony; that means that it took about 75c. more per colony to winter them, to say nothing of the probable loss of vitality. This is not strange, for we are warned again and again to place our bees out from the walls in our room for the same reason. A place in a good, well