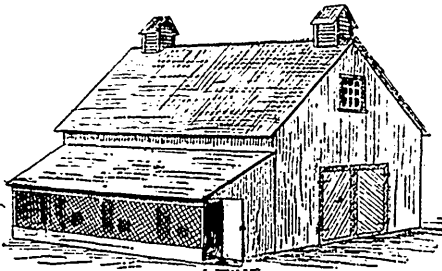


barring on the wing. I do not think a better wing than this has ever been seen upon any turkey heretofore exhibited in Canada. The bird shows the finest bronze color on neck and breast that I have ever seen. I might say that, in shape and color, this bird is Mr. Bell's ideal. Perhaps no better idea of his breeding can be given than to say that he is closely related to the birds shipped by Mr. Bell to Messrs. Abbot Bros., Ilingham, England, and to Mrs. Smith, Oaklands, Boyle, Ireland. Both of these purchasers stated that the turkeys received by them were the finest they had ever seen. They further informed Mr. Bell that they had been purchasing, regardless of price, the best turkeys in America, but that the ones obtained from him were far in advance of any hitherto bought. One of the gobblers and one of the hens shipped to Abbot Bros. won first in their classes at the Royal Show, and weighed, respectively, 47 and 30¼ lbs.

I was next shown the young gobbler which won first at the "Ontario." He is a grand bird,



Front View of Mr. Bell's Turkey House.

with plenty of bone, and bids fair to outrival the yearling tom.

Mr. Bell then took me to a breeding pen of yearlings. The tom is a fine bird, weighing over forty pounds. He has immense bone and grand color. To him are mated four yearling hens of excellent color, weighing, respectively, twenty-one and a half, twenty-two, twenty-two, and twenty-three pounds. The last-named also won first at this year's "Ontario," and was pronounced by Mr. Jarvis (the judge) the finest bronze turkey he had ever seen.

Mr. Bell told me that it is of the utmost importance to get the breeding birds with large bone. He considers seven hens to one tom quite sufficient to ensure fertile eggs.

I was then shown a grand lot of young gobblers and hens which are for disposal. All being together, they presented as pretty a sight as I have ever seen. They were in a large barn, the floor of which was covered with straw. There

was abundance of light, and the shape, size, and color were shown off to perfection.

*Housing.* On interrogating him in regard to what degree of warmth the building in which the birds are confined should be kept, I was informed that his experience had taught him that it was better to have it pretty cold. He stated that one year he had kept his turkeys in a pretty warm building, but they became sick and died. Since then he has kept them in a building constructed of single boards only, but well protected from winds. There must be plenty of light, however. Since adopting this course he very rarely loses a specimen.

Mr. Bell also has what I consider an excellent method for housing and feeding. The building is constructed as follows. It is erected on the south side of the barn, and might very properly be called a "lean-to." Where it is joined on to the barn it is probably twelve feet high, and slopes to the front, where it is about six and a half feet in height. The total length is probably about twenty-five feet, and the width something over twenty feet. Along the front (at the top) a board is run. The bottom is boarded up to a height of about two feet, and then wire netting is stretched along the entire front. On the inside, and about a foot from the ground, a trough is constructed, out of which the turkeys feed. This enclosure is about four feet wide. The inner compartment is then boarded up solid and divided into three pens, where the turkeys roost. At night a large window provides light for each compartment, and a big sliding door gives free ingress and egress. Mr. Bell says he has found this to be the best arrangement he has yet seen. He thinks it most important that turkeys should be at liberty to run out every day. It is well known that if not watched they will roost on fences or buildings and in trees. This he does not consider it advisable to allow, as it is dangerous; and, moreover, the effect of feeding is, to some extent, lost. When turkeys roost outside one might easily be carried away, and they are subject to all kinds of weather, which often impairs their health. At night, therefore, Mr. Bell's turkeys are driven into the outside enclosure and there fed. The door of the run is then shut and the large sliding doors leading into the inside or sleeping compartments left open. The birds are thus compelled to roost there during the night, where they are protected from foxes and the weather. They are again let out in the morning. The accompanying sketches will probably give a better idea of this building.

*Setting Turkeys.* Mr. Bell informed me that he generally sets the hen in the place where she