

number of 1,000 will be gathered on the farm within five years, according to the expectations of these sanguine gentlemen, who count their chickens before they are hatched.

For healthy chicks, three to four months old, the company expects to obtain from \$250 to \$300.

Ostrich feathers are cut and plucked every six months—the smaller ones being plucked,—and the annual product from a full grown non-breeder averages in value about \$75. Breeding birds range about \$25 a year lower than non-breeders, as sufficient feathers must be left to retain the heat around the eggs. Where incubating machines are employed, so that the birds do not have to sit on their eggs, there is very little difference between the feather product of breeders and non-breeders.

Being a shy bird, the ostrich should be kept as free as possible from the intrusion of sight-seers. This fact is proved by the experience of the last six months on the Anaheim farm. To prevent an over-crowding of visitors the superintendent charged fifty cents admission to that part of the grounds where the ostriches are corralled, and in this way considerably limited the number of interlopers. Notwithstanding this precaution, however, the birds were kept in such a continual state of excitement and irritation by a succession of strange faces and noisy critics, that they thrashed their feathers into rags against the fences and the ground. To prevent a repetition of this result still more stringent rules of exclusion will be adopted this year.

The first crop of feathers grown on this farm was sent to San Francisco lately. They will be disposed of within a few days for the benefit of the company. It is a small lot, and not more than a dozen of them can be rated as first-class feathers, so the owners do not expect to make a fortune by their sale.

In conclusion I may say I am perfectly satisfied that this industry will flourish in this country. It is simply a work of time, and I have no hesitation in saying, and saying boldly, that in my opinion the result of next year's work will be satisfactory to all concerned.

Yours truly,

CHAS. W. BROWN.

Los Angeles, California, April 30th, 1884.

A Word for Dorkings.

Editor Review.

Allow me to say a few words for Dorking. I have long expected some of the fanciers of this variety to tell us of their many good qualities, but they seem very dilatory in doing it. Perhaps they feel that it is unnecessary—that the merits of the grand old breed are so well known that nothing need be said. Whether this be the case or not I want to give the result of my experience with them. I have found the White equal to Leghorns as egg producers, and far ahead of that variety as a table fowl. The Silver-grey and Colored are good layers, and for quality and quantity of flesh they are not excelled by any. As hatchers and mothers they have no peers. In the craze for new breeds don't forget the old stand-bys. Fashion may obscure them for a time, but *merit* will bring them to the front when fashion tires.

W. L. McLOUD.

Lucan, April 28th, 1884.

Pigeon and Pet Stock Department,

—CONDUCTED BY—

H. B. DONOVAN.

No. 222 Argyle St., Toronto, Ont.,

To whom all communications, items of news, &c., on these subjects should be addressed.

We wish some fancier, who has raised Pheasants, would give us an article on rearing young birds. On what to feed, when to breed, and how. Any hints which he thinks may be useful.

This has been a bad season so far for young pigeons and canaries. The sudden changes to cold destroying many promising young birds; however it is early yet, and we hope to hear more favorable reports soon.

The Turbit is fast taking a front place among English fanciers. Two prominent breeders of this variety have been writing some very able article to *Poultry*, in which both give good thick beak as the most prominent point to be gained.

In a letter from Mr. Jas. O. Weldon, he informs us that he has moved to Tempo, five miles from St. Thomas, where he has more and better accommodation for his birds, and is doing well, which we are exceedingly glad to hear.

A few days ago we had the pleasure of visiting the lofts of Mr. Chas. Massie, of Port Hope. He has quite a number of birds of different varieties, among which we noticed several very nice yellow Turbits, white Pouters and Fans. He has lots of squabs, and expects to raise a crowd of youngsters this season. We imagine he could have better success if he confined himself to three or four varieties.

We also called on Mr. Jeffrey, President of the Bowmanville Association, who showed some fine Golden Pheasants at their winter show. He has just put down a clutch of fifteen eggs from them, and is sanguine of success.

The Spring Season in the Pigeon Loft.

Editor Review.

This season has so far been very unfavorable for raising young pigeons. I keep pouters as my specialty, and separate my birds in winter. I mated them as usual about the 1st of February, and by the 14th several nests were occupied; but the first hatch was almost a total failure, and now at the first of May I have no young pouters flying, which is very unusual in my experience. The difficulty has not been occasioned by the severity of the cold as much as by the sudden change of temperature, and my birds have seemed, too, to feed their young more indifferently than usual. I use the same feed which has always succeeded very well with my birds—corn, wheat, and sorghum seed, mixed—but I find the squabs frequently have empty crops and cold feet, with the breast-bones nearly penetrating the skin, and when these conditions exist the prospect of raising young pouters is very small. The weather is now becoming much warmer, and the old birds will be more successful than heretofore in rearing their progeny.