

Poultry

N.D. AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

In the poultry department, Prof. Dynes has been conducting some valuable investigations. One phase of the work has been to see how long it would take to breed up scrub fowls to a pure-bred standard by taking some very ordinary Plymouth Rock cocks. In the third generation from this breeding it was hard to tell the progeny from pure-bred fowls, and in the fourth generation it was impossible to note any difference. There is in this a lesson to farmers that they can breed up their fowls without casting out the scrubs, by keeping pure-bred males of one breed.

After a number of experiments to determine a satisfactory poultry house for the northern climate, Prof. Dynes favors a cold house of single boarding with prepared roofing on three sides and roof, the back wall being made of double boards. The open curtain front is advised for good ventilation, and

well-fed and well-cared-for hen will lay 60 eggs during the three spring months, enough to pay her board for the entire year.

Culling, selection, elimination, kept constantly in mind, and continually practiced, will mean healthier fowls, earlier pullets, and eggs when they are most wanted.

DESTROY THE WOLVES

Agricultural GUIDE:—I am going to write you on a subject that you may probably think a little "off color" on grain growing, but as it is quite an important matter with farmers generally I hope you will find space for my letter. My complaint as complaint it is, is the almost utter uselessness of trying to raise poultry unless something is done to destroy the prairie wolves. I do not know of a single farmer in this district that has not lost a considerable number of fowl this summer and several of my neighbors have lost all but three or four. This country of ours can-

Who is going to make a business of catching wolves when one district will give a small bounty and the next one nothing? The provincial government should give the bounty and will do it if they have any regard for a branch of the farm that would be extremely profitable if some encouragement was given.

C. EVEREST.

Beaverdale, Sask.

POULTRY NOTES

Too generous feeding with over-stimulating food is usually responsible for several ovarian troubles in fowls. The oviduct may become covered with fat and prevent the secretions which form the shell from reaching the egg. The result will be a shell-less, or "soft" egg. Fowls becoming "egg-bound" is due to the same cause. A rupture of a blood-vessel in the ovary, from over-feeding, will produce clots of blood in eggs. Remedy: Give each dozen fowls a 1 oz. packet of Epsom salts in their morning food for two alternate days, and reduce the feeding generally. Maize should be avoided.

Most authorities believe that white diarrhoea in chicks is caused by the growth of mold spores. Chicks may contract this disease from an unsanitary incubator, or if the machines are operated in damp cellars without sufficient sunlight to purify the air, disastrous results from this dread scourge are likely to occur. Sanitation and thorough disinfection are the best means of combating this disease.

Hens and cats are more friendly with each other than dogs with either. I have a Leghorn pullet that pulls the cat's ears and chases and is chased by the feline in regulation kitten frolic style. I once saw a mamma cat mothering a brood of chicks and a hen in Morris, Illinois, that took excellent care of a litter of kittens until they were grown up.

They say feed does not make hens lay. No, but the man behind the feed pail does. The great secret in feeding is giving the hen the feed that she wants and when she wants it. The man who gives his hens a certain amount of mash and grain all the year round will fatten his hens when they are not laying and starve them when they are laying.

If you want clean eggs you must keep the nest boxes clean, but that isn't everything. If Mrs. Hen has to walk through a mud puddle on her way to the bank, she will claw every egg that has been deposited in advance of her to an extent that its own mother wouldn't be able to recognize it.

Two common ways of testing the age of dressed poultry. One is if the breast bone is soft and pliable the chicken is likely young, or if grown out perhaps of uncertain age; another, if the feet are left on, a bright, smooth surface would indicate youthfulness, and rather a shriveled foot old age.

The quickest way to "break up" a setting hen is to shut her up a day with a rooster. One day of exclusive society with the male bird will usually cause her to forget her maternal instinct and she will soon get back among the layers.

The fellow who never makes a mistake never does anything. Keep busy experimenting with your chickens and your mistakes will teach you the true way to success.

The experience of one of the large Eastern poultry farms is that oyster shells give the chicks heavy bone. We are trying the experiment and hope to be able to report the same result.

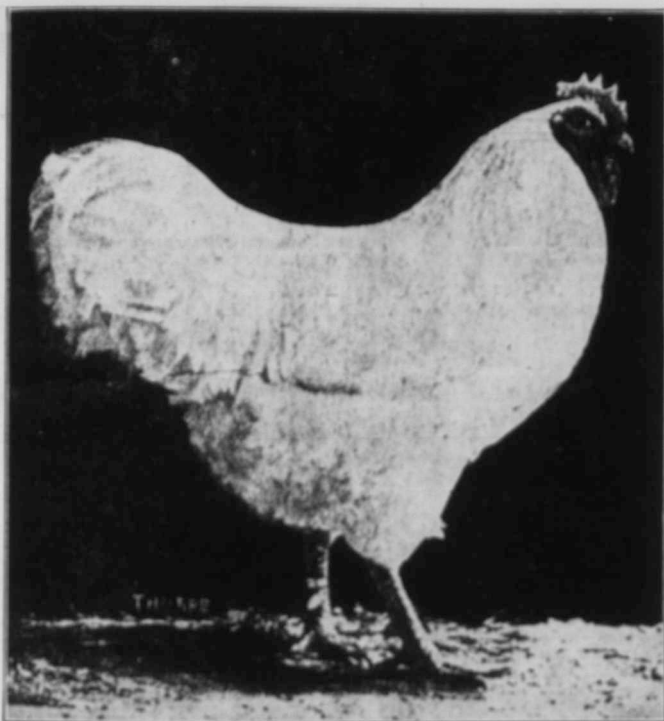
We quote from a leading poultry writer and experiment station man: "Eggs exposed to freezing temperature, if not actually frozen, may still retain their fertility." Would hate to run the risk, wouldn't you?

Don't be stingy with the kerosene when you paint the roosts with it once or twice a week.

It's the nervous, eager, hungry, jostling, rustling, scratching, singing cackling hen that most helps to fill the egg basket.

Get your hens as fat as butter and then you'll have eggs to buy.

TYPE OF THE PROFITABLE FOWL FOR THE WEST



WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCK COCK

also a second curtain hanging in front of the roosts that can be let down on cold nights to keep the fowls reasonably warm.

RAISE ONLY GOOD LAYERS

Do not blame your pullets this winter when they are not laying. You should have known just which hens were furnishing the eggs from which the pullets were hatched; the chances on the average farm are that the eggs from the poorer layers were used just the same as those from the good layers. Do not set eggs from the whole flock; gradually eliminate the drones.

It is surprising how large a proportion of the average flock is useless or worse than useless; the non-producers are in the way of the workers and prevent them from doing their best.

Mark or brand the first thrifty pullets to begin laying this fall. During the early winter carefully note their performance, and from these banded hens and pullets make up your next year's breeding pen. You will be surprised at the increased vigor and productiveness of your flock. If your hens are not responding to good treatment with a good average egg yield, try increasing that average by cutting out the non-producers. A well-bred, well-housed,

not be beat for raising poultry of all kinds, but what is the use; it is a costly affair to enclose with wire netting, and the result is extremely unsatisfactory when done. My father raised somewhere about 50 turkeys this year but the wolves got so attentive that he purchased wire netting, kept the mothers in and let the young ones ramble around; thus giving them a better chance. But the young ones stayed around and did not seem to care to get down to business without the old birds, and taking them all round they are a pretty poor looking lot. Now the agricultural papers are always dinning into our ears "Go in for poultry and more poultry." I would like to bring their attention to the fact that we farmers are not so blind that we do not know what pays and what doesn't. If those same papers would kindly help us to get the government (not the overburdened councils) to give a good substantial bounty of say about three dollars a head they would soon see plenty of poultry being raised for market. The government should certainly take the matter up as it must certainly mean thousands of dollars lost to this province alone. It is no earthly use saddling it onto the councils, one district may take it up but the wolves have to be caught in that district only, which of course, knocks wolf catching flat.

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The transfer books will be closed from the 16th to the 30th day of November, 1910, both days inclusive.

JAMES MASON,
General Manager

By order of the Board, Toronto, Oct. 6th.

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