

The Poultry Yard.

Backward, turn backward, oh, time in your flight :
Make me an egg again, smooth, clean and white.
I'm homesick and lonely, and life's but a dream,
I'm a chicken that was born in a hatching machine.
Compelled in this cold world sadly to roam—
No mother to shelter me, no place to call home,
No mother to teach me to scratch or to cluck,
I hardly can tell whether I'm chicken or duck.
—O. V. Fancier.

It would be of considerable advantage to farmers if they paid more attention to the business of poultry raising. That it is profitable, if sensibly and methodically pursued, has been demonstrated time and again. A farmer's wife can easily earn sufficient money for household purposes out of her poultry, and even save something for a "rainy day." Apart from the profit, the keeping of fine poultry is entered into by many English ladies, as adding much to the interest of country life and to the attractiveness of country homes, and there seems to be no explanation why the fashion should not be adopted in our own rural and suburban homes for the same reason. As a branch of farming that requires so little hard work, carries with it so much enjoyment, and takes up so little space about a farm, there is really nothing equally profitable that could take its place. A successful raiser of poultry gives the following pointers in the *Standard American Poultry Book*:—"In raising poultry or stock of any kind it should be the aim of every one to keep it healthy and improve it. You can do it very easily by adopting some systematic rules. These may be summed up in brief as follows:—1. Construct your house good and warm, so as to avoid damp floors and afford a flood of sunlight. Sunshine is better than medicine.—2. Provide a dusting and scratching place where you can bury wheat and corn and thus induce the fowls to take the needful exercise.—3. Provide yourself with some good, healthy chickens, none to be over three or four years old, giving one cock to every twelve hens.—4. Give plenty of fresh air at all times, especially in summer.—5. Give plenty of fresh water daily, and never allow the fowls to go thirsty.—6. Feed them systematically two or three times a day; scatter the food, so they can't eat too fast or without proper exercise. Do not feed more than they will eat up clean, or they will get tired of that kind of feed.—7. Give them a variety of both dry and cooked feed; a mixture of cooked meat and vegetables is an excellent thing for their morning meal.—8. Give soft feed in the morning and the whole grain at night, except a little wheat or cracked corn placed in the scratching places to give them exercise during the day.—9. Above all things keep the house clean and well ventilated.—10. Do not crowd too many in one house; if you do, look out for disease.—11. Use carbolic powder occasionally in the dusting bins to destroy lice.—12. Wash your roosts and bottom of laying nests, and white-wash once a week in summer and once a month in winter.—13. Let the old and young have as large a range as possible, the larger the better.—14. Don't breed too many kinds of fowls at the same time, unless you are going into the business. Three or four will give you your hands full.—15. Introduce new blood into your stock every year or so, by either buying a cockerel or settings of eggs from some reliable breeder.—16. In buying birds or eggs, go to some reliable breeder who has his reputation at stake. You may have to pay a little more for birds, but you can depend on what you get. Culls are not cheap at any price.—17. Save the best birds for next year's breeding, and send the others to market. In shipping fancy poultry to market send it dressed.

ENSILAGE, the same as that given to cows, is highly relished by the hens in winter, and greatly promotes laying.—*Ec.*

A LITTLE salt mixed with the warm food given these cold mornings, is relished and believed to be beneficial to all fowls. While an excess of salt will kill, a little seems to do them good.

WINTER RYE sown near the poultry yard makes an excellent fall and winter pasturage for fowls. An abandoned pen should be made useful by putting it into rye. Even in mid-winter or nearly spring on pleasant days fowls can thus procure "green food,"

and the result will be good healthy fowls and plenty of eggs.—*Fanciers' Gazette.*

Those who ventured to hatch chicks late this season need to give them extra care just now, feed well through the day, and see that they have a warm place at night; in this way they will receive no check, but grow right along and make good birds by spring. But if allowed to feel the effects of cold changes, and the chill attending them, they will get a set back they will never get over.—*Poultry Bulletin.*

SAYS the *New England Fancier*:—"A correspondent who has taken the time and trouble to keep a record of the number of eggs laid by the different breeds in his possession during the past year, reports to us as follows:—Bantams, sixteen to the pound, 90 per annum.—Polish, nine to the pound, 125 per annum.—Hamburgs, nine to the pound, 150 per annum.—Leghorns, nine to the pound, 160 per annum.—Black Spanish, seven to the pound, 140 per annum.—La Fleche, seven to the pound, 130 per annum.—Plymouth Rock, eight to the pound, 150 per annum.—Houdans, eight to the pound, 150 per annum.—Black, White, and Buff Cochins, eight to the pound, 150 per annum.—Dark Brahmas, eight to the pound, 120 per annum.

A CONTEMPORARY gives the following advice on "How to make hens lay":—"Put two or more quarts of water in a kettle and one large seed pepper, or two small ones, then put the kettle over the fire. When the water boils stir in the coarse Indian meal until you have a thick mush. Let it cook an hour or so; feed hot. Horse radish is chopped fine and stirred into mush as prepared in the above directions, and for results we are getting from five to ten eggs per day, whereas previous to feeding we had not had eggs for a long time. We hear a good deal of complaint from other people about not getting eggs. To such we would warmly recommend cooked feed fed hot. Boiled apple skins seasoned with red pepper, or boiled potatoes seasoned with horse radish, are good for feed, much better than uncooked food. Corn when fed the hen by itself has a tendency to fatten rather than produce the more profitable egg laying. A spoonful of sulphur stirred with their feed occasionally will rid them of vermin and tone up their systems.

Pithy Put Pickings.

A THIRTY farmer invigorates a neighborhood; a lazy one demoralizes it.—*Ficht and Farn.*

THE number of farmers whose success is due to frugal wives and daughters is legion.—*Farm, Stock, and Home.*

THE farmer should take an active interest in the condition of the roads of his town. Their excellence increases the value of the farm.—*Ec.*

IF anybody thinks it pays to hire a cheap man on the farm, just because he is cheap, all right. We don't find it a paying business.—*Rural New Yorker.*

NEARLY every farmer has something he can give away which will make him no poorer, but possibly make a brother farmer somewhat richer—an experience.—*Ec.*

THE greatest enemy of agriculture is ignorance.... Some farming is like an old jacket—frayed at the edges and very thin elsewhere.... There is this difference between the poor and the good farmer; one complains of the bad seasons, the other rejoices in the good seasons.—*American Agriculturist.*

THE farmer who thinks there can be nothing new in agriculture should remember that thirty or forty years ago his grandfather thought the same way. Meanwhile the world has been jogging along and agriculture has made more advancement during the past ten years than any other ten years of the world's history.—*Husbandman.*

SUCCESSFUL farmers whether dairymen, fruit growers, or stock raisers, are those who consult the requirements of the markets, rather than their own inclinations, in the matter.... The elements of the fundamental principles of farming are:—Soil, heat, moisture, muscle, and brain power. The combining of these five elements produce the key to successful farming.—*North Carolina Farmer.*

PROFIT and loss in crops is often determined by careful or careless cultivation.... Every farm should be well supplied with fruit, which will prove a source of health and economy for the use of the family as well as profit, when raised in sufficient quantity to sell.... Economy in fencing demands that fence be used only where it is positively needed, and that kept in thorough repair.—*Southern Planter.*

FARMERS' wives have learned that they are not merely placed upon this earth to drudge and slave from sun to sun and day to day, but that it is their duty to read, rest, and recreate, in order that they may rear their children to become useful and intelligent men and women and an honor to their country.... As human beings will die for want of a refreshing draught of water when cast away on the ocean, so plants will die or fail to flourish when planted in a soil that does not contain the particular elements that compose their structure, or are not in available condition for their use. "Know thy soil," is as important to the farmer who will succeed, as "Know thyself" is to the man who will retain his health and have pleasure and prosperity in this life.—*Nebraska Farmer.*



A Summary of News for the Past Month.

- 1st.—Joseph Williamson, Philadelphia, donates property, valued at five million dollars, towards giving poor boys of that city education in mechanical trades.... The Governor-General and Lady Stanley enthusiastically received at Hamilton.
- 2nd.—Hon. Benjamin Globensky, Judge of the Superior Court for Joliette district, died at Montreal.
- 3rd.—Wm. O'Connor, champion oarsman of America, tendered a magnificent reception by the City of Toronto.... Three men killed by a collision between two Grand Trunk freight trains at Merriton, Ont.... President Cleveland sends his annual message to Congress.... Lord Lansdowne, Viceroy of India, received with unusual enthusiasm on landing at Bombay.
- 4th.—Fire in the store of Lyman, Sons & Co., wholesale druggists, Montreal, loss \$75,000.
- 5th.—Fire in the Cortland Wagon Works, Cortland, N.Y., loss \$211,000.... Prof. Wiggins predicts another deluge soon.
- 6th.—Three men named Fourniers (father, son, and nephew) frozen to death at Gaspe Basin, Que.... Chas. C. De Lorimier, Q.C., Montreal, appointed to the Superior Court Bench for the district of Joliette.
- 7th.—Earthquake shock felt in several places along the Lower St. Lawrence.
- 8th.—A mob attempted to break into the gaol at Birmingham, Ala., with the intention of lynching Hawes, a wife murderer, when they were fired upon and seven mortally wounded and thirty others wounded more or less seriously.... Transport *Maryland*, with part of a train on board, destroyed by fire at New York, loss \$400,000.
- 9th.—Globe Iron Works, Cleveland, Ohio, partially destroyed by fire, loss \$200,000.
- 10th.—News received at Portland, Oregon, that Miss Sophie Preston, of Waitsburg, Washington Territory, a missionary, and a number of Europeans have been killed by Chinese near Canton.
- 11th.—Colorow, the celebrated chief of the Southern Utes, died at Ouray Agency, Col.... Four men killed and several injured by an explosion of meal dust in Oliver's Oatmeal Mill, Chicago.... Mr. W. M. Kelly, member of the Legislative Council of New Brunswick, died at Montreal.
- 12th.—Judicial Committee of the Privy Council render a decision in the celebrated case of The Queen vs. St. Catharines Milling and Manufacturing Co., sustaining the claim of Ontario as against the Dominion Government, to the disputed territory in the Algoma District.
- 13th.—Congressman Butterworth, of Ohio, introduced a joint resolution to Congress proposing the appointment of a Commission, consisting of English, Canadian, and American representatives, to consider a basis of union between Canada and the United States.
- 14th.—Haddimand Dominion Election declared void by the Supreme Court, Ottawa.... Geo. Routledge, the well-known publisher, died at London, England.
- 15th.—Lord Dufferin, retiring Viceroy of India, tendered an ovation at Bombay on his departure for England.... Collapse of the Panama Canal Scheme, the bill for government relief to the company being rejected by the French Chamber of Deputies.
- 16th.—Fight between negroes and white men at Wahalak, Miss., in which 12 whites and 150 negroes reported killed or wounded.
- 17th.—Manitoba Legislature summoned to meet on Jan. 31st.... Canon O'Meara, D.D., of Port Hope, died.... Terrible snow storm in Quebec Province.
- 18th.—Intelligence received at New York of the bombardment of Cape Hayti by four of Gen. Legitime's men-of-war, a portion of the town being demolished and 200 persons killed.
- 19th.—News received from Samoa that the Samoans under Mataafa captured the coast of Aina, after a long battle with Tanasese's forces.
- 20th.—The Arabs driven from their trenches at Suakim by the combined British and Egyptian forces after a brilliant engagement; losses—British 4, Arabs 400.
- 21st.—Propeller *Lake Ontario*, of Windsor, Ont., burned at Charlotte, N.Y.... News received of the arrival of Stanley, with Emin Pasha, at Aruwhini.
- 22nd.—The Village of Tarport, Pa., wrecked by a terrific explosion of nitro-glycerine and several persons injured.
- 23rd.—Factory of L. A. Strobel & Co, Cincinnati, destroyed by fire.... Steamer *Kate Adams* burned near Memphis.
- 24th.—English Parliament prorogued.... Steamer *John H. Hanna* destroyed by fire near New Orleans, 20 or 30 fatalities.
- 25th.—Three acres of buildings burned in Cincinnati, loss \$300,000.... Explosion in Toronto Ammonia Works, one man killed and another seriously injured.
- 26th.—Judge Badgley died at Montreal, aged 88.... A. R. Dickey, Conservative, re-elected in Cumberland, N.S.
- 27th.—Thos. S. Brown, one of the leaders of the rebellion of 1837-8, died at Montreal.... Agriculture and Arts Association decide to hold next Provincial Exhibition at London, Ont.
- 28th.—Webb, the Brandon wife murderer, hanged.... Appointment of the Crofters Canadian Commission announced in London, Eng.
- 29th.—Mr. Gladstone 70 years old.... Mr. Alex. Murray, director of the Bank of Montreal, died at Montreal.
- 30th.—Steamer *Bristol* burned at Newport, R.I., loss \$300,000.
- 31st.—Reported that 2000 Christians died from cholera at Quilon, on the Malabar Coast.... Excitement in Southern California over reported discovery of new gold fields.