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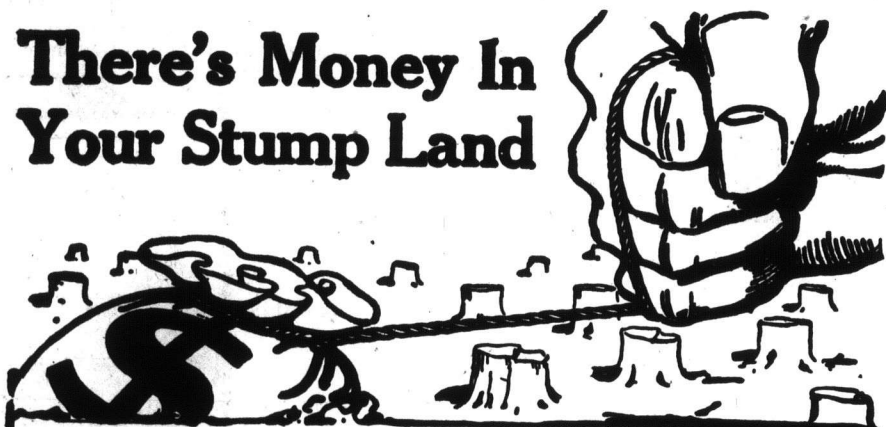
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of the heat of summer and the egg yield will be greatly increased.

Many hatches of eggs are lost in spring-time, simply because the poor broody hen is made restless with the miserable little red mites. They often cause the death of a setting hen on her nest of eggs.

Again the eternal question comes up: "Shall I use an incubator to hatch out chicks, or go on using hens as a hatching medium? If the farm has arrangements and room for more than 150 chicks get an incubator, by all means.

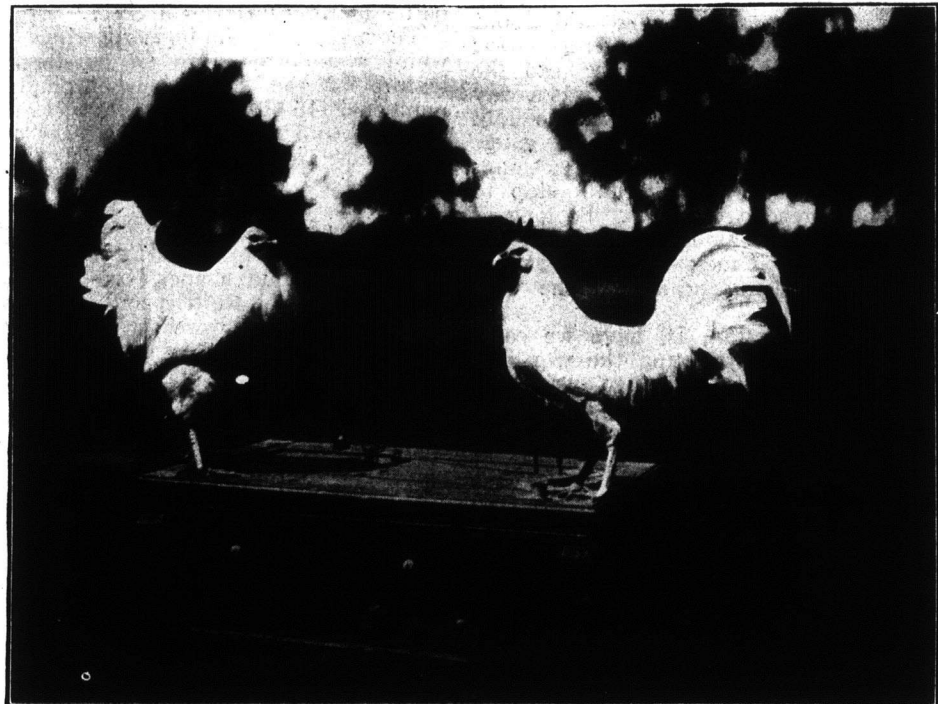
All incubators, nowadays, are sent out with very full directions as to the care and management required—so, even a novice should be able to run a good machine. Every farmer's son or daughter, who can manage to attend the short course in poultry raising at the College each winter should do so, if poultry is a favorite hobby. Lessons are given in incubation and rearing of chicks, "Care of Breeding Stock," and crate fattening as well as killing and dressing of poultry.

Incubators should always be run where there is an even temperature. Therefore, a good cellar or basement is ideal, but I have had fine success in a quiet corner in a kitchen, or in a store room with little heating. Cleanliness of machine and care of the lamp and wick is important. Use a new wick for each hatch and only the best oil in the lamp, which should be daily cleaned and filled. Always run the machine without eggs for a day or so, then set in the morning and gradually the temperature will come to 102. Keep it thus 101 to 102 for the first week, and start turning the eggs forty-eight hours

When the flock is not to exceed 150 birds, the hens can manage the incubation nicely, but for a large flock, artificial incubation becomes necessary.

"What make do you prefer and have you used the Cycle Hatcher?" Ans.—There are many good makes now on the market, including one of real Manitoban manufacture, made in Winnipeg. Write to W. H. Brett, Erin Street, Winnipeg, for catalogue. The Manitoba Agricultural College, uses the Cyphers Machien a great deal. The Cyphers is an old reliable American machine. The Cycle I have not used as yet, but hear so many good reports of the hatches turned out of this little hatcher made in Hamilton, Ont., I am tempted to try it myself very shortly. Mrs. Cooper, of Treesbank, one of our best known poultry women in the West, has discarded all her large incubators for the little 50-egg Cycle Hatcher, claiming she gets more chickens from them, as the eggs put in are fresher and the smaller brood can be handled in early spring with less loss.

I am a strong advocate of the colony house system of raising chickens, and a postcard to the nearest Agricultural College will bring you a useful bulletin free, giving all the details in regard to building, a colony house. The sight of dozens of the houses scattered about in plots of pasture or field peas and alfalfa at the Agricultural College, St. Vital, Man., is most interesting. Here, hundreds of chicken in various stages of growth are to be seen in springtime. Several thousand are annually raised there by Prof. Herner and his assistants. Each colony house



Keeping guard on hard working incubator.

after the hatch is set, and turn them morning and evening until piping sets in, then close the machine until the chicks are hatched. A good even hatch should be well over at the end of the 21st day. When hatching is on the machine will run to 105 or more. Keep the temperature up until the hatch is off, and avoid chilling chicks or eggs. I always darken the glass front of a machine when chicks are hatching, then the wee mites find their way down to the tray underneath, where they are safe for a day or so.

Poultry fanciers in the States are making a great fuss over a \$1,000 rooster, a jet black beauty of a new breed named Kokomo. He is only ten months old and weighs eleven pounds, and certainly seems to have a career before him. Fancy one thousand dollars in one bunch of feathers! In A Little Bit of Fluff.

I am only too pleased to answer any questions in regard to poultry raising. So many problems confront the beginner in the chicken and turkey business. Therefore, I hope The Western Home Monthly readers will write me.

One of the readers of the poultry page seeks information on several points: The name of a good magazine devoted exclusively to poultry? Ans.—"The Poultry Advocate", is well known and reliable, published in London, Ont.; "The Poultry Review", Toronto, Ont., also an excellent poultry paper.

"As I wish to raise fowl for market shall I get an incubator?" Ans.—Certainly, I should advise you to do so, as you can hatch many more chicks during the season,

shelters fifty young birds, which are kept grown, when all range possible is given them. in yards of mesh wire, until they are half grown.

"I wish to raise a heavy market fowl. Would you advise the light Brahma?" The light Brahma is a fine stately creature, very handsome as a fancy fowl, but a very slow bird to mature and be fit for market in our Western country where the season at best, is short.

Try a good utility breed such as the Barred Rock, Wyandotte, or Buff Orpington and Rhode Island Red.

Personally, I prefer the Barred Rock to all other breeds for market, and Prof. Herner, of the Manitoba Agricultural College, also advocates this breed for Western farmers.

The Barred Rock is easily raised, very hardy, a good shape and color when dressed, having clean legs, and a fine colored skin. Will crate fatten very easily indeed. If winter eggs are needed, no breed will average more eggs during the cold months. All the four breeds mentioned are large and suitable for market and much, better layers than the Brahmas. Any of them will make good capons of immense size.

As poultry raising is to be taught some of the returned soldiers at Deer Lodge, donations were asked of pure-bred birds at the Show. The breeders made a splendid response to this appeal, and dozens of fine birds were sent out to form a flock of pure-bred breeding birds. Deer Lodge has a well-equipped poultry plant as regards houses and buildings. Chadwick, the former tenant of Deer Lodge, was a well-known fancier.—H. S. Vialoux.

When writing advertisers, please mention The Western Home Monthly