

# THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

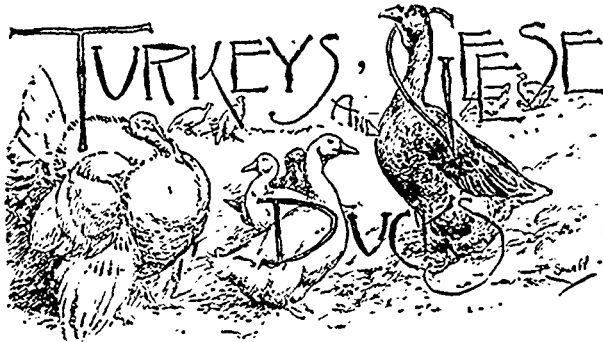
DEVOTED TO  
POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

For the FANCIER, the FARMER, and the SMALL BREEDER

VOL. XXII.

124 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO, MARCH, 1899.

No. 3



## GOOSE BREEDING.

**EDITOR'S NOTE.**—We are indebted to Mr. A. A. Brigham, Ph.D., director of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, for advance proofs of this most valuable and comprehensive article on Goose Culture, and also for procuring for us duplicates of some of the engravings to be used in connection with the Report. The copies of REVIEW containing this series of articles should be carefully preserved for future guidance. The first part appeared in November REVIEW

It must be kept in mind such goslings were NOT excessively fattened, as the weights might suggest to some persons, but rather, like Shropshire sheep, more remarkable for the immense quantity of flesh they carried than their obesity. The flavor of these cross-breeds is remarkably mild and fine. These first cross goslings must, however, NOT be retained as future stock birds, for they themselves produce young of very inferior size by throwing back (reversion). \* \* \* The rule to be observed is, breed continuously (year after year) from the SAME old stock, which are purely descended, and kill off annually ALL the cross produce for table or market purposes. \* \* \* It will be found much preferable for the gander to be a Toulouse and the geese Embdens than reversing the sexes, as they breed larger framed and HEAVIER-FLESHED birds, which is a most important feature." This cross produces heavy birds for Thanksgiving or Christmas, but is not so good for early maturity as a reverse mating would secure. Digby says: "If you prefer breeding from a cross, let that cross be between two pure varieties. I would strongly advise you to use an Embden gander and

Toulouse goose, or VICE VERSA, but the Toulouse being very much more prolific layers than the Embdens, frequently lay double the number of eggs in a season; consequently they are the best and most profitable to keep for this purpose, and, as they do not evince a desire to sit nearly as soon as the Embdens, their eggs may be set under hens and double the quantity of goslings may be hatched and reared." While what the last writer says about the comparative sitting propensity of the two breeds is quite true, we think he has overestimated the laying capacity of the Toulouse as compared with the Embdens. For the past two years, at this Station, the Embdens have laid 71.5 per cent. as many eggs as the Toulouse, but the number laid by either breed has not been large, and it is quite possible that with perfect liberty, egg production would be increased and the proportion changed. Of one other advantage in crossing we wish to speak. The Jews, as a race, are large consumers of geese, the fat supplying in some measure the place of lard, which they never use in cooking. For some reason, in purchasing geese in the market, they always look for a bird with YELLOW or ORANGE BILL, and a large wholesale poultry dealer states that it is almost impossible to sell a Jew a black-billed goose so long as he can find one having a light colored bill. Now it is policy for the producer to cater to the requirements of the market—to produce what is wanted and put it on the market in the most attractive style—and if a yellow bill helps the sale of stock at times, why not produce geese with light colored bills? The Africans and Brown China breeds have black bills; the other three breeds, orange, or light colored bills. Now it is a rule, almost without exception, that a white or pied (particolored) goose always has an orange or yellow bill, sometimes, however, mottled with dark color. When Africans or Brown Chinas are crossed with Embdens, a large part of the progeny will be white or pied, and, therefore, have the light colored bill. An additional advantage is the fact that white birds dress easier and look better when dressed than dark birds. By crossing the Embden and African breeds we secure in the progeny a union of the good points of both breeds.  
(Continued next month.)