

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

REPORT OF THE POULTRY MANAGER, MR. A. G. GILBERT.

(Continued.)

By a little trouble, taken at the right time and in the manner described, a superior quality of poultry throughout the country could be had in one season. If possible have thoroughbreds, and if it cannot be, by all means introduce thoroughbred blood by mating a barred or white Plymouth Rock, a Wyandotte, Brahma or Langshan male with the pick of your mixed breeds in the manner described. It will not take long to save sufficient eggs for hatching and selling, and then the male bird should be removed and kept apart until wanted again, or sold if so desired. The breeding stock should be kept in their pen for a week after the removal of the male and then allowed to run with the other hens. Every farmer who wishes to have new laid eggs, of superior flavor, to sell during the summer on market, to dealers or to special customers, should make it a rule to allow no male bird with the laying stock. The reasons for so doing are given at length in report of last year.

WORK OF THE SUMMER.

The principle work in the poultry yard in summer is, pushing the rapidly growing chicks so that the cockerels will make as much weight, in as few months, as possible.

With proper care and food, Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Java, Langshan and Brahma cockerels will make gain at the rate of one pound of flesh per month. That is, at the end of four months cockerels of the above named breeds should weigh 4 pounds each, or 8 pounds per pair. The gain may not be had in the first 5 or 6 weeks of the chicken's life, but the weight will be had in the time mentioned. Every farmer who takes the trouble to properly push his chicks can have this result. The requisites are the breeds and the proper food. The pullets, if at all early, will repay any care and feeding by rapid growth and early laying. As the cockerels attain the desired weight they should be killed, carefully plucked by hand and taken to market. Nicely dressed, well fattened birds are certainly more inviting in appearance than the blue-black looking and bruised scrubs too often to be seen. If the farmers intend to benefit by the shipment of choice poultry, in cold storage, to England, attention will have to be given to the conditions necessary to success.

THE WORK OF THE PAST YEAR.

At the beginning of the year the fowls of all kinds were in good condition, and the output of eggs fairly satisfactory. Experience of past years has shown that it is better on the approach of warm spring weather to reduce the stimulating rations, to underfeed rather than overfeed. In the case of a farmer who has but one breed, and who can take advantage of a fine day to allow his stock a run outside, this precaution may not be necessary. But where a number of breeds are and have been side by side in pens of limited size, during the winter season, and most of them are to be used as breeders, it is better to lessen the quantity of stimulating food. It is best at all times to vary the diet, but at this time as much change as possible in the rations is desirable. It is also at this time that the fowls seem most predisposed to egg eating and feather picking. The benefit of having a scratching room, or shed as shown in diagram will be apparent at this period.

MAKING UP THE BREEDING PENS.

Date.	Breed.	How mated.	Remarks.
March 2.	Barred Plymouth Rocks,	1 cock, 9 hens.	
" 2.	White "	1 " 8 "	
" 2.	Silver L. Wyandottes ...	1 cock'l, 9 "	
" 2.	Light Brahmas	1 cock, 7 "	
" 2.	Black Minorcas	1 " 9 "	
" 2.	White "	1 " 8 "	
" 2.	Andalusians	1 " 9 "	
" 2.	Coloured Dorkings	1 " 8 "	
" 2.	Houdans	1 " 3 "	
" 2.	Black Minorcas	1 cock'l 4 "	2nd pen.
" 11.	White Leghorns	1 " 11 "	
" 11.	White Wyandottes	1 " 7 "	
" 13.	Langshans	1 " 9 "	

The delay in mating the Langshans was occasioned by awaiting the arrival of a cockerel. There was a greater demand for eggs of all kinds for hatching than could be supplied, but more especially eggs of white and barred Plymouth Rocks, black Minorcas, silver laced Wyandottes and white Javas. As soon as the weather permitted the fowls were all allowed out in the outside runs and were much benefited thereby.

EGGS SET AND CHICKENS HATCHED.

When set.	Description of Eggs.	Chickens Hatched.
April 2.	13 Coloured Dorking	3
" 7.	11 White Java	2
" 9.	13 " Wyandotte	6
" 21.	15 Silver "	10
" 22.	11 Coloured Dorking	8