

# THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

For the FANCIER, the FARMER, and the SMALL BREEDER.

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## POULTRY FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT

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**Note**—Mr. Gilbert is nothing if not practical and experimental. He will from his rich store of information on the subject of "Practical Poultry," give REVIEW readers each month the results of his experience for the past thirty years. He will be glad to answer questions or afford information on any particular subject.

### THOROUGHBREDS RATHER THAN SCRUBS.

AS the schoolboy said experience "does it," and so it does. The experience of year after year goes to prove the superiority of the thoroughbred. The breeders and fanciers have long ago found that out, but the experience of the farmer is comparatively new, but none the less welcome. Why? Because the great majority of farmers are, unfortunately for their own interests, still wedded to the barnyard fowl, or nondescript. The latter is certainly the more correct description, because while such a bird will have a "little of everything," that modicum of variety is generally the worst feature of the much mixed up breeds. There is a change, however. The wide awake farmer is fast realizing the value of the thoroughbred as a money maker. Here is an instance. Last month four barred Plymouth Rock cockerels were purchased from Mr. Joseph Gourlay, a farmer of Huntley, and were found to weigh a few days after purchase, as follows:—7 lbs 14 ozs; 7 lbs 14 ozs; 7 lbs 7 ozs; 6 lbs 15½ ozs. The birds were purchased to kill and dress for market. Mr. Gourlay will tell you that three or four years ago he knew little, and cared about as much, for thoroughbreds, but now he

knows "from experience" the difference between his birds of to-day and his neighbor's scrubs. And no doubt his neighbor is learning too. "I now send every year," says Mr. Gourlay, "to some well-known breeder for a couple of settings of eggs, so as to have male birds of a new strain to breed from next spring." Mr. Gourlay also went into bronze Turkeys, Toulouse Geese and Pekin Ducks, and what is most satisfactory he has just sold all his stock of the three last named breeds to a newspaper firm who are offering them as premiums to subscribers. Mr. Alec McLean, of North Lanark, another farmer, is also a strong advocate of thoroughbreds. "Exceptions," you say. Not at all. There are many more and their number is increasing every day. And what does it mean after all? It means an increased demand for thoroughbreds and that again means more money in the pockets of the breeders.

Besides the large poultry plants to be established or already in working order in Ontario, a large poultry plant of 5,000 hens is to be put in operation in the vicinity of Winnipeg by the Manitoba Produce and Commission Company. Another concern of more modest dimension has been built in the Province of Nova Scotia.

The boom in poultry is on. It has come to stay. A new and important department of agriculture is being opened up. An heretofore neglected mine of wealth is being developed. Poultry development is taking place in leaps and bounds. Yesterday we were talking to the farmers of the necessity of giving attention to their poultry as money makers. To-day we have farmers buying up thoroughbreds and putting them into pens by the hundred to fatten. I have just