

Poultry.**Langshans.**

Many of our readers are interested in poultry, and are anxious to hear of any improvement in the breed or management, and of the merits of different kinds of poultry. We now introduce to your notice a class of fowls that are not often seen at our general exhibitions. We know not if any are yet introduced into Canada. We quote the following description from the catalogue of Messrs. Benson, Maule & Co., of Philadelphia, from whom we obtained the accompanying cut. They have all classes of fowls, besides many varieties of farm stock for sale:

They are more like the Black Cochins than any other breed with which we are familiar, but in reality they differ very essentially from them.

The Langshan is the latest acquisition to our poultry yards from Asia, and judging from our experience with other Asiatic breeds, their origin certainly augurs well for their future in this country. They are natives of Northern China, and consequently accustomed to its rugged climate. They were first introduced into England in 1872, and have already been remarkably well received in other parts of Europe. In England, Scotland and France gold and silver medals have been awarded them at the shows, and their value has been favorably commented upon.

They have straight red combs, somewhat larger than those of the Cochins. Their breast is full, broad and round, and carried well forward, being well meat-ed, similar to the Dorkings. Their body is round and deep, like the Brahmas. The universal color of the plumage is a rich metallic black. The tail is long, full feathered, and of the same color as the body. The color of their legs is a bluish-black, with a purplish tint between the toes. The average weight of a cockerel at seven or eight months, when fattened, is about ten pounds; and a pullet about eight pounds. Their carriage is stylish and stately.

The good qualities claimed for the Langshans are the following: They are hardy, withstanding readily even the severest weather. They attain maturity quite as early as any of the large breeds. They lay large rich eggs all the year around, and are not inveterate setters. Being of large size, with white flesh and skin, they make an excellent table fowl; more especially so on account of the delicacy of flavor which the flesh possesses.

The common dunghill fowl can be improved very greatly in value if crossed with some of the improved breeds.

The best as well as the easiest remedy for getting rid of vermin on fowls, and keeping them clean afterward, is first to clean and whitewash the roosts, adding a liberal supply of salt to the wash.

The American Cultivator says: Never before in the history of the country was so large a crop of wheat planted. The area in Illinois and Indiana is from fifty to a hundred per cent. greater than that of any previous season.

Winter Quarters.

Now is the time to get your winter quarters for poultry ready. Supply clean dry earth for the floor and dusting box, and gather dry leaves to throw upon the earth on which to scatter the grain which you give your birds, so that they busy themselves scratching for it, and thereby be kept in good exercise. See that the nest boxes are thoroughly cleaned and fresh straw supplied, the perches washed with kerosene, and well scraped. Provide green food in the shape of cabbage, man-gold wurtzel, and potatoes, to give when confined in the winter months, with scrags of meat and bones from your table, instead of throwing them out to be wasted. During confinement through the winter months, rake out the droppings from your birds from the earth on the floor at least twice a week. Put a dust box containing any earth, about three feet square and eight inches deep, in a sunny place, putting carbolate of lime in the earth, which destroys all vermin and keeps the birds from being worried. In fact, be clean, and keep clean, in all your poultry appointments, and your birds will pay you for all this trouble. Give up the idea that any place is good enough for your chickens, that running all over your sheds and roosting on the side of the stall, over your horses' feed box, or on the harness, waggons and

Standard Requisites for Poultry.

There are certain things absolutely necessary for the thrift, comfort and convenience of fowl stock which must be supplied by every one who attempts to raise them.

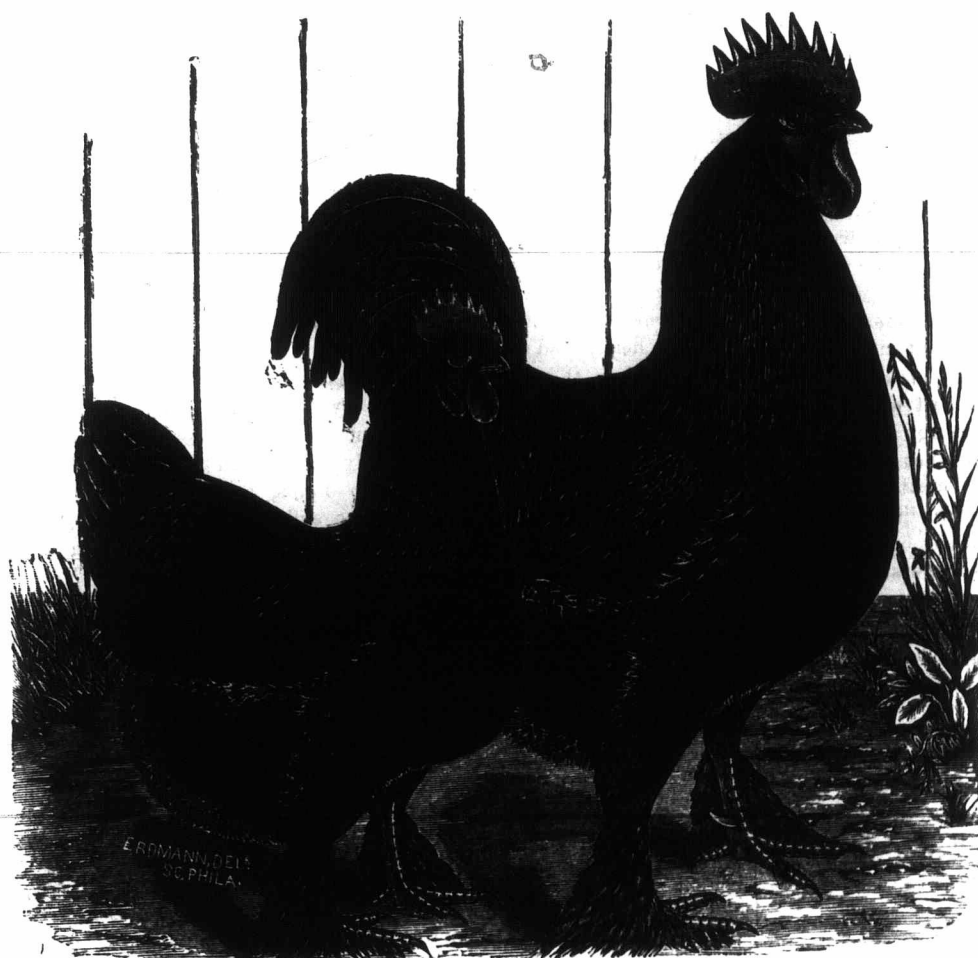
These requisites, in general terms, are a sufficient quantity of lime amongst their food, to assist in egg-shell making; plenty of gravel, which helps to digest their hard, dry grain food; a due allowance of animal substance, such as insects, meat, scraps, &c.; a moderate supply of shells, pounded bones, &c., and a full modicum of green feed constantly the year round.

All these are necessities. And in some shape or other these must be furnished the fowls or they will not grow well. If the flocks are permitted to run at large, the birds will gather a good share of these supplies abroad, especially in the summer season. If they are confined within fenced runs, all these provisions must be accorded them artificially, or they suffer.—American Poultry Yard.

Fattening Poultry for Market.

No fowl over two years old should be kept in the poultry yard, except for some special reason. An extra good mother or a finely feathered bird that is desirable as a breeder may be preserved until ten years old with advantage, or at least so

long as she is serviceable. But ordinary hens and cocks should be fattened at the end of the second year for market. Feeding for this purpose may be begun now. When there is a room or shed that can be closed, the fowls may be confined there. The floor should be covered with two or three inches of fine sawdust, dry earth, sifted coal ashes, or cleansand. The food should be given four times a day and clean water be always before the fowls. A dozen or more fowls may be put at once in this apartment, so that there may not be too many ready to sell at one time. The best food for rapid fattening, for producing well flavored flesh and rich fat, is buckwheat meal mixed with sweet skimmed milk, into a thick mush. A teaspoonful of salt should be stirred in the food for a dozen fowls. Two weeks feeding is sufficient to fatten the fowls, when they should be shipped for sale without delay, and another lot put up for feeding. If the shed is kept dark and cool, as it should be, the fowls will fatten all the quicker for it.—American Agriculturist.



THE LANGSHAN FOWL. (NEW VARIETY.)

wheel-barrows, and perhaps on the horses' backs, is just as good as anything else you can give them. If that is the best you can do, you had better give up keeping birds for profit, for it will cost you more for repairs in the spring upon your damaged property than they are worth. When our farmers will provide proper places to keep their fowls through the winter, and feed properly, they will get for their pains a well-filled egg basket and clean, fat fowls for market which will command good prices and pay better for the amount of money invested than any product of the farm. Be careful to keep your poultry quarters dry. Dampness has done more to bring on disease and death among poultry than any other thing, particularly when they are confined in close runs.

It does not follow, because buildings should be well ventilated, that open spaces between the boards are beneficial. Buildings should be made tight, with ventilators of proportionate size at the top.

WHEAT GROWING IN NOVA SCOTIA.—The farmers of the Maritime Provinces are successful wheat growers, and bid fair to produce, in a short time, their own flour. *The Herald* (Sydney, C.B.) says: The farmers of the County of Yarmouth are turning their attention to the raising of wheat and other bread-producing grains—and on the whole with an encouraging degree of success. The yield has been excellent, both in quantity and quality, the season has been propitious for harvesting, and the ravages of smut or weevil have thus far been things unknown.

An Ivy, if kept in the house, will not flourish unless the leaves are occasionally washed. Each plant leaf is full of pores or breathing tubes, which are closed if the plant is full of dust—thus injuring vigorous growth. Fifth-avenue mansions are often almost covered with Wisteria, which grows to a great height, and very rapidly, living out well all winter. Red-brick walls at best are unsightly, and the timely outlay of a trifle might, in most cases, make them exceedingly attractive.