

# Our Poultry Corner

If you have some things you do not understand in connection with your poultry and want some information, state your case briefly and to the point, writing on one side of paper only, and address it to THE MONITOR PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED, we will submit it to Prof. Lendry, and when his answers are received we will publish them withholding your name if you so desire it.

## Liver Troubles

During the latter part of winter and early spring, annually a large number of fowls are lost, due to liver troubles in various forms. The reason on this disease is more prevalent at this season because conditions are then best for its development. Liver troubles generally are caused by overfeeding, feeding of improperly balanced rations, lack of exercise and green food. There are a large number of diseases of the liver; all more or less caused by the same remedies.

Some of the symptoms of liver diseases are: Rough plumage, watery diarrhoea, first brownish, then yellow; lack of appetite; slow and inactive in movements; purple comb, and careless disposition. Post-mortem examination would show the liver enlarged and sometimes accompanied by a fatty degeneration. In the case of tuberculosis, the liver would be covered with nodules of a cheesy-like formation and appearance.

The first thing to cure or prevent this disease is to change the food and method of feeding. Feeds less solid and rich albuminous foods and more light bulky foods. Guard against over-feeding. We have sometimes found it advisable to starve the birds for a day and then to feed very sparingly. Feed plenty of green foods in the form of short, succulent grass, dandelions, cabbage leaves, mangels, sprouted oats and other vegetables. Make them exercise by feeding all grain fodder in the litter. Open up the exit, and give them a chance to exercise in the open. Allow free range. Keep the house and surroundings clean and disinfected. Give frequent doses of Epsom salts, and give individual doses of Epsom salts to affect individuals.

Quite frequently, especially in the spring, when the birds are laying heavily and good sized eggs, some of the best layers, more frequently pullets, in laying, force out the inside of the lower portion of the oviduct, causing the everted portions of the oviduct to project from the vent. Other hens, noticing this, soon learn to pick at it, and in this way rupture the blood veins in the same, causing the bird to die, either due to loss of blood or blood poisoning. I have known cases like this, immediately after the hen came from the nest, upon catching, and with clean hands pushing it back into the oviduct, and keeping the hen separate from the rest, to do perfectly until the next egg was laid, when the oviduct would again be everted. Since then we kill all such as soon as discovered; at this time they are perfectly good and fit for eating. This, however, is not true after this case has been allowed to run for several days. Of course minor cases of eversion of oviduct may be cured by replacing the organ and keeping the bird for a few days in a dark coop, feeding slightly and not force for egg production. We have only been able to cure prolapsus of oviduct, when the same was only in a small degree, or in other words only a very small part of the oviduct was everted. When several inches were everted, we have found it impractical to attempt to cure it.

It is generally caused by a weakening of the muscles in the oviduct walls and in connection with abnormal or unnatural straining of these muscles when laying. Sometimes a large egg or a double yolked egg, on account of its size, makes it difficult for the muscles to eject the egg and often in so doing ruptures the walls. There are other causes, but by far the most important is the straining of the rather weak muscles in the walls of the oviduct. This ailment is prevalent in the springtime because at this time the fowls are laying the heaviest. Then, too, it is at this time that a large number of pullets lay for the first time. Although the trouble appears most frequently among pullets beginning to lay, it is also found very frequently among hens.

It has been stated that feeding plenty of green food has a tendency to prevent it. Some say the feeding of raw potatoes is beneficial. We, however, doubt the usefulness of either of these for this purpose. We are, however, positive that dark and secluded nests are a great aid in preventing prolapsus of the oviduct. Confined birds are much more subject to it than birds on free range. Allow your birds unrestricted range, and separate all such as have a tendency to evert the oviduct while laying, from the rest of the flock. Sometimes only a very little eversion causes the other birds to pick at the same, and thus prove fatal. Do not feed too heavily

of animal food, as the same has the tendency to increase the size of the eggs to some extent.

## Egg Eating

Egg eating is a vice or bad habit very prevalent in spring. It is generally caused by lack of oyster shell, exercise, green foods and close confinement. To prevent this vice, provide oyster shell in a self-feeding hopper always before them. Feed green food. Allow fowls unrestricted range and make them exercise for their living in a deep, loose, dry litter. Quite frequently the nests are a factor in the furthering of this bad habit, especially when constructed of lumber for the bottom and located in very much frequented places. We endeavor to locate all of our nests in dark and secluded places several feet up from the floor. We prefer quarter-inch mesh galvanized hardware cloth for the bottom instead of boards. We keep a liberal supply of nesting material in the nests. We provide a sufficient number of nests so constructed that the hens can step into them and do not have to jump into them. We make it a practice to gather the eggs frequently. We separate such individuals as appear to have an exceptional liking for eggs. We are particular to darken the nests as much as possible. Some people recommend bits to fit over beak in such a way as to prevent their breaking eggs. Others recommend nests with fake bottoms, causing the egg to slip out of the reach of the birds as soon as it is laid, through a hole in the bottom of the nest. In practice, however, it is more satisfactory to try to prevent the habit instead of curing it.

## What to Feed and What to Breed

What to feed our poultry has often been discussed by prominent poultrymen, but still for all this they are still making changes in the rations. One very important thing in feeding poultry is to see that they have the three different food matters before them always. The feeding of meat when not fed too extensively is a good animal food; milk and green bone will also give good results. The most important of all the mineral foods is water; fresh, clean water should be before them all the time. Oyster shell also should be fed, as they make most of the shell of the egg. Green food such as turnips, mangels, cabbage or sprouted grain is good. The grain should be fed in the litter on the floor; mixed grains are good. A mash should be fed at least once to every three feeds of grain, as it keeps the bowels regulated. Now that the breeding season is here we should encourage the hens to scratch for their feed, as it keeps them vigorous and this is very important, for if the parent stock is not strong and vigorous the off-spring will not be so. It is very important that we do not mate too many females to one male.

The last thing in conclusion is, we are making a mistake if we keep anything but pure bred poultry, for it takes as much to keep a scrub as the best and we know by the returns that the pure bred is many times ahead of the scrub; therefore, let us keep the best.

## How Long to Keep Eggs

An egg has been known to hatch after being kept for six weeks. Indeed longer time than this is told of. I cannot speak for the truth of a longer time; neither can I of a good hatch, or even a medium hatch, if kept six weeks. Usually, if the chicks come out of eggs set at this age, they come weak and small. The reason for this is because of the tendency of cell life to die after a certain time, and in the egg this is hurried by the evaporation of moisture in which the germ swims. Three weeks in winter or early spring is usually too long to keep eggs, although they will keep in hatchable state better than later. I do not like to keep eggs over fourteen days, as over this time they are slow in starting, and thus slow in coming out. A slow hatch is seldom a satisfactory hatch.

Eggs that are old will do better under hens than in an incubator. I want all the eggs I set in an incubator not to be over ten or eleven days old. Eggs hatch best for me that are not over one to four days old. This is the rule, although from a healthy, strong flock, and in warm weather, I have had at times good hatches from the two-week old eggs. The reason that eggs from a large flock hatch better

than from a small flock, all other things being equal, is because the eggs are fresher when set. The fresh egg hatches from six hours to twenty-four earlier than the several-day-old egg.

## The World's Greatest Hen

When Lady Eglantine was brought to the poultry show in New York, December 7, the photographers went to get her picture, and the city papers printed it and told how she had performed the feat of laying 314 eggs in a year, and thus claimed the world's record. It is said that each of her eggs sell for sixty dollars, or \$720 a dozen, for hatching purposes. If all of her eggs could have been sold at that rate the income from her would have been over \$18,000 for the year. The premier bird is a White Leghorn and weighs three and seven-eighths pounds. Until within the past fifty years poultry-raising was only an incident of farming, and only within the past twenty-five years have the farmers realized what an enormous income can be had from this branch of the agricultural industry. Few people, even among the farmers, realize that the crop of the poultry and poultry product in this country each year, equals in value that of hay, wheat, or cotton crop; that it approaches the enormous sum of a billion dollars.

As the above paragraph was taken out of a recent issue of the Christian Herald, it must be all true.

## Don't Set Freak Eggs

Did you ever notice how much more vigorous and growthy is the plant coming from the large plump seeds of corn, wheat, beans, radish, lettuce, etc.

The same law holds good with chickens hatched from good-sized, well-shaped eggs. Eggs have sufficient size to furnish plenty of material to develop a vigorous, perfect embryo chick, and room for it to expand, insure the chick's strength to cut and burst its shell prison.

Select not the over-sized, irregular-shaped egg, but those of good size and as uniform in shape, color, and strong in shell as possible.

## A Few Hints on the Care and Marketing of Eggs

1. Keep the nests clean. Change the straw, or shavings, once a month.
2. Gather the eggs twice a day.
3. Keep the eggs in a cool, dry place.
4. Never keep eggs near onions, fish, kerosene or anything with a strong odor, as the shell is porous and they absorb odors.
5. Keep the extra small and extra large eggs at home, as they will spoil the appearance of a nice, uniform shipment.

If you want eggs to keep, they must be laid in a cool place, said a mistress to her servant. "I'll mention it to the hens at once, ma'am," replied the domestic.

## Eggs and Chicks

Barred Plymouth Rock, Beauty and Utility Strain. Winner of first trophy at recent Annapolis Fair on Barred Rocks. Mating pens made up of Annapolis, Kentville and Yarmouth winners. Opportunity to get the finest stock in the Province. Eggs \$1.50 to \$3.00 per setting. Utility day-old chicks 17 cents each.

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## VON TRIPITZ'S RETIREMENT

German Story Says He Had Difference With Emperor Over Submarine Policy

Berlin, March 16.—(By wireless to Cayville)—"In some quarters," says the semi-official Overseas News Agency, "the belief prevails that the resignation of Admiral von Tripitz as Minister of Marine was connected with Emperor William's decision not to extend submarine warfare beyond the limits announced to neutrals in the German Government's memorandum and not to direct it against neutral shipping."

"Admiral von Capelle's appointment as Minister of Marine is not of importance in relation to the question of submarine warfare, the news agency continues, "since direction of naval warfare is in the hands of the Chief of the Admiralty. The resignation of Admiral von Tripitz is much commented on because of his successful activity in fostering naval construction. Admiral Von Capelle long has been familiar with affairs of the Marine Department, especially organization of naval construction, in which he was the most capable collaborator of Admiral von Tripitz. He successfully represented the Marine Department before the Reichstag, where he obtained the funds necessary for construction work."

# Horticulture

(By PROF. W. SANBY BLAIR)

## Cool and Warm Season Vegetables

Vegetables can be conveniently divided into two classes in regard to their temperature requirements. The cabbage, lettuce and onion do not need as high a temperature as tomatoes, squash or melons. It may be desirable therefore to make a division in the centre of the hotbed with a board thus enabling one to carry the heat loving plants at a higher temperature. It will help materially in starting plants to consider the heat requirements of the plants grown.

## Early Cabbage and Cauliflower

The cabbage and cauliflower for early crop should be started the last of March or early in April. In two weeks time when the first true leaf appears the plants are ready for pricking off into flats, about two in. apart each way, where they remain until set to the field early in May. The cabbage and cauliflower are cool season vegetables and can be set to the open as early as the ground can be worked. There is no great gain however in setting poorly developed plants to the open early, and unless they are well hardened off by allowing the flats to remain in the open for a week before transplanting they will suffer considerable check. It is better therefore to let the plants grow under good conditions and thereby develop better plants for setting out toward the latter part of May. The plants should have five weeks' growth at least from seeding before planting out to get thrifty plants.

The Copenhagen Market is hardly as early as the Jersey Wakefield but it is a much better sort and forms a round solid head. Plants from seed started March 28th and pricked off April 10th were set to the open ground May 8th and gave marketable heads July 22nd weighing three pounds each.

Cold weather may come on after the early planting in May and the plants may take on an apparently stunted growth, but during this time the roots are becoming developed in the soil and when more favorable weather approaches they grow rapidly. A frost does not injure the plant if it is established in the soil. For early cabbage therefore let us get the seed started now.

The cauliflower can be grown in the same way, and if given the same treatment will give fine large heads in July. The root maggot has caused much disappointment to the grower of early cabbage and cauliflower. About the time the plants are making strong growth in June they commence to wilt and an examination of the roots reveals the cause of the trouble in the form of a white maggot which eats the tissues of the root at the base of the plant. This maggot develops from an egg laid by a small fly the latter part of May or early in June at the surface of the soil around the base of the plant. To prevent this tar felt discs are placed snugly around the plants right after they are set. The discs are made out of tar paper about 2 1/2 to 3 inches in diameter and a slit is cut one-half way toward the centre with a cross cut at the centre of one-quarter inch to allow for the plant. The disc is so placed that it forms a collar around the base of the plant with the plant in the centre. This if carefully put around the plant at the surface of the ground keeps the fly from contact with the soil and rather than deposit her eggs on the tar paper she will go to some other plants. If early cabbage are hoped for do not neglect the tar felt discs. It is only a short job to make them, and over 80 per cent. of the cabbage can be saved from this troublesome insect by them.

The Erfurt cauliflower, is the best variety to use. Cover the seed about one-quarter inch deep. The plants are a little more delicate than the cabbage and if the plants suffer a check from careless transplanting they may not form good heads. Examine the roots of the seedlings when pricking them into flats as sometimes the damping off fungus may cause injury to the outer tissues at the base of the plant in which case this part will be black and a poor plant will result.

## Tomatoes

Tomatoes require a high temperature and come into the warm season class of vegetables. It is not possible to plant out to the open ground until the first week in June. Six to eight weeks is required for developing good plants. If plants are carried eight weeks care must be taken to give them ample room and proper attention otherwise they may be drawn or spindling plants of little substance. A short stocky plant kept growing at a moderate temperature and given plenty of room is required. It is better therefore if much space cannot be given to develop the plant in six rather than eight weeks. The plant however, two months old at planting time if carried and handled without check will give earlier fruit. The date of planting will vary therefore from the first to the 2nd week in April.

The seed should be started in flats, and when two to three weeks old are set to other flats 4 to 6 inches apart. It is better to give 6 inches, putting 6 plants in a 12 by 18 inch flat. Strawberry boxes are good for this work placing one plant in a box. Put a piece of birch bark or something similar in the corner of the boxes to prevent the soil from washing out thus making it difficult to water the soil in which the plant is growing. When ready to plant out the box is cut and the plant does not suffer a check from the soil having been disturbed. Aim to keep the plant in a vigorous healthy condition by giving plenty of ventilation and do not force growth too much but rather develop a sturdy plant which will stand upright when set out. In many cases transplanted plants are not satisfactory because they have been grown under high temperature conditions and when placed in the open suffer a decided check. See that the plants are well hardened by leaving them in the open during the last week particularly during the day. It will be seen therefore that to handle plants in this way more time than usually given for their development is necessary.

If space is lacking the plants may be first transplanted three inches apart and later set to the greater distance. The transplanting gives a more compact root system and the plant will as a result do better when set out.

## Early Lettuce

Early lettuce can be had by starting the plants at the same time as early cabbage. The plants can be set to the open ground any time after the first week in May and it requires five weeks to grow well hardened plants. Like the cabbage the early seeded, well developed plants are necessary for early lettuce. It is also desirable that the plants be once transplanted into other flats as is the case with the early cabbage to get a compact root system which will start well under

favorable soil conditions in the early spring.

Seed of Grand Rapids one of the best open head varieties started in flats April 14th and set to the field May 9th produced heads averaging in weight 1 pound 3 ounces on July 2nd. Whereas seed sown in the open ground May 14th and thinned to 6 inches apart produced heads August 4th weighing 15 ounces.

The All Heart is one of the best cabbage head varieties. The Hanson Improved is also a good one.

The All Heart planted as indicated for Grand Rapids heads on June 27th, and July 2nd, averaging 15 ounces and seed started in the open ground May 14th gave heads weighing 13 ounces July 28th.

## Ordering Vegetable Seeds

To decide what varieties of vegetables to order is often very difficult. One can in a measure decide from a seed catalog but as a rule they are rather confusing and possibly a list of those found to be the most suitable will be helpful. We therefore will submit the following list as being quite suitable.

LETTUCE.—Grand Rapids, Hanson Improved and All Heart. CABBAGE.—Copenhagen Market, and any of the Drumhead sorts for late and Danish Roundhead for winter storage.

CELERY.—White Plume for very early. Paris Golden for general crops and Winter Queen for late storage.

CAULIFLOWER.—Early Erfurt. ONIONS.—Globe Danvers and Prize-taker. For seeding outside Extra Early Red.

TOMATOES.—Earliana and Bonny Best. PEAS.—Thomas Laxton and Gradus for early and Stratagem for late.

BEANS.—Wardwell Wax, Stringless green pod and Refugee or 100 to 1.

CUCUMBERS.—White Spine. CARROTS.—Chantenay and Danvers.

PARSNIP.—Selected Hollow Crown. SPINACH.—Bloomdale. RADISH.—No Plus Ultra and Icicle. PARSLEY.—Champion Moss Curled.

CORN.—Early Malcom, Early Cory and Golden Bantam.

Beets.—Selected Globe. SQUASH.—English Vegetable Marrow, Hubbard and Boston Marrow.

PUMPKIN.—Small Sugar.

earliest variety. The Bonny Best is a little smoother and a little later. The Early Jewel is a good later sort.

## Good Seed Corn

A four-page circular prepared by the Dominion Seed Commissioner and issued for free circulation by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa sets down an axiom: "The most expensive seed corn is that which will produce a poorer crop than could have been obtained from better seed." A moment's thought will convince any one that the statement is incontrovertible. In furtherance of the policy that has for its object the promotion of the availability and the use of good seed, the circular which can be had free of postage on application to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, explains the steps that have been taken in this direction and gives in full the text of the Seed Control Agreement, by which growers agree with the Minister of Agriculture to sell seed corn in the ear, under the "control" system only, to May 31st next, thereby making it subject to special regulations and guaranteeing the quality to purchasers. The advantages to be derived from the system are briefly told in detail, but the main point is that following the instructions and suggestions means not only an improved crop in quality but also a large increase in quantity. Some of the advantages are that the danger of the crop not coming up because of poor germination, necessitating replanting, is lessened; that strong vitality which gives a perfect stand of vigorous plants will be encouraged; that more rapid and uniform growth with early maturity will ensue and that less seed will be required. It is not difficult to believe that, as the circular says, "Many farmers would save money and have a better crop if they paid twice as much per bushel as they ordinarily do to secure the best obtainable seed corn and planted half the quantity."

In conclusion farmers are advised that as the amount of good seed corn is more limited this year than usual those who wish to purchase under the agreement would do well to place their orders early. A list of the growers selling with the varieties and price, when stated, will be forwarded in answer to applications, that can be mailed free, to the Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

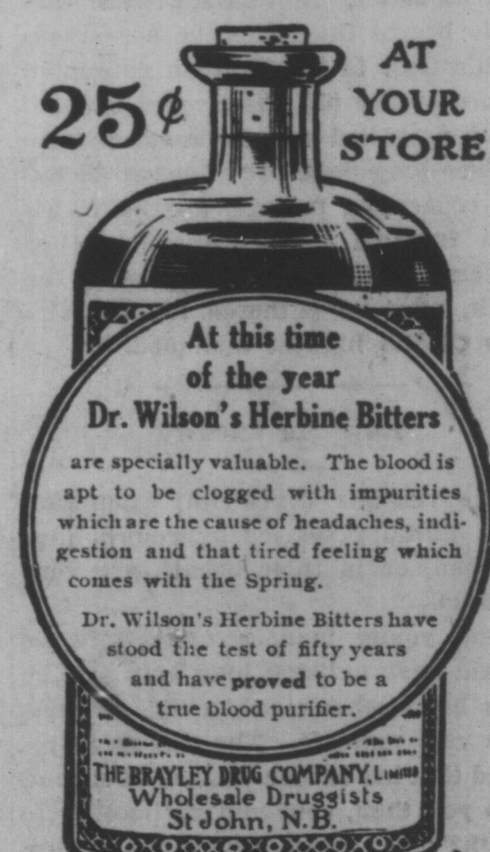
The numerous caves in Kentucky of which the Mammoth Cave is the most famous, may yet be turned to use for storing perishable foods. The air in the caves is dry and the temperature even. Lemons and oranges left there two years ago and taken out recently are apparently as good as when they were harvested.

In the Province of Sind, India, there is a population of over three and a half millions, and yet there are occasional tigers, panthers, leopards, wolves, and hyenas. These wild beasts have been known to enter villages, and carry off human beings, as well as domestic animals.

At this time of the year Dr. Wilson's Herbine Bitters are specially valuable. The blood is apt to be clogged with impurities which are the cause of headaches, indigestion and that tired feeling which comes with the spring. Dr. Wilson's Herbine Bitters have stood the test of fifty years and have proved to be a true blood purifier.

Dr. Wilson's Deadshot Wormstick in candy form for children is a safe cure.

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