The Poultry Outlook for 1917*

Stocks Depleted—Demands Greater Than Ever—Need for Highest Production From Poultry We Have

BY W. A. BROWN.

THE year 1916 was one of unascal activity in the Canadian egg trade. Unproceedented high prices prevailed during the late spring, sumner, and fall months. The direct cause of this was the unusual demand on the part of the British market for the Canadian product, in preference to supplies obtainable elsewhere. Naturally, fol-

lowing such a season and the fact that the export demand still continues, the outlook for 1917 is particularly favorable. Of course, the continuation of high prices is more or less contingent upon the conclusion of the war but, even so it is not expected that in a matter of live stock and live stock products any serious reaction will occur. Should any falling off in prices take place it will probably be gradual.

Canada has the market but is short on the

supply. The subsequent development of the poultry industry in this country largely depends upon the reputation established now on the export market. While there is need for improvement in the quality and in the uniformity of the product going forward, the great need is for the production of such a quantity of the quality desired that Canada's place on the British market will be assured. We have every reason to believe that the necessary safeguards with regard to the quality of the product going forward will be perfected this year. Our future market is assured, therefore, if we will but increase our production to the extent necessary to hold that market. Canada's liabilities are not going to be met by the production of a minimum amount sold at a maximum price, but rather by the production of the maximum amount sold at a remunerative price; in other words, the development of a volume of business. The great need, therefore, is for increased production during 1917.

The present prospects with respect to the accomplishment of this end are not the best, however. While the unfoading of large quantities of poultry on the market last year, owing to the scarcity of feed and other causes, has resulted in a cleaning out and cleaning up of poultry flocks throughout the country that ultimately will be a blessing in disguise, yet the fact remains that there is not in the country to-day the number of laying stock that there was one year ago. It is out of the question, of course, to attempt to increase the poultry population of this country very materially between now and the season of high production. However, if every farmer and poultry producer will but exert himself or herself to get the highest possible production from what poultry they have, the shortage in the actual number of birds kept may be overcome to some extent and the Canadian trade may therefore indicate to the British importers that Canada will this year be able to supply at least as much to the motherland as she did during 1916. Further, if those who have charge of the poultry use the same acumen and judgment and good management in the selection of their breeding stock this spring, the

keeping of their poultry houses free of lice and mites, and the providing of clean and sanitary quarters for their stock, as they did in the culling from their flocks of the mongrel, nondescript and aged stock leaf fall, production throughout the spring and summer season may even be increased over that of last year.

Should Act Now.



hatching than ever before.

Canada has all the requisites for the production of a quantity far in excess of her own requirements, and with her favorable climatic conditions can produce with proper care and attention quality equal to the best in the world.

Only the fringe of production possibilities has been touched. The western prov inces, with their volumes of cheap feed, are the natural home for the Canadian ben The bulk of the surplus comes from the provinces of Ontario and Prince Edward Island. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and

Quebec do not produce sufficient for their own requirements. They must do more; and there is now an opportunity for the western provinces of Manifoba, Saskatchowan and Alberta to demonstrate to Canada and the Empire as a whole what they can do in this connection in this great hour of trade expansion.

Approved

According to the last census, Canada had some 29,000,000 hens: a few more, in fact, than the single state of Iowa. There may be forty to fifty million hens in Canada. In order to meet our obligations and live up to our opportunities in the matter, the slogan of every poultryman should be-"150,000,000 hens for Canada in two years." How can it be done? Is it not pos-



A Rugged Pair of Barred Plymouth Rocks.

sible in this country to create in the minds of producers generally the steadfast impression and belief that this development must be brought about, and to enlist the active services of every breeder and distributor of pure-bred poultry in a big, national production campaign. Clearly the opportunity lies before us. The task which Canada has set before her and which must be met. if from no other than an economic standpoint, demands the attention of statesmen and laymen alike. We must keep the home fires burning not only for the present but in the days of adversity which are prone to come following the war. Agriculture is Canada's basic industry. Her own local demands are relatively small. She must find her place in the markets of the world. Even among her allies will be found some of her most serious competitors with respect to certain of her national crops, but for the production of live stock and live stock products, of which poultry is taking an increasingly important part every year, we have in Canada assets in our herds and flocks of pure-bred stock which, if properly applied and developed in the most progressive, business-like manner possible, will insure that prosperity which we hope and believe is the national heritage of this fair Dominion.

A Woman's Poultry Methods

Success With a Small Farm Flock

Mrs. J. C. Jakes, Grenville Co., Ont.

VER since starting with poultry I have kept eks, as I consider them the best for farm use. I have never had an incubator, but put full reliance in Mother Biddy to bring out my spring flock. At the beginning of 1916 I had 90 hens. These laid all winter, one reason being that they had plenty of litter to scratch in. I set my first hen on April 8. During the summer I lost very few chickens and by fall had a fine flock of 116. During the season I sold several old hens to make room for the younger fowl. In the fall I divided my poultry and put about 45 cockerels by to fatten. They were sold in three batches and brought a total of \$53.07. By keeping close accounts I found that the 95 hens laid about 725 dozen eggs, of which \$61.86 worth were sold.

In regard to setting hens, I have found by experience that a hen will not set in a different nest from the one in which she has been laying and in which she started to set. I use a small packing box, about half filled, with earth and straw, for a nest. When the hens start to set these can easily be removed to the hatching room. The feeding of young chicks is a very important part in raising them. After they are 36 hours old, I feed them on finely chopped, hard boiled eggs, shells and all, and bread crumbs, three times a day until they are four or five days old, when I begin putting them on their summer ration of fine I believe in giving them free range in the fields, especially where there is green alfalfa, as they like this very much. I have a nice dry

house for them at night, as when they are young they should not be let out in the morning if there is a heavy dew, nor on damp or rainy days. Poultry raising I consider a very profitable and interesting occupation on the farm. Now that prices have soured so high more profit than ever can be obtained if they are properly fed and cared for, and every woman takes an interest in the rearing and management of chickens.

*From a paper read at the recent Ottawa Winter Fair by V. A. Brown, Chief of the Pourtry Division, Live Stock Branch, Ottawa.