

POULTRY.

BRONZE TURKEYS—II.

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE YOUNG.

Many different plans are advocated for raising the young birds, more particularly for the first five weeks. First, for confining the hen and young, is the pen made of three wide boards, set on edge, and staked at each corner, and the hen tied or boxed up in one of the corners. It is the practice to move this pen about three times while they are kept in it, or about once a week. As soon as the young can fly over the boards, which are about 12 inches wide and 12 feet long, the hen and all are given their liberty. My objection to this plan is the difficulty of moving the pen, the hampering of the movements of the hen, thereby causing her often to trample a poult, and the brooding of the young too often on the same spot. Many breeders practice keeping the hen and her clutch for the first week in a grain bin, or similar place in the barn, afterwards giving all free range during the day, and driving them into some building at nights, until they get large enough to roost. I do not like this plan because, in the first place, it becomes too filthy the first week, and then, again, not many farms are so free of vermin (hawks, cats, minks, weasels, etc.) that it is safe to trust turkeys under four weeks away a great distance from the buildings. The driving of young turkeys into some small building every night to protect them from prowling animals ruins more poult than anything else, because they are hovered on the same spot night after night, which none but the strongest constitutioned can stand. This, the A-shaped coop, with slatted front, and without a bottom or floor, remedies. It can be easily moved the breadth of itself onto fresh ground each day; the young will take in as much range around it as is good for them, and it will not be necessary to hunt for the turkeys if a sudden rainstorm looms up, because they will go in the coop of their own accord if it rains hard enough to injure them; and, finally, it renders unnecessary the driving into a building at night, all that is required being a broad board to prop across the front of the slats. It is highly desirable to keep the coops with turkeys some distance from broods of chickens.

Now, as to the food, I hold the opinion that turkeys can be successfully reared upon many different foods, if taken care of properly otherwise. No matter what food is used, if they cannot find coarse sand or fine gravel in the land, it will need to be provided. I fear many turkeys suffer the year through for want of grinding material. The most successful Bronze-turkey-raiser I know—taking both quality and quantity into consideration—rears her young birds on a cake composed of shorts 2 quarts, flour 1 quart, bran ½ quart, heaping teaspoon of soda, half teaspoon of salt, mixed with sour milk or buttermilk, rolled out not too thin, and well baked. This cake is soaked well in water, as required, but no water or other drink is supplied, except on a very hot day a small, shallow panful is given. I have to state, however, that this party does not depend on the food alone to get these choice birds, but the care in every way is first-class, and she will use nothing but the best breeding stock, frequently paying as high as \$10 for a male, although she never exhibits. Another successful breeder gives bread soaked in milk and squeezed dry for the first few days, gradually adding a little cracked wheat, till the end of the second week, when the bread is discontinued altogether. A favorite food for many breeders is the well-known "custard," made of sweet milk and eggs; some give boiled rice, and many feed "curd," made from sour milk. The above are given not less than three times per day. Punctuality in feeding counts, and I consider it a bad sign to hear them making a lot of noise, with their unmusical "Peep," "Peep," "Peep." For drink, some of the above give water, others milk, some both milk and water, and others neither.

It all goes to prove, in my estimation, that, given clean surroundings, young turkeys are not delicate or hard to raise. However, let me caution against making sudden entire changes of food; also against suddenly withholding drink. Water being used to all they would take. For myself, the young poult are given their first feed of bread soaked in skim milk when about 24 hours old. Fine gravel is often mixed with this bread, and always placed around the coop. They are given this for the first day; the second, a medium grade of shorts is gradually mixed with the bread, and by the end of the third day it is all shorts, mixed quite damp with skim milk. This is all they get in the way of food for the first five weeks, except a goodly quantity of onion tops are cut up fine and mixed with one of the morning feeds, and an equally liberal amount of dandelion leaves are cut in the same manner and placed in one of the afternoon feeds. They are fed five times per day—out of the hand—and fresh food is mixed at each feeding. I never want my

turkeys to get sour food. When fed five times per day, it only takes about three minutes at each coop to satisfy them for the time being. I give all the skim milk—sweet or sour—that they will drink, and fresh water three times per day as well. Between four and five weeks old, the hen is given her liberty. They are fed the shorts as usual in the morning, and a full feed of good sound wheat at night, milk and water separately being given at each of these two feeds. They are allowed to roost on the fences and trees, near the outbuildings. Hatched the last of May, the two cockerels which won first and second at last Winter Fair, Guelph, weighed 26 pounds each, on November 8th, fed as above. W. J. BELL.
Simcoe Co., Ont.

DANISH AND SWEDISH POULTRY-KEEPING.

Mr. Edward Brown, Secretary of the National Poultry Organization Society, of England, several of whose communications on that industry have appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate," last year paid a visit of inquiry to the poultry and egg producing sections of Denmark and Sweden, similar to his American tour a couple of years ago. He reports that, whereas Denmark confines her attentions almost exclusively to the production of eggs, Sweden, with her larger areas and better facilities, is inclined to divide her efforts between the egg and chicken markets. It is in marketing produce that these countries excel the Britisher. The co-operative system has been developed to the point of perfection in Denmark, and it is approaching the same standard in Sweden. Co-operation, as conducted in Denmark, does not consist merely in the collection of eggs at appointed centers, and their despatch on the cheaper terms procurable for large quantities. An important feature of the system is the preservation of the spring and summer eggs for the winter markets. But, for the adoption of this practice, the present measure of success—the profit being variously estimated at from 1s. 6d. to 4s. 3d. per hen per annum—could not be attained. This method serves to maintain prices in the seasons when production is plentiful, as well as to increase the salable quantities when prices are high.

One of the most important points brought out by Mr. Brown is that even in Denmark the proper and really only place for poultry-keeping in the agricultural economy, is as an adjunct of ordinary farming. There is no scarcity of theoretical advisers who claim that poultry-keeping is able to stand as an exclusive and independent pursuit. The example of numerous failures at home, and the fact that in a country like Denmark probably not more than 1 per cent., and in the United States not more than 5 per cent., of the total bulk is produced at special establishments, should dispel mistaken notions as to the remunerating capabilities of the business. So fully is this point understood in Denmark that the great majority of Danish farmers do not maintain more than 30 to 50 laying hens, not because their holdings will not carry more, but for the reason that this is about the number the farmer and his family can manage in their spare time—a clear indication that the pursuit is incapable of yielding both wages and profit.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

"WAR IS HELL."

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground, and now art thou cursed from the earth that hath received thy brother's blood from thy hand."

From hundreds of battlefields comes this cry of blood. In the fullness of time came the herald of peace and goodwill to man: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another."

Canadian Parliament answers: No good for Canada. Our commandment is that ye kill one another, and we furnish the steel to do it; and we will send this bright armour to the common schools, and teach the boys the art of killing. Boys too small to handle these, might be supplied with pistols and dirk knives. Of course, the victims who die bearing this armour have died patriots, and the slayer—a hero.

I was working in Pittsburgh during the American War between the North and South, from 1861 to 1865. Reports of a great battle—thousands killed, more wounded—distracted families running from house to house, "have you heard from the boys?" In the churches, when the minister prayed for the wounded, suffering and the dying, often his own voice was choked with emotion. Oh! the wall that would rise from the sorrowing people.

I am now an old man, but the sorrows of that great nation can never be forgotten. The fragments of that terrible war were collected and cast into a great bell. It was taken to the World's Fair at Chicago, and inscribed around its base, in great raised letters: "A new commandment, I give unto you, that ye love one another."

Our Parliament has voted a large appropriation for the decoration of the battlefields in Canada. In this line I would suggest that no monuments be raised to

men who, instead of preserving their own lives and the lives of others, according to the commandment, destroy their own lives in trying to take the life of others. Cloth those fields with grass instead of gore, and raise a monument of everlasting peace, with the Master's inscription: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another."

The Rev. J. A. Macdonald repeated in the pulpit a few Sabbaths ago, "War is hell." If that is right, then the Dominion Parliament is spending millions of money in preparing for hell, instead of heaven. Will all the Christian people of Canada pray for them that their eyes may be opened, that militarism may be stripped of its glamour, and they, like Lord Byron, realize that there is more glory in the drying up of a single tear than in shedding seas of human gore. Middlesex Co., Ont. T. B. SCOTT.

BANISH THE AUTOMOBILES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Kindly allow me a little space to answer a letter which appeared in the April 2nd issue of your paper, from W. B. Rittenhouse, in which he upholds the autos. Mr. Rittenhouse thinks it would not be fair on the part of the country people to banish the autos from the country roads, as the city people, who own them, allow farmers to use their streets when they go to the city; the autos being their (the city people's) only means of getting out into the country, many not being able to keep horses and carriages. They can't afford a horse, he says; but, a little further on, he states that the owners of autos are among the wealthy. Oh! consistency, thou art a jewel! I will leave it to your readers to decide which costs the most, a horse or an auto. Again, he says most horses soon get used to them, and if people would lead the horse up to the machine, introduce him to it, and explain its mechanism, or, in other words, teach him mechanical engineering, there would be far fewer accidents; let us hope so, at any rate. In my opinion, it would be easier to banish the autos for good. Bicycles are not to be compared with autos, as there is no odor connected with them. He then goes on to tell us about the good time he is looking forward to, when the auto will be one of the farmer's best friends, when it will take the place of the horse, and the farmer will not be able to afford to drive a horse on the road. In the near future, he says, the man of ordinary means, such as the average farmer, will use the auto; while the rich man, who can afford it, will have his horses and carriages. Now, the average farmer can, nowadays, afford to and does keep a driving horse and wagon.

In this "golden age (?) " that Mr. Rittenhouse sees ahead, the farmer cannot afford to do this, but must put up with an evil-smelling motor car. If the autos supplant the horse, as he predicts, they (the horses) must decline in value. And if a farmer can afford a horse now, when it is worth from two to three hundred dollars, and cannot afford one when it is worth from only one hundred dollars, or less, I, for one, cannot see how his position will have improved.

E. R. Y.

THE BETTER CLASS OF FARMERS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We have taken your paper but a short time, but we like it very much, and, I expect, will take it in future years. On reading the article entitled "Rural Districts Should be the First Care," it made me feel a little indignant at the picture Mr. J. H. Burns drew of the average farmer. It is very surprising to me that Mr. Burns, after, as he says, having spent the greater part of his life among farmers, finds his lot to have been cast among the lower classes. You will find that class of people in city, village, town and hamlet, as well as among farmers, who do not keep themselves clean. We call them the lower classes; we do not class them with the average farmer. It's strange Mr. Burns has not spent some portion of his life among the better class of people. Mr. Burns speaks of the unbearable winters on the farm. Now, we find the winters very pleasant. We have our social gatherings among ourselves, and have a very pleasant time in general. In regard to the condition of the roads, we have had some very great storms this winter, and, while the storm was continuing, of course, we could not go out; nor did we want to. But, as soon as the storm is over, farmers turn out, each in his own district, and open the roads, and traffic goes on as merrily as before. Speaking of winter profits, we do not expect much profit in the winter; the good, smart farmer will make enough in the summer to keep him very comfortably in the winter. And as for the manure pile, that makes a splendid land fertilizer for the next year's crop, and the larger the pile, the more land it will cover. As for ill-ventilated homes, where will you find purer air than you can get in the country? In the country where I live, we have just as modern homes, with just as good ventilation as they have in the city homes; and, as for disease, where will you find as little of it as in the country? Mr. Burns surprises me by the picture he draws of the average farmer. He speaks of the farmer going to the city in the winter. I'm very much in doubt if you could induce one of our farmers to spend a winter in the city. Where will you find a man more free from care than the farmer in the winter, with his store of food laid by, his stock of fuel laid away, business all settled; nothing to do but to take care of his stock, which is pleasant work when you have a good modern barn like the farmers have in our district; plenty of