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STOCK.

them scratching for some time. The exercise thus obtained is especially good during the winter months, as it keeps the birds warm and thrifty. Green food should be kept constantly before the fowls during the winter months. A mangel tied on a string or spiked on a nail to the wall will be relished by the birds. Beef scraps, cooked offal or ground bone should be fed liberally about three times a week, but decayed meat should never be used. Grit should be kept constantly before the birds at all times. Oyster shells or clam shells are also essential. Pure water is an absolute necessity if strictly fresh eggs are desirable.

Wheat is one of the best grains for the poultry plant, though some poultrymen claim it to be an expensive food. However, when the net results are balanced up, poultrymen in British Columbia can readily afford to use this valuable grain. Since it is a staple of human food, the price of good wheat usually rules high as compared with other grains. Wheat of poor quality, broken wheat, frozen wheat, and good wheat screenings are as good as the very finest milling wheats for poultry feeding.

Oats make a good poultry food, but when poor in quality the percentage of hull is sometimes very large and such oats are not very palatable or digestible, hence should not be used. When fed dry or in a mash they are more relished by the birds. Sprouting the oats by soaking them for about twenty-four hours increases their palatability. Oatmeal or rolled oats make a good food for young chicks, and ground oats without the hull is excellent for fattening fowls.

Barley, like oats, has a large percentage of hull, but it is a valuable food.

Ground buckwheat is relished, and, owing to its fattening qualities makes a good winter feed. Buckwheat is largely used in some districts, some poultrymen claiming it to be a great egg-producing food.

Corn is one of the most commonly used of all grains, especially in the great corn belts. Corn is rich in fat and forms an excellent food when used with other grains. Cracked corn is good as a chick food, while cornmeal is a good fattening food, though it tends to produce the undesirable yellow flesh.

Dry Mash Feeding.—This system is practised by many of the most successful poultrymen. In this method the mash is kept before the fowls at all times in hoppers, as shown in Figs. 7 and 9.