

mature rapidly; at first sight their creed catches the eye of the majority. They are troubled less with the different diseases than most any other breed of poultry, and stand cold weather well, owing to the large amount of blood constantly in circulation through the comb which gives them a great advantage over single comb fowl. The Red Caps are finding great favor in America, and the demand for them is constantly increasing as their valuable qualities become more generally known, and records point to the fact that there are as good Red Caps in Canada at present as to be had in America. Persons desiring this beautiful feathered fowl, with its proud and erect carriage can find advertisements of the different breeders in the poultry journals. We have heard of a Red Cap breeder in Canada who had a Red Cap cockerel and four pullets, and in the months of February, March, April, and May, (a total of one hundred and twenty days) he received 373 eggs, being over three eggs every day from the four pullets. This record beats anything we have heard of from any other variety of fowls. As grain is at such a low price we feel satisfied that if our farmers would take up a flock of good poultry, such as the Red Caps, and feed their grain or at least a portion of it, they would make a great profit in this way. Farmers and others feed stock to perfection, and take care of it. Why not do the same with your poultry, in which there is more money than in horses or cattle or any other farm production?

POULTRY FOR PROFIT ON THE FARM.

BY MR. JOHN GRAY, TODMORDEN.

IN dealing with the above subject I feel that I should forget for the time being that I am a breeder of fancy poultry and give only a true, straight opinion as to what I consider the most profitable fowl for farm purposes, consequently I will endeavor to evade as much as possible the common error most poultrymen make when writing up poultry articles, of seeing only the acme of perfection for any use in one particular breed. In the first place I do not consider that any variety of thoroughbred fowls kept straight are the best for the farmer. There is a great difference between the average farmer and the poultry-fancier. The latter must of necessity keep pure bred stock, and exhibit the same to win an measure of success; besides this, as a rule the fancier has very little room to raise stock on, and consequently must endeavor to raise quality from a feather point of view in order to obtain any reasonable benefit from keeping fowls. The farmer, on the other hand, has unlimit-

ed space and can afford to raise large numbers of fowls for market purposes, a branch of his farming which, if properly managed, is bound to give him as good or better returns than any other on the farm. The question that presents itself is, what are the most profitable classes of poultry for the farmer to keep, hens, geese or turkeys?

Before going farther I will give my reasons for saying that I do not believe any variety of fancy poultry, so bred, best for the farmer. The farmer's fowls must necessarily be of a hardy constitution, as in nine cases out of ten they are not given the comfortable quarters or careful attention given by the poultry fancier to his flock. Again, in-breeding certainly deteriorates utility and all varieties of fancy fowls are more or less in-bred. Besides this the farmer is not so likely to be as careful as a fancier in his selection of male birds for out-breeding, so that his variety of fancy fowls would in all probability in a few years dwindle into a flock of miniature culls, and be of no use whatever as a fancy fowl and very little good for any other purpose. Living as I do in the midst of farmers I can assure you that very few farmers are imbued with the spirit of the fancier and could not be convinced that there is any money in going to all the care and trouble which most poultry fanciers must necessarily go to, to win any measure of success. A hardy, quick-maturing fowl is the most suitable for the farm, therefore I would recommend as a start a Wyandotte cock on Plymouth Rock hens or pullets as a foundation of a flock of fowls for that purpose. Each year I would suggest a strong vigorous cock, Plymouth Rock and Wyandotte alternately to keep up the quality. About every fourth year I would use Leghorn cocks to these cross bred hens to aid the egg product. I will venture to say no flock of pure bred fowls will give the same satisfaction as birds bred in this manner, for besides keeping up in size and hardness they will show none of the weaknesses high bred fowls are subject to.

It will be seen by this that while I do not advocate fancy fowls for the farmer I believe in the use of thoroughbred males to keep up table and other qualities. Why? Because on the American continent a yellow-legged, yellow-skinned fowl is the most marketable and that is why I favor the varieties named. Besides having these qualities the Wyandotte and Rock are great winter layers, and the Leghorns would help to check a little their tendency to incubate and help considerably the egg product in summer. Moreover should a mongrel male be used or even a thoroughbred male with dark legs the flock would at once become inferior for table purposes.

Having given what I consider the most useful varieties for the the farm, and my reasons, I would advise the farmer to watch the market to dispose of his stock to the best advantage. Very little work can be done on the farm during February, March and even April, so that the farmer could devote some of his spare time to raising spring chickens which could be marketed at ten weeks old at extra good prices, and form a very profitable business while the crops are growing. It is a great mistake to raise late chickens for market purposes, during April, May and June. Spring chickens ten weeks old will sell readily at 75 and 80 cents a pair; whereas chickens hatched as they usually are on