EGGS IN WINTER

HOW TO SEGURE THEM WHEN THEY PAY THE BEST.

"Timber Topper's" Answer to the Question, "How Am I Going to Supply the Table With Eggs This Winter ?"

It occurred to me that possibly some would like to know our plans to get "buckle and strap" to meet with the above named problem. By "our" I mean Cinderella and myself. She is director general of the food department and chancellor of the exchequer, She has all her own way and a part of mine, too, so we get on first rate in this chicken business, while the hens can get plenty of grasshoppers and worms about the island, but when cold weather comes, and the old hens have not got on winter clothes, the above question comes down on us like a trip hammen.

Inquiries have been made on the mainland among those who inform us that they get most eggs from Thanks-giving to the end of February. After that they seems to slacken off a bit. After listening to the different views expressed and making mental notes of the different materials used to produce eggs in winter it strikes me very forcibly that the eggs from the different places must vary in flavor. I know they vary in age because some of them were laid in April and May, but they were new laid eggs "for a" that and a' that," although the cool could not posch them without bursting the yolk. Are the eggs the result of proper feeding? We think so. It would be as reasonable for me to put our best Jersey cow "Old Grace" on the lee side of a rail fence, and to the windward of a straw stack in midwinter, and expect her to supply us with milk and butter as it would be to keep the hens in a place where the mercury was trying to knock out the bottom of the thermometer tubes, and feed them on frozen corn and gravel. No butter in the churn in one case and no eggs in the basket in the other Cinderella and I have come to the

conclusion that, hens like good food as well as we do, and also, like ourselves, they fancy it nice, fresh and warm in winter. When the cold weather sets in all the potato, apple and turnip peclings, celery tops, table scraps, etc., are put on the fire in the evening and boiled. I bring in as much bran and middlings or bran and Indian meal as my flock can eat up clean, and look for a little more. Pour the water, peelings and all, on. Stir it up and put a cover on, leave it behind the stove until morning where it keeps nice and warm. Feed both flocks, and give them a pan of skim milk nicely warmed, when it is to be had, or a pan of lukewarm water to drink; throw them a dozen hard frozen apples or pears to keep them busy trying to get a piece, which is good exercise for them. When the earth is under a winter quilt I shovel a small clear space just in front of the door and when the sun shines on the south end of the house. about 12 o'clock, the door is thrown open and any that wish can come out for half an hour just for a change. It is so good to see them enjoy the sun bath through the window when they go in. On their return they are treated to about a quart of wheat and oats or cracked corn thrown into the mixture of dry leaves chopped, musty hay from the bottom of stacks and some buckwheat hulls, then the fun commences. They are all as busy as nailers, when really there are not half a dozen grains for each one. That keeps them going for the afternoon. In their morning meal they get a

coal once or twice a week, and a little animal meal, I don't know what that is composed of; I hope it is not like some fertilizer I once was persuaded to buy, three parts New Jersey red sand, the other part Hudson River muck and smelling salts. I don't buy guano any more. We are well supplied with the best "Plymouth Rock" straight, mixed with land plaster. Damming a Stream to Secure Ice.

handful of sulphur and a little char-

There are hundreds of farms through which small streams flow. These could easily be dammed and a supply of ice obtained that would be a great source of comfort during the hot summer months. Judgment must be exercised in selecting a place where the least height of sam will flow the largest



INEXPENSIVE ICE POND.

space. Drive down stakes and prop them against the current. Then board against the stakes, and caulk the cracks. One could hardly get so much benefit for so little labor as in this way of securing a supply of ice for ramily usa

Charcoal and Turkeys.

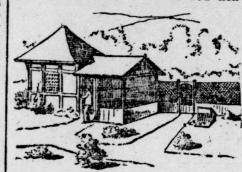
"Four turkeys were confined in a pen and fed on meal, boiled potatoes and oats," writes a poultry expert to an exchange. "Four others of the same brood were at the same time confined in another pen and fed daily on the same article, but with one pint of very finely pulverized charcoal mixed with their food-mixed meal and boiled potatoes. They had also a plentiful supply of broken charcoal in their pen. The eight were killed the same day, and there was a difference of one and a half pounds each, in favor of fowls which had been supplied with charcoal, they being much the fattest, and the meat being superfor in point of terderness and flavor."

M. Piltschikeff, in describing recent photographs of lightning, names three types of flash: Band-lightning, tubelightning and waterspout lightning.
The first two he found to socur in all storms; the third he met with once cniy. From the measured width of the band-lightning on photographs, and the computed distance, he estimates the actual widths to be from about fifteen to eighty yards -Popular Sci-

FANCIER'S POULTRY HOUSE.

Fifty Hens Ought to Furnish Eggs for a Family the Winter Through.

Pcultry keeping presents no greater source of profit than the winter egg supply. Fifty hens ought to furnish groceries for an average family the winter through, They will do this all summer, when eggs are worth half a cent apiece, and why not in the winter, when eggs oftentimes reach four times that price? Poor hens, fat hens, lazy hens, or rather improper food which makes them such, will hinder egg production; but the best of food given in the most approved way will not produce eggs unless the hens are provided with comfortable quarters. Horses, cattle, hogs, are well provided for, but the hons-well, they're only hens and don't amount to much anyway. Don't amount to much? "I have sold \$90 worth of eggs since Jan. 1," said a neighbor on an early spring day: 100 hens bringing the value of a half dozen bogs, and the hens left. This result was produced by a warm sod hen-



A FANCIER'S POULTRY HOUSE.

house, and sunny nooks in convenient straw piles, in addition to judicious treatment. There was no extra expense, and this is the point I want to make. Comfort can be secured with little outlay.

"Yes, my hens never lay in the winter, so I pack for my own use in the fall," a friend said recently. Quite a centrast to the above, but who could wonder? About the same number of hens crowded into a light board 8x10 house on a well-improved farm, too, There is no one so poor or no farm so destitute that a few dozen hens cannot be comfortably housed. Corn fodder can be set up around a board house or a few posts and boards can be covered with straw, making a place where the hens will delight to pick and scratch holes in the straw. There'll be eggs in some of these holes. Temporary additions can be made in this way if the houses are small. I want such a one with a south exposure, where the chicks can hunt for their grain this winter, with the hen house floor a foot and a half above ground. I have a hole in the floor where the hens can go and dig in the dirt. There will be ear corn there for them to labor with. They must have employment of some

ORIGIN OF PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

Said to Be a Cross Between a Dominique Cock and Java Hen.

A woman in Texas writes as follow Will you please inform me of the origin of the Barred and White Plymouth Rocks? I have bred both for some time, but never have found out their origin, with the exception of the Langshan, I have kept other kinds of fowl, but, the Plymouth Rocks are the best lay-

The origin of all breeds, except perhaps, the Golden Wyandotte, is clouded in mystery. The originator of this variety tells us how he made them. And, as he lives now, and we have his word for it, we are certain that we have authentic and positive information as to the origin of this one breed. But who originated the grand Barred Plymouth Rock?

Here is a fowl originated in the lifetime of many people living to-day, and yet the oldest breeders, right in the section where the Plymouth Rock is supposed to have originated, are totally unable to teil of its origin, or who really perfected it. Even so old and distinguished a breeder as I. K. Felch can not tell. And Wallace, in his book on Barred and White Plymouth Pocks, is unable to tell what our correspondent asks. We quote from Wallace, as follows:

"The Plymouth is said to have originated from a cross between a Dominique cock and Black Java hen." The present Plymouth Rock is in no wise connected only in name, to the fowl produced by Dr. Bennett. Who originated the modern Plymouth Rock is a matter of dispute. Giles. Drake, Ramsdell and Upham are mentioned, but to whom the honor is due will perhaps forever remain unknown. Such a state of affairs should not exist. To say that the origin of a fowl made right in our midst, and but recently, can not be told is amazing. But, when it comes to the White Plymouth Rock, we have semething more authentic. Mr. Wallace says this variety originated with Mr. O. F. Frost of Maine, about 16 years ago, dating from 1888, when his book was written, and that is an offshoot of the Barred Rock. He claims it to be a sport-a sport from the Barred variety. And that is all we know of the origin of the White Plymouth Rock. The origin of the Java is unknown. We know nothing of the origin of the modern American Dominique, or the Silver Wyandottes. One thing is pretty sure. The Barred Plymouth Rock owes its origin to the old Dominiques and Black Javas. But the originator of this great fowl will never have his name handed down to fame and posterity.

About Artichokes. In order to add to a variety of cheap home-grown feed for hogs, I concluded to try artichokes. I planted a bushel last spring and raised something like a hundrd bushels. I do not know how much nutriment there was in them. but hogs enjoy them, and I think they are good for them. I had thought of planting on a larger scale next spring, but I notice in Farm and Fireside an editorial condemning them as pests of which one cannot rid his land. do not care for their being hard to kill out on the particular spot where they are planted, for if they are of real value I can afford to give them a permanent place, but if they are at : 1 inclined to spread to adjoining fields. I do not want many of them. I would like to r from any one who knows about t and especially those who perience.

TO CONSTRUCT A CELLAR WALL

Illustrations Showing How the Work May Be Properly and Improperly Done.

The firmness of a house depends upon the immovable character of the foundation upon which it rests. A great amount of labor is frequently expended in constructing cellar walls by laying them very wide and heavy and using immense stones. Where soil is heavy and contains considerable clay, it retains a great deal of moisture, and the lifting effect of deep freezing of the ground is likely to throw even heavy walls out of place. Fig. 1 shows a section of a wall in this way. The irregular ends of the stone being deep-

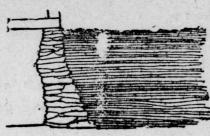


FIG. 1 POORLY CONSTRUCTED.

ly imbedded in the earth back of the wall, when the ground freezes it takes firm hold of them, and by expansion lifts that portion already frozen to the wall, throwing it out of the perpendicular. There is a way of overcoming this difficulty, and of building a cellar wall which will not only remain firm for all time, but which requires less material and less labor in its construction, and which is shown in Fig. 2. After making the excavation for the cellar, prepare for the wall by first setting scantlings, a, about six feet apart around the outside. For an ordinary house the lower ends of these stakes should be set in the ground two feet back of where it is intended the front of the wall shall be, the top being slanted so that eight feet from the bottom of the cellar it shall be 16 inches further in than the lower end.

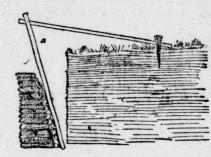


FIG. 2. PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED WALLS. This will give a width to the wall of

eight inches at the top, where the sill rests. The tops of all these scantling must be securely stay-lathed to stakes in the ground. Board up the inside with cheap lumber, fastening the boards lightly with small nails. In laying the walls use good blocky stones, but not larger than can be handled readily by one man. The wall should not be laid quite back to the boards, but a little space should be left which, as the work proceeds, must be filled. For this purpose use cement mixed with fine, sharp sand at the rate of one part cement to three parts sand. Mix this pretty thin, shovel it into the space and fill with small stones well pounded in. The cement will run into the wall somewhat and give it great firmness and solidity. As a matter of convenience it is best to keep the wall itself one or two courses higher all the time than the filling back of it. The front may be pointed up, after the wall is completed, with lime mortar in which cement has been slaked to make it hard and waterproof. When the wall is completed the frame may be taken out and the boards used in the building, for sheathing or other pur-poses. The space behind the wall should then be filled with arth, which is to be well tamped. As will be seen, the earth now rests against a smooth, sloping, waterproof surface, on which the frozen soil can have no effect, and no amoun of earth lifting by deep freezing will have the least effect on it. Not only that, but the whole wall being joined together in one piece, the building will be literally founded on a rock.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Turpentine is considered a good remedy for lung worms in sheep.

A comfortable house for the ducks is one of the first things to be provided to insure successful raising.

Breeding gives the profit, as is shown in cattle for beef. A Galloway and shorthorn steer, recently raised in Scotland, at two years and 11 months old weighed 2016 pounds on the hoof. He was raised on pasture (no grain), with turnips and straw in winter. The weight could have been increased by high feeding, At present prices of beef in this country the steer would have sold for \$75 or perhaps more, according to quality.

The Guernsey comes from the smaller island of the same name, about 20 miles from Jersey. The cattle are of the same origin. They are larger, averaging perhaps 950 pounds, more angular, with a stronger appearance. Less attention has been given to color in their breeding. While markings are common'; yellowish fawn is a common co'or, The cows give milk in about equal quantity and of equal richness with that of the Jersey, the butter having a somewhat higher color. The writer believes it would have been a gain if American breeders had classed the two breeds as one.

The Holstein-Friesian stands second in number of the dairy breeds in the United States. It comes from Holland and adjoining countries. White and black in any proportion are the colors recognized in this country. Occasionally pure-bred cows produce red and white calves. The breed is a large one, cows of 1300 to 1500 pounds being commonly found. They are frequently somewhat coarse in form and bony structure. Perhaps no breed gives a larger quantity of milk; usually with a moderate percentage of fat. Claims of a good degree of merit for beef production are made of this breed. The calves are often very large when dropped and heavy weights can be made during the first year.

The Missionary's Power. "Did the missionary bring tears to the eyes of the natives?" "No; but he made their mouths water."—Detroit Tribune.

PROF. BELL OF THE CANADIAN SURVEY, FINDS A STREAM OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE

In a Valuable Territory--- Navigable In Large Stretches For Steamboats and Hai a Depth of Forty Feet--- May Be the Nile

Professor R. Bell, of the Canadian Geological Survey, has just returned from an extensive exploring expedition, and has the following to say in regard to the discovery of a great river almost due north of Ottawa:

"The Government was desirous of filling up the great blank space on the map to the south and south-east of James Bay, and directed me to proceed with the work," he said. "This space represents the only large unexplored area in the southern or valuable part of the Domin-

"The existence of this blank up to this year was rather a reflection on our geo-

MIGHTY RIVER, wide enough to allow my cances to pass. "But it soon entered a good sized lake, and after that tributaries fell in from east and west till it became a big river. "An assistant of mine in 1887 had surveyed a portion of this stream, and had heard some vague accounts of a great river to the north, of which this was one of the heads. I began my instrumental survey where my assistant had left off and carried it on all the way to the mouth and thence along the sea above, to Rupert's House, in order to tie it on to a fixed point at the other end.

"Our river had now become larger than the upper Ottawa. Below this several large tributaries join it from the west. This part of the stream has an average depth of forty feet, and it is seldom interrupted by falls or rapids, so that long stretches of it would be navigable by steamboats.

"In all this part of the river there is only one human inhabitant-a lone Indian who came over from the Abitibi country a few years ago and took possession of a hunting ground the size of several ordinary counties. I had fortunately fallen in with this Indian when at Grand Lake, whither he had come to trade his furs to the agent of the Hud-



graphical enterprise. This area is larger than the settled portions of either Ontario or Quebec and considerably larger than the State of New York. I found that it all belongs to the drainage area of a single river, which was consequently very large in a country where the rainfall is so

"This river turns out to be one of the the east end of this lake, and the united leading geographical features of the waters discharge by a great river flowing Dominion, and it seems almost incredi- out about the m ble that it should have remained unknown till now. One reason for this is the fact that it is not used for transportation by the Hudson Bay Company. The great tract of country which it drains is valuable for agriculture, being mostly south of England in latitude, and having a nearly level surface, with good soil and very little rock.

"Speaking generally, my route was as direct as possible from Ottawa city to the south-eastern extremity of James Bay, and it was the first time that such a journey has been attempted. With two large birch bark cances, manned by crews of strong Indians, I ascended the Gatineau River, which enters the Ottawa near this city, and some of its branches, till I reached the head waters of the Ottawa. The height of land between the basin of the St. Lawrence and that of Hudson Bay passes close to Grand Lake, on the Upper Ottawa. Crossing this great divide by portaging from one lake

to another, I struck a small stream, just

son Bay Company, and he acted as guide as far as he knew the country. "About half way between the watershed and the mouth our river falls into which lies at right angles to the course of the river. A large branch from the ast, called the Waswanipi, falls into

'My Indian guide turned back from this lake, as he had never travelled further. He told me he had heard from other Indians that the big river did not fall into Rupert Bay, which, however, did not prove correct.

"On Mattakami Lake we found an old one-eyed Indian who had only this summer come from the Abitibi country, and could give us no information about the great river we were to descend to the sea. We were thenceforward obliged to depend upon ourselves, and we succeeded in reaching James Bay in safety, thanks

to the skill of my Indians. "With the exception of some small tracts the whole country is covered with the original forest. Game was unaccountably scarce, but fish were plentiful in all the lakes and streams. On reaching Rupert's House we crossed the bay in a schooner of the Hudson Bay Company to Moose Factory, and thence ascended the western branch of the Moose River to the Canadian Pacific Railway.'

PEARY'S ESQUIMAU DOGS. THERE IS NOT

Five fierce, wolfish-looking visitors arrived at the Central Fark menagerie vesterday morning. They are esquimau dogs which were brought back with the Peary Who has not read of the relief expedition, and which have been placed on view at the park by the National History Museum authorities, to whom

they were consigned. One of the number is a dog whose career certainly entitles him to much consideration. He is distinctly the worst looking beast of the lot, and he displayed a miserably coward spirit when his companions, in their rough-and-tumble fight over bones which Keeper Snyder fed to them, trod

upon him and bit his ears.

He just rolled over and howled a wolfish note, long drawn out, which caused the lioness next door to pace excitedly up and down her cage.

Snow Cap—this is his name, probably because there is nothing white about him, not even a single hair !- was one of an uncommonly good pack of picked sledge dogs, forty-one in number, with which Lieut. Peary set off on his arctic quest.

The dog is to the snow fields what the camel is to the desert. He is the arctic explorer's only hope of "getting there," and when he ceases to be of use as a loco-motive power, he becomes food for the expedition, both for man and the other dogs who have more staying power.

Snow Cap proved the best out of forty. and is the only uneaten dog of that yelping snarling, howling pack. They set off gayly-anywhere from five to a dozen dogs hitched to a sledge. They were harnessed somewhere in the fashion of my lady's pet pug when she takes the air; but the straps crossed over their shaggy breasts, and the leashes of different lengths, from 10 to 17 feet (which were gathered and knotted together and hitched to the fore of the sled), were of rough sealskin strips.

Forty dogs and their accouterments were devoured on that northern trip. They began to lag and lie down exhausted, one by one, when they were slain. Two days before the party reached the Two days before the party reached the goal on its return the fortieth dog fell by LEE HING the way and was consumed by men and beast. The men were tempted to fall upon "Snow Cap" afterward during the ensuing forty-eight hours. They had no food, and barely strength enough to crawl over that last twenty miles. But the forty-first dog clung to his human companions with a dumb confidence they could not bring themselves to betray. So Snow Cap's life was spared, and he has become an exhibit.

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