

really promising pullet to the ordinary eye will prove to be a failure from the egg-laying point of view.

"But to return for a moment to the Utility Poultry Club. Some writers have vigorously criticized the wisdom of such competition, but, granting for the moment they do no good, what harm do they do? But surely they do good if they only make some poultry-owners devote their energies to breeding for eggs instead of feathers or combs, and some fancy point. It is the custom of some Minorca-breeders to remove the comb from the stock bird, since that appendage has grown so big as to inconvenience the bird. What can be more nonsensical than to breed birds with such combs. Again in the Houdan, so popular in France, breeders here go for the crest, striving to get it as large as possible, and the utility points are neglected."



How to Cross-Breed Poultry

By Samuel Cushman

If your market calls for yellow poultry you must not select stock that does not produce such offspring. Some dark breeds, when mated with white breeds, produce white or very light chickens. White and buff fowls are to be preferred. If you are to raise brown, for some markets demand them, you must not keep pure breeds of the non-sitting varieties. You may cross them with the breeds that lay brown eggs and get excellent stock that produce brown eggs. If you cross for brown eggs, mate White Leghorns or Buff Cochins rather than Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks, as the result will be much better.

If you cross for egg production, mate compact, yellow-legged Games, white or light colored birds preferred, with stocky Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks, with Light Brahmas or Buff Cochins. Both Cornish and Indian Games, which are slow growers, Houdans, which are quick growers, have full flesh development, but dark plumage, and they may be mated with Light Brahmas, Buff Cochins, or Wyandottes, with good results.

The best pure breeds for white eggs where yellow poultry is a consideration are White Leghorns (large strain), and White Plymouth Rocks (white egg strain). If you cross for white eggs try the White Minorca-White Leghorn cross.

When dark legs and white skin are not objected to, keep Black Minorcas for large white eggs, and Black Langshans, which are handy for deep brown eggs. A Black Minorca-Langshan cross is probably the best cross for egg-production, if size and number of eggs and hardiness only are considered. Houdans are for flesh. Indian Games and Dorking cocks may be crossed on Langshans with good results if your market does not require yellow poultry.

CORRESPONDENCE

Seed Growth and Selection

To the Editor of FARMING:

I was particularly pleased with your comments on questions raised by Commissioner Prof. Robertson in your issue of June 27th. Mr. Robertson is undoubtedly right in advocating the selection of the best varieties of seeds suited to the country or district, and the continued proper manuring and cultivation, together with seed selection, of the variety selected in the locality, in preference to the far-fetched theory of seed changing. You point out some facts I have long tried to establish in our farmers' minds, viz., that crops require an abundance of all round fertility, but produce large root and foliage, or abundance of seed or fruit, accordingly as they have access to an excess of the element which produces one or the other. In other words, quantity and quality are controllable, and the limit of crop production is unknown, notwithstanding all the expensive experimentation of our stations. But, as you ob-

serve, the question of quantity of grain obtainable is intensely practical, so that the supply of nitrogenous manure is tremendously important. It is here that the great value of clover manuring lies, and clover supplemented with phosphate is undoubtedly the best preparation for quantity and quality of wheat yield. With the increasing population of the world, and consequent demand for food, we are brought face to face with a serious question, so serious indeed that Sir Wm. Crooks called special attention to it at the meeting of the British American Society. I think that too much time and money is expended in trying to demonstrate proven facts, and I believe more practical benefit would be gained by expounding and illustrating the principles of agriculture than in giving object lessons in the detail practices of farming, which every farmer must work out for himself according to his conditions.

It is a grand thing for Canada that we have a Commissioner of Agriculture who is outspoken and fearless in referring to the very department in which he presides, and the directors of our stations should gladly welcome his candid words. I venture to say that the great majority of thinking farmers in Canada are in accord with the Commissioner, and are glad to accept him as their spokesman. As I understand it, he does not condemn the quality of work done by the experimental farms, but thinks it is not directed in the most useful channels. The farmers want plain talk on this subject, and I hope to see it thoroughly thrashed out. In all I may say on this subject I want it understood that I do not attack Prof. Saunders, for whom we all must have great respect, but the public welfare is far more important than any individual.

T. C. WALLACE.

Toronto, Ont., July 4th, 1899.



Crop and Market Conditions on Prince Edward Island

To the Editor of FARMING:

We are having splendid growing weather for the past week, light showers nearly every day with bursts of hot sunshine. The medium and late sown grain is doing splendid, the early sown is greatly retarded by weed growth, the weather being so cold and dry during May. Potatoes are shooting out well and the stand of early potatoes is very good. The patch of potatoes planted on the Island this season is not so large as usual, owing probably to the high prices and scarcity of the seed and the inability of a great many to purchase at so high a price; what is planted, however, I believe is in much better land, and the aggregate, with continued good growing weather, may next fall be as large as usual. Turnips have come up well, for the weather was all that could be desired and the heath is exceedingly large. Pastures are now showing up quite good with the natural outcome, a very large flow of milk going into the factories these days. Dairy farmers are now feeling quite jubilant. Some sales of cheese were made lately at 8½c., some factories are looking for 8½c. The Dairy Board will meet for business on the 12th and a good many sales "on Board" are looked for. While I do not think the volume of milk is much if any larger just yet than last year, though there are three new factories in operation, yet if this splendid growing weather continues the increase of milk at factories will soon be quite perceptible, and the price at this time is withal much better. No doubt the drought in New England States will affect the market in both butter and cheese to the benefit of the more favored countries. The markets are now quite dull, little or no farm products moving. Since the advent of low prices for eggs our people pay little or no attention to poultry. The egg market has declined in the last five years fully 60 per cent.

J. A. McDONALD

Hermanville, P.E.I., July 1st, 1899