

cattle are eating their heads off. If the Government would offer to send a fine pair of pigs to any farmer who sent for them every farmer in the land would send in his name. Then why not get some fish, when they cost you nothing? I wish every paper in the land would urge this matter on their readers, as I know they would be conferring a lasting benefit.

Commencing to Keep Fancy Poultry.

BUYING EGGS OR STOCK.

For the beginner these two roads lie open, and some choose one some the other, but before starting on either careful consideration should be given as to which breed is to be kept. Many send for settings of eggs of three or four kinds and say they will try them and decide which they will keep, with the general result (as they are trying to do too much at once) of getting the breeds mixed or finding the work too heavy, it being more than twice the work to keep 20 hens, 10 each of different breeds, than 20 of one, as each breed has its peculiarities which have to be studied and remembered, as what suits one may hurt the other.

The beginner should carefully consider the different breeds and if he has a predilection for any one stick to it; all have their useful or ornamental qualifications.

After selecting the breed he should take time to consider the best way to begin, either by buying eggs or birds; if the former, he will find dealers advertising at all prices, from \$1 to \$6 per setting, and according to the advertisements the first are equal to the last. Now, I have seen it stated that it sometimes happens that the one dollar man has purchased eggs from the six dollar man and is selling eggs from the chicks raised from the six dollar eggs, and that therefore the one dollar eggs are as good and cheaper. To this I take exception; firstly, the \$6 eggs were all fertilized by the same Cock, which was probably mated with only five or six hens, so that of the thirteen eggs three were sure to be from one hen, and if the chicks are again in-bred there will probably be deterioration in size or strength, or in some other way. Again, if a breeder asks a high price for his eggs it is either because he, through long experience, has learned to mate his birds to throw a large percentage of good chicks or has purchased a pen which has been judged to be so mated, and yet experience teaches that only about 10 per cent. of chicks raised, if that, are what can, from a scientific breeders point of view, be called fit for a good breeding pen, so that the man who purchases a setting of \$6 eggs and then breeds in and sells his eggs for \$1 or \$1.50 is not the right man to buy from as a rule, though he may have been lucky and got good chicks, still he is in-breeding and if there is any slight defect (not a disqualification even) in the original \$6 stock, and no bird is perfect, he is perpetuating and intensifying it by this in-breeding, which is the stumbling block of many would-be breeders who

start well, having good birds of their own raising they do not like to pay out for new blood.

From the foregoing it will be supposed that I advise purchasing high priced fowls and yet I do not say so, as the outlay is considerable for a beginner. What I advise is this, let him carefully consider the different advertisements and place his order with some of those who keep the breed of his choice and *that one breed only*, then he can be sure the eggs are not mixed and, that the seller in all probability has thoroughly studied and understands the habits and requirements of his birds. Let the would-be buyer pick out two or more such men and get a setting of eggs from each, mark his chicks by punching the web of the foot and mate his birds carefully next season without in-breeding, after which he can infuse new blood by the purchase of a cockerel or cock, always raising his own pullets, or he can buy eggs and keep a cockerel from the chicks.

Imported stock costs very high, and eggs from such are generally quoted at \$5 and \$6 per setting, but there are plenty of reliable breeders who sell eggs from \$2 to \$3 per 13 and they are the men to buy from! Carefully selected stock cannot be profitably kept and eggs sold for lower prices.

Again I say most emphatically place your orders where one breed is kept and thorough attention given to that one only.

J. STEWART KENNEDY,
Cowansville, Quebec.

For Farmers.

Editor Review:

DEAR SIR,—Whilst riding out in the country a few days since, the sight of numerous old straw stacks, and that which so gladdens the farmer's heart—the thickly standing corn shocks, set us thinking to the extent such material could be utilized for the comfort of poultry. Instead of the killing cold and usually open shed what delightfully warm quarters at little, if any, expense could be constructed therefrom—and how cheerfully would the old hens shell out their eggs during the cold days of winter to repay the builder of such for his trouble and kindness. In my mind's eye I had built a comfortable, if not beautiful, winter house for the fowls of each farmer as I passed along. The more I thought of and worked out the idea the better I liked it, and but for the fact that our fowls already possessed a good, comfortable, paper-lined home, I would have put the thought into practical use at once. As it is, I cannot refrain from telling your many readers of our cogitations (how in our mind we constructed said houses for the fowls of our neighbors) trusting that *they* may find some good therein and the so-doing may prove of benefit to *their* feathered pets. Selecting such site as we thought best suited for each location, generally a nice sunny knoll facing the south, we set up four strong, heavy posts (either in square form or like unto an inverted V) of