

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(LIVE STOCK BRANCH - POULTRY DIVISION)

Chicken-pox in Poultry.

Preventive Suggestions based on Practical Experiments.

BY H. E. LIDON, ASSOCIATE, PROVINCIAL POULTRY INSPECTOR.



CHICKEN POX and the many other infections usually running in conjunction with it, termed diphtheritic roup, canker, and swollen head, is a disease of which poultrymen of this Province should have a more intimate knowledge. As long as this affection stays on the skin of the head very little trouble is given. Many attempts have been made to keep this disease in check, and the officials of the Poultry Division have worked hard to get it under absolute control. As it is liable to affect any or every poultry breeder in this Province, it is the duty of all to do their best to keep it from spreading by taking preventive measures.

Owing to the fact that a number of careless poultry keepers are often inclined to allow birds that have died of this disease to lie on the manure-heap or somewhere near the poultry-run, it has managed to get a firm hold on some flocks. Others have purchased fowls that were affected with this trouble, thereby infecting the other healthy stock on their places. Pigeons and other birds have been allowed to walk on the ground that has been contaminated, and thus carry the germs of the disease away with them. In many cases the disease has been brought in this way to poultry plants which were previously quite free from it. Wherever this practice has been noticed the owners of the affected stock have been warned to destroy the bodies of dead birds, and as far as possible to prevent smaller birds coming in close contact with the stock suffering from roup.

Various experimental stations have proved that fowls raised from the time of hatching on ground where no other poultry or pigeons have been not develop this disease, though it may easily be brought in from infected flocks contracted from wild birds by the latter treading on the ground and spreading the infection.

Owing to lack of knowledge on the part of many poultry keepers the presence of an attack of diphtheritic roup is often not noticed until some of the birds die. Even after the death of one or two birds the disease is sometimes passed over owing to the fact that the poultryman often fails to make a post-mortem examination or because he does not recognize the symptoms and effects of the disease.