

Where are Your Roosters?

Judging from reports which come to hand from time to time regarding the large numbers of stale and bad eggs which are marketed, too many farmer poultry-keepers are not acting upon the good advice of experienced poulterers, and removing the male birds as soon as the breeding season is over. Of course, most farmers do not attempt to raise chickens as early in the season as do fanciers and those making poultry-keeping a specialty, but every keeper should by this time have all the 1914 crop of chickens hatched and growing well. There is no excuse on most places for the male birds to be with the hens through the remaining hot days of summer. Far better would it be to take their heads off and enjoy a chicken pot-pie some day. If the cock birds are too valuable for this, shut them away from the hens and keep them away. Everyone that has ever kept hens has had more or less trouble with hens stealing their nests away in long grass, around lumber and post piles, in far-away and secluded fence corners, or in any quiet unfrequented place where they may lay and brood unobserved and undisturbed. These chickens, late-hatched, are seldom of any considerable value, and it is more trouble to raise them through their first winter than they are ever worth. With the male birds removed, much of this trouble is avoided. But the greatest aggregate saving is in eggs for this summer's market. Hot weather, if eggs are fertile, means stale eggs, and stale eggs mean lower average prices. The old case count method of buying eggs is gradually being forced out of the egg and produce business and in its stead is being ushered in the fairer and altogether more satisfactory system of buying on a loss-off basis. This means that to get a good price for eggs they must be good eggs. The time is fast passing when stale and rotten eggs will be sold on the market mixed with the good eggs and at the same price as the latter—a lower price than good eggs should command. Remove the male birds and get rid of more than half the trouble, raise the price of the product and increase net returns.

Do Not Neglect Feeding.

When travelling about the country one notices that most poultry-keepers rather neglect the summer feeding of their laying hens, and very often of their young chickens as well. It is a common practice on many farms when chickens are hatched and raised to such a size that the person in charge thinks it advisable to allow the hen free range that she and her chickens are fed little if any grain or mash. We doubt whether this is good economy or not. The main consideration in these days in raising chickens is to get them hatched early and grow them rapidly so that they commence laying early in the first fall and produce their greatest number of eggs during the first winter when this product is highest in price and in greatest demand. It is not enough to get the chickens hatched early, they must be fed to produce rapid growth. True it is that the hen will work hard for them and they are able to get most of the feed necessary to subsist if allowed free range, but they will do much better if in addition to this they are given a good feed of mixed grain night and morning and are permitted to feed at will from a covered hopper containing a rolled-oat mash.

Fresh water should always be kept before them in clean dishes. This is a matter which is often neglected during this busy season and it is a serious matter for the chickens. If shallow dishes are used the water often evaporates from them in a short time or is entirely used up by the chickens. Replenish these at least twice a day.

With the laying hens best results cannot be expected if they get nothing more than what they pick and when not fed at all they are far more likely to do damage in nearby fields, fruit trees or gardens. If they are getting plenty of grain feed besides the green feed and insect life which they are able to pick when roaming around the farm they are not nearly so destructive to vegetables, fruit and growing grains. No one can blame a hen which is hungry for attacking anything eatable to which she has access. These hens may be fed by the hopper method or their grain ration may be thrown out to them once or twice a day, as deemed necessary. We think they would do better if they had the ration divided into two feeds, and in their pens should be kept, as is the case with the growing chickens, a hopper of rolled-oats to which they have access at all times.

Much of the falling-off in laying toward mid-summer might be avoided if more judicious feeding were practiced and real cheap eggs at any season of the year is a condition which we will not have to face again very soon. Eggs sell at the present time for as much as they formerly did in mid-winter. It pays to have the hens producing summer as well as winter. Of course, the most money is in winter layers, but summer feeding also has a good deal to do with the number of eggs which the hens will lay during the winter. In view of these facts it does not pay

in the long run to deprive the hens of their regular feed. They will not require as much as they would during the winter, but a smaller feed of the same grains will usually yield a profit. Feeding also has much to do with the flavor of the eggs produced. Good eggs cannot be made from poor feed.

Grade the Young Chicks.

Quite a number of farmers interested in poultry-keeping now have their incubators and brooders, and many farms are carrying several hundred young chickens at the present time. Very often these chickens are forced to run all together in one large flock, and are fed together on the ground or from small troughs. Experience has proven that this is not the best practice and is not in the best interests of the growing chickens. Where large numbers are being reared, or even—if it is practicable—where only a few are raised, it is advisable to grade these chicks according to size. There are several sizes, owing to different broods, in most flocks, and the younger and weaker birds are very often robbed by the older, stronger individuals which have had a better chance to get ahead. For the sake of these younger birds, which if given a chance may develop into just as good chickens as their bigger and stronger mates, it is wise to separate them into different flocks. This is where the colony-house system has a great advantage. A colony-house may be used for every different size of chickens. This system can be worked out where no colony-houses are supplied by dividing the runs for a time and getting the chickens accustomed to roosting in a certain place where they may be fed separately from the other birds. It is worth while to take this precaution.

FARM BULLETIN.

What Agriculture Gets.

The following is a list of the appropriations which the Dominion Government made during the session just closed in aid of agriculture:

Experimental Farms—Maintenance of Central Farm, and establishment and maintaining of additional branch stations	\$770,000.00
Division of Entomology	20,000.00
For the administration and enforcement of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act	50,000.00
For the development of the dairying and fruit industries, and the improvement in transportation, sale and trade in food and other agricultural products	225,000.00
Towards the encouragement of the establishment of cold storage warehouses for the better preservation and handling of perishable food products	200,000.00
Exhibitions	400,000.00
For renewing and improving Canadian exhibit at Imperial Institute, London, and assisting in the maintenance thereof	5,000.00
Health of animals	500,000.00
Dominion cattle quarantine, buildings, repairs, renewals, etc.	60,000.00
For the administration and enforcement of the Meat and Canned Foods Act	255,000.00
Publications Branch, including contribution towards maintenance and expenses of representative at International Institute of Agriculture, ...	25,000.00
For the development of the Live-stock Industry	400,000.00
To enforce the Seed Act, to test seeds for farmers and seed merchants, to encourage the production and use of superior seeds, and to encourage the production of farm and garden crops	125,000.00
National Biological Laboratory (revote)	25,000.00
For the administration and carrying out of the provisions of The Agricultural Instruction Act	25,000.00
Grant to Dominion Exhibition	50,000.00
Agricultural Instruction Act	800,000.00

These mentioned together with appropriations for the Patent Office and salaries and contingencies make a grand total of \$4,485,637.50, an increase over last year of \$466,500.00.

The Agricultural Instruction Act is the aid given the provinces.

Geo. W. Wilson, B.S.A., of Oakville, Ontario, has been appointed District Representative in Norfolk County. C. M. Dickey, an undergraduate has been in charge of the office for some time, but will return to the O.A.C., this fall to complete his course.

The Office-Seekers.

By Peter McArthur.

In a recent issue of "The Journal of Commerce", Montreal, the paper of which Hon. W. S. Fielding is editor-in-chief, there was an interesting article on "Political Corruption." It was signed "John Wander" and although I am fairly familiar with the names of the leading writers for the Canadian Press I have never before heard of this interesting and forceful writer. From internal evidence I would judge that the article was written by a man who has had wide experience as a member of Parliament and one whose public position was too high for him to have been in actual contact with the machinery of his party. He would not be likely to be acquainted with the tactics of "The Black Horse Cavalry" or to be on familiar terms with "The Angel of the Darguer Drink"—or to speak less symbolically, with the party workers and the manager of the campaign funds. According to "Mr Wander" the trouble is largely due to office-seekers—the class of men with whom he would be most likely to come in contact. His article is too long to be quoted in its entirety, but I shall give a few of the most significant passages.

"Canadian politics are not only corrupt, but are admitted to be corrupt by the men who know.

"The chief cause of political corruption is political patronage. It is avarice which bribes the voters. The dollars spent are a commercial investment. Party workers are impelled to a fervor which gets beyond the bounds of honor by a hope of improving their private fortunes. One wants a franchise, another a concession, but most want pickings or a salaried office. The way to get these things is to elect their candidate. The prize is so big and dazzling, and withal so intimate and personal, that the temptation to trickery is irresistible. Political corruption is essentially a get-rich-quick swindle.

"I despair, of the present attempt at Parliamentary reform. It will not go to the root of the evil. Since history began there is no recorded instance of a body of men voluntarily divesting themselves of power. Sweet are the uses of authority. There is great self-satisfaction in being able to set one man up and set another down. I know that members of Parliament are accustomed to bewail the inconveniences of dispensing patronage. They complain that they are harassed and badgered by importunate seekers of political favors, echo Grover Cleveland's remark that if he appointed one out of ten applicants he made nine enemies and one ingrate, and profess to wish themselves rid of an intolerable nuisance. Well, the way of release is short and wide open. Let them copy the civil service regulations of Britain. Then they may sleep. Then, too, we shall require fewer election trials."

"Mr. Wander's" article is all right as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. In the first place it does not tell where the funds come from that are used by the office-seeking workers. Most of them are too poor to contribute the funds themselves and the funds they use in one campaign often exceed the amount they would draw as salary in many years. The party funds come from the real corrupters of our public life—the men and corporations who are seeking legislative favors, contracts for public works and public franchises. The men who do the party work and expect political patronage are simply the agents of the men who supply the money. In referring to election trials "Mr. Wander" overlooks the significant fact that we have so few of them. Apparently he is unfamiliar with the "saw-off" by which election trials are avoided and the evidence of political corruption smothered. The remedy he suggests would doubtless do a great deal of good and would raise the standard of our civil service, but it would not put an end to political corruption. It might rid our members of Parliament of the patronage evil but it would not free them from being tricked by the party managers into paying for campaign funds with lavish charters and franchises and other legislative favors. The root of the evil is much deeper than the writer suggests and the only way to strike at it is for the people of the country to contribute the legitimate campaign funds of their favorite parties. Only in that way can they make sure that their representatives are serving them rather than the men who now pay their election expenses. As matters stand at present, I fail to see why any voter should take the trouble to vote in an election. It makes little difference to the public at large whether the Big Interests decide to keep one set of servants in office or to make a change and put in another set.

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"Mr. Wander's" article about the evil caused by office seekers and what the dispensers of patronage have to endure recalled a batch of anecdotes I received from an observant friend in Ottawa who has had an opportunity to observe office-seekers under different administrations. I hunted up his letter and here are a few of the gems.

"One office-seeker is much troubled over the best method of addressing a minister of the