

the farm to act as scavengers only, and allowed to live as best they can, rather than being kept with an idea that profit may be realized by them. The trifle that is realized from poultry on the farm is so small as not to be considered worthy of the farmer's notice, and is not unfrequently the acknowledged perquisite of some female member of the family. He sees his fowls consume a quantity of his grain, but he individually reaps no benefit from them, little wonder then that he comes to the conclusion that "fowls don't pay."

Although we readily admit that farmers as a class are fully alive to their own interests, when it can be shown to them by practical and ocular demonstration that by making a change they will increase their profits; yet it cannot be denied, but that this important branch in our rural economy is looked at unfavourably, and in respect to it our farming community is in every sense of the word "Conservative"—and will make no change unless irresistible proof is forthcoming to satisfy them of the benefits arising from that change both pecuniary and commercially. Now, when we consider with how much disfavor all kinds of poultry are looked upon, and with the acknowledged idea that fowls don't pay predominating, it is not surprising that our farmers are slow to introduce into their farm yards improved breeds of fowls, and for which must be paid a price far beyond what they consider any class of poultry worth; nor is it to be wondered at that no greatly marked change is yet perceptible in the majority of the farm yards throughout the country either in the increase of numbers or improvement of breed. It is no easy matter to get rid of an "inherited idea" so to speak, the transition can be neither sudden or immediate, it must be gradual and by degrees, brought about by the introduction of the more valuable and profitable

breeds, and the examples of success of these farmers and fanciers who are now importing and breeding some of the most approved stock.

In no more forcible way can this be brought to the notice of the community than by Poultry shows, the usefulness of which when properly managed, with a view to the general welfare and not to the pecuniary advantage of the few, cannot be denied—inasmuch as they tend to stimulate an increased interest in the keeping of good poultry and encourage the breeding of the best and most profitable stock. In the Province of Ontario we have perhaps the best and most complete system of exhibitions that can well be devised, each Township and County has, or on complying with certain conditions specified, may have their annual agricultural show, with their share of the Government grant for such purposes, in which is a separate class for poultry; it is only necessary therefore to utilize the means at our disposal to bring prominently before our farming community and others the benefits to be derived from poultry when only the best breeds are kept. In this respect we are far ahead of England; no such system operates there; and it is to private enterprise the public are in a great measure indebted for their poultry exhibitions; the high appreciation in which they are held, the popularity which they enjoy, and the benefits to the general community which flow from them, is best testified to, by the public patronage bestowed upon them. There is no reason why a similar state of things should not exist here. If in England private enterprise supplements public patronage, why not in Canada? If silver cups and extra prizes are offered for the best birds of some particular breeds at the English exhibitions, why not a similar course be adopted in the poultry class of our agricultural exhibitions in this country? To the committees of