

Thorley's food or other cattle spice as a relish through it.

I see by the papers that a Toronto firm has been shipping tons of turkeys, ect., to the Old Country this season, and that the firm of Meldrum & Co., Montreal, are receiving for shipment to England between 2,000 and 4,000 turkeys daily, and will continue the same for another month. They expect to ship altogether between 60,000 to 80,000 birds. We should appreciate the efforts of the Hon. Mr. Fisher and Prof. Robertson in providing cold storage for poultry and other perishable products that the farmer produces. And the beauty comes in of having a practical farmer as Minister of Agriculture, and the farmers stand in their own light if they do not keep a farmer as Minister of Agriculture, as they carry the balance of power in the Dominion.

DUCKS.

My experience in duck raising has extended over some thirty-eight years, in fact ever since I have farmed for myself, and as the river Speed runs through the centre of my farm I have one of the best places for duck culture in the Dominion. After the first six weeks they can find their own living, as the river abounds in crawfish and other molusks on which they delight to feed. They are always fat. There is pasture on both sides of the river, and geese and ducks luxuriate there. I have tried the three different breeds, Pekin, Aylsbury and Rouen. The former is the most popular, as it is the largest, at least to look at, commences to lay the earliest and where you have plenty of water is a profitable duck to raise. The Aylsbury is more tender, although an excellent table bird. I find the Rouen the most profitable of the three breeds. They are hardy, easily fattened, and if you have the right breed will weigh just about as much as the other breeds. I have had them dressed eight lbs. each at our Xmas fat stock show. Ducks are omnivorous, are great feeders, and if you feed them well from the time they are hatched they ought to be fit for market at three months old, which is the proper time to sell, as the prices are higher then than in the fall. The same feed will fatten them as geese and there is a greater demand for good fat young ducks than for any other class of poultry. And a more toothsome bird cannot be put on the table than a well cooked, well fattened young duck. The Cayuga is a smaller bird, but is a very hardy duck, and is excellent for the table. They have more the flavor of the wild duck than the others, and are highly appreciated by gourmards for their delicate

flavor. I have now given you my experience, and hope it may benefit some one, and if it does I will be well satisfied for the short time it has taken me to scribble out these few lines.

THE BREEDER OF POULTRY.

IN speaking of breeding thoroughbred poultry we wish it to be correctly understood, we are not speaking of the person who is noted in his or her neighborhood as a success in raising any given number of pure bred or cross bred fowls out of a certain number of chicks hatched from the eggs, or how fine and healthy they look after they are matured, or of how many eggs he is capable of making a certain number of his fowls produce. The art of doing all this, any and all will admit, is a science, and is or would be very valuable to the scientific breeder. Yet a man could be possessed of each and all of the above qualities and still not be a successful breeder in the correct sense of the term. A man to be what we call a successful breeder is a man gifted with qualities that only a comparatively few have. Certainly he is a really good judge of the breed or breeds he is interested in, very often a deal better than any understand, except a very few gifted like himself and interested in the same breed. They understand each other and see far more of the finer and more difficult points or qualities to be desired in the breeds in which they are interested and on which their thoughts are centered. A scientific breeder is gifted with a foresight that tells him that a male bird he sees has qualities in him that just fits him to be mated to a certain hen or hens that he has. Very often, if asked, he would be unable to put his reasons into words so that his questioner could comprehend his meaning, yet he knows he is right. He is a thoughtful man, a man who does not believe in theories but in practice. He makes notes, takes nothing for granted. It must prove itself when put in practice. He can take a flock of ordinary or fair specimens of any of the breeds he understands and raise better, more typical specimens from them by mating them his way, scientifically, than his friend or neighbor who has none of his qualities and ability can from the winners at Madison Square Garden. He understands full well that one sort of in-breeding will ruin any variety, while another sort of inbreeding will intensify and perpetuate any of those qualities desired and harm the breed in no way. In fact, he is the man who has brought all our valuable and beautiful breeds up to the high standard they now occupy, and it is this sort of men, the genuine breeders who build up the business, and who every year raises a few birds that are not for sale regardless of prices offered simply because they need them as breeders and they are beyond value in dollars and cents to them.—By "Zim."