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OFFICIAL PART.

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SHALL WE CAPONIZE?

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—I have practised and preached caponizing many years, and the more I practise the same, the more thoroughly convinced I am that there is no branch of the poultry business that pays as well for the poultry-keeper who is in the business to supply markets with his products. There is no question that selling setting eggs for \$5 a dozen, and breeding birds at \$10 each, is more profitable if one has that kind of trade, but the few who obtain their prices are scattered and far between. In fact, but one breeder in ten who attempts to sell at fancy prices ever gets his money back for the expense he goes to in making a market.

I believe in keeping the best and purest stock of any breed

or breeds of fowl I may like, catching a trade now and then for a breeder, a trio or some setting eggs, but should rely for my profit on my capons and market eggs. I find the former the greatest source of profit from poultry. They exceed everything else, and it is a great wonder to me that poultrymen all over the country have not "caught on" to this branch of the business long before. Until within the last few years it seems to have been overlooked entirely except by a few Jerseyites, who have been smart enough to see the profit there was in capons, and the advantage they had in the rest of the country giving them the whole field to work in. The consequence was, they had the markets all to themselves, and for many years have been making lots of money out of this monopoly. So closely have they held this branch of the poultry business to themselves that it has created an impression all over the country that capons could be raised only in that State and sold only in Philadelphia. This of course pleased the boys in New-Jersey, and they took but little trouble to contradict this belief. But like all things, the fact at last leaked out that it was a very simple thing to caponize a chicken, and that he would grow, thrive and produce just as fine a capon in the North South, East and West as in New-Jersey.

Such notions that have been put into the minds of poultry-raisers for the past twenty years—yet fifty—on the subject of caponizing, are absurd, lacking even the shadow of truth. Writers have taken up the subject who knew nothing about it, and then went on to tell all about it. Men who did know something about it, and the simplicity of the operation, have allowed the impression to go forth that it was a very difficult operation, thinking, I suppose, to magnify the importance of their own ability. Cranks have labored hard to make out a case of cruelty, forgetting in their philanthropic fervor, the pain the bird suffers in antogonizing other males for six