

## BEES AND POULTRY.

### IS POULTRY KEEPING PROFITABLE OR NOT?

FOR THE RURAL CANADIAN.

The above question has often been asked by a great many amateurs and others, and my answer would be, *Yes*, and at the same time I will try and prove to the readers of your valuable journal the way it is profitable, and how hens should be kept to make them so.

In the first place, we will take their residence, in which they spend more than half their time. It is very essential to see that they are provided in proper proportions to the size and number of the fowls. Pure air is required and shelter from wind and weather; and another important thing is, that your house should be so constructed that it would face the south, so the rays of the sun could shine in upon them, for it is hardly possible to exaggerate the influence of this agent in securing and establishing the health of the flock. The list of diseases caused from the neglect of this precaution is nearly as long as the whole list of those to which poultry are liable.

The site must be dry: if the house is not kept perfectly dry it will be impossible to secure a proper degree of cleanliness, and the utmost cleanliness must be carried out, and by giving all these things strict attention it will be one good step to poultry being profitable. The next thing is to see that your house is warm in the winter time, when your fowls have to be confined in it, for that is the time you want them to lay, as eggs are a good price. I do not approve of warming a house by a stove, it is neither beneficial nor profitable. In the month of October I look to my houses and see that they are fixed comfortable for the winter. In the first place, they are all double-boarded and filled in between with saw-dust. I consider saw-dust the best, as the turpentine in the pine saw-dust helps to keep the houses free from vermin which fowls are subject to; and another thing, rats or mice cannot build in it, for as soon as they make a hole the saw-dust runs down into it and prevents them. Now, after you have this all done and battened outside, it is well to make a shutter that shuts over the window, so, on cold frosty nights you can shut this and keep all the cold and frost out, then, in the morning you can open this and let the rays of the sun in. Of course, it is well to have a small ventilator at the top, to let out the bad air, and when this is all done, you have a good winter hen-house, and with the proper number of fowls and properly fed you cannot but help to make them pay, even if you sell the eggs for table use and not to breeders at fancy prices. Now, for a cock and five hens, a house of five feet square would be large enough, and if you have more, then have your houses larger in proportion to your stock, but do not keep over fifteen or twenty fowls in one house if you wish to make them pay. The next thing is the feeding and caring for them, different breeders have different ways and sometimes a

good many are successful. I prefer giving my fowls for their winter's breakfast a nice warm dish of boiled potato peelings and refuse from the house, mixed up with shorts; I do not make it too soft and mushy, but put in lots of shorts so when it is properly mixed up it will be middling dry and crumble: once or twice a week I cut up some meat and put with it. This constitutes their breakfast, and at noon they have some wheat screenings thrown in on the ground, which is covered with dry leaves, which makes the fowls work to find the food in the leaves and keeps them active and all the exercise they require. Then at night they have a handful of whole corn before they go to roost, which finishes up their day's rations. Of course this food is varied some, it does not do to feed fowls continually on the one thing, as they will tire of it and it will not do them so much good. You can change about with cracked corn, barley, whole wheat, buckwheat, or

the past season by the reports coming in from different parts of the country of the large yields of honey gathered from wheat stubble.

When the wheat was cut, before the straw was fully ripened, a sweet juice oozed out of the straw where it was cut; in some instances the juice was so plentiful that a clear drop of juice ran out of every stubble, and some filled the upper joints and ran down the stubble.

It is a very rare season indeed that bees cannot secure enough honey from some source to support themselves. We have many times been despondent thinking that we would get no surplus, and have to feed our bees their winter store, when, all at once, there would come a flood of nectar from some unlooked for source. A cool, wet spring and summer will produce no honey, although the bloom may be abundant, and yet it may be just the condition suitable to produce many honey yielding full flowers. During the

last autumn a large amount of surplus honey was gathered from the different varieties of smart-weed (*Polygum*). This honey was beautifully white, and of a fine minty colour. These plants flourish on overlands and damp lands generally, although they are found abundantly in this locality, growing in corn fields, and where early potatoes have been raised.

Sweet corn is growing in favour as a honey plant. A sweet syrup is secreted in the axils of the leaves, near the stock, and bees gather pollen from the tassel.

It is surprising that farmers will go to town and buy miserable glucose syrup, when a heaven-born sweet syrup can be had at their doors, "not for the asking but for the taking."—Mrs. L. Harrison in *Beekeepers' Magazine*.

### POULTRY YARD NOTES.

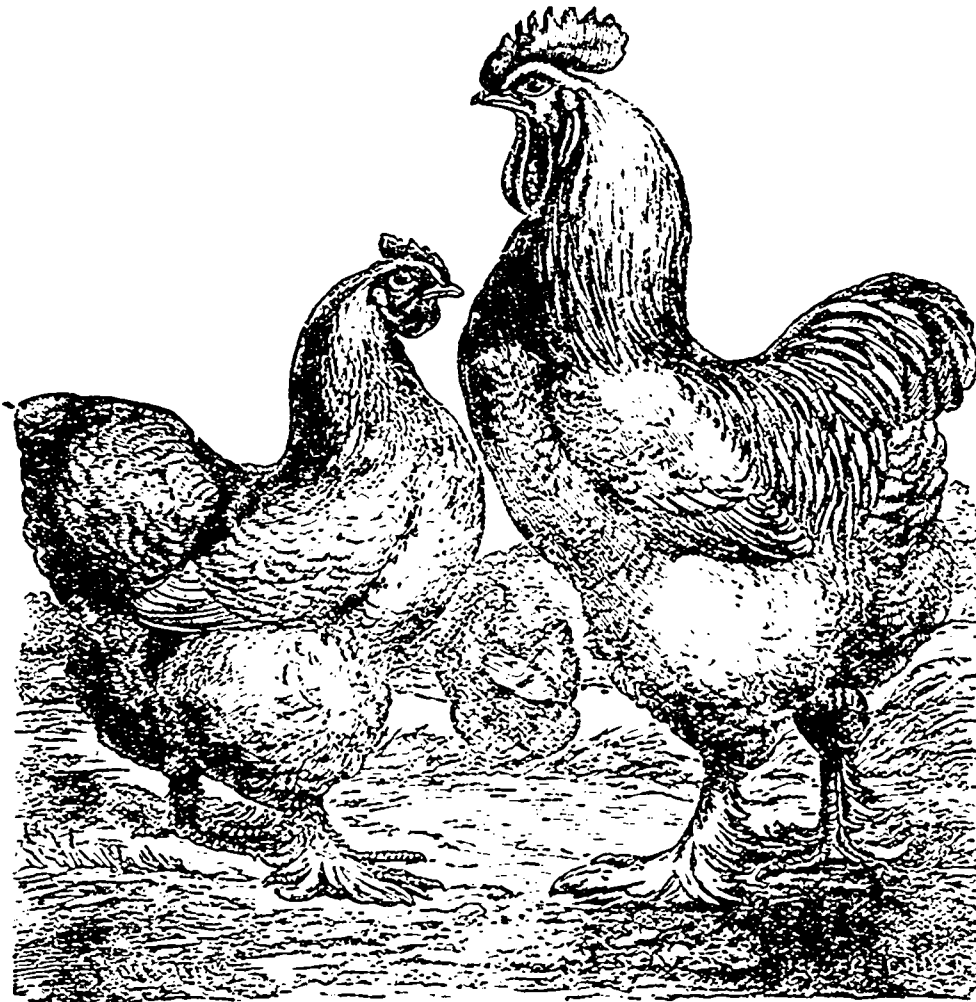
See that the hen-house is put in good condition for the winter. When the roads are in a dry condition it will be a good time to secure dust and sand. The hens will find it a

luxury to wallow in on warm sunny days in winter and early spring.

An excellent way to feed cabbage to poultry is to suspend a head within reach and allow them to peck at it when they will. By this method it is kept out of the dirt and is better relished by the fowls.

Poultry should have variety in food. Do not feed all corn, nor all fresh meat, nor all of anything, in fact, that is considered excellent. The proper way is to give a little of everything by turns that a fowl likes. Corn may be the principal food, but corn will ruin a flock in time. Still, starvation ruins a great many more flocks than too much corn does.

The mineral elements of the eggs and their shells should not be forgotten. Pounded oyster shells will afford good material for making shell. Pounded bones will afford material for the bone elements of the eggs. The flat and soft bones may be readily pounded into pieces while fresh, and the larger and firmer ones may be burned or charred until made brittle, and then be easily pounded up.



BRAHMAS.

oats, and by all means have in your house at all times a good dish of fresh water, and in very cold weather it is well to take the chill off and put a red pepper in, as it warms the fowls and makes them feel better. Give them a cabbage now and then, tacked on the wall high enough so they can reach it, and have a dish of crushed oyster shells in the house at all times; and you will then say that keeping fowls is both pleasant and profitable.

CHARLES BONNICK.

Toronto, November.

### BEES ON A FARM.

We have often heard people say, "I mean to have some bees, and I meant to have had them long before this." Yet these people live, year after year, without them, while their fruit bloom is poorly fertilized and the nectar secreted in the flora of their fields and hedges is left to waste its sweetness.

Bees seem especially designed in the economy of nature, to gather up the remnants "that nothing be lost." This was forcibly illustrated