

## Our Poultry Corner

If you have some things you do not understand in connection with your poultry and want some information, state your case briefly and to the point, writing on one side of paper only, and address it to THE MONITOR PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED, we will submit it to Prof. Landry, and when his answers are received we will publish them withholding your name if you so desire it.

### TURKEY CULTURE

While some people favor a well-roasted goose, others a nice fat duck, and still others a good milk-fed chicken, undoubtedly if a vote could be taken of the people of Canada, the turkey would be elected the "King of Table Birds."

Given the proper conditions the raising of turkeys is by no means the difficult job that some people try to make out. It is only when conditions are not favorable that trouble arises. Unfortunately many districts of Canada have become so disease infected that it is almost impossible to raise turkeys successfully.

The disease that has been so fatal to the industry is Enteric Hepatitis, commonly known as Black Head. Were it not for this disease, the turkey crop would be doubled in a year. The unfortunate part of it is that although investigators have been at work on the subject for years, no remedy has been discovered. Dr. Charles H. Higgins, Dominion Pathologist, recommends the use of muriatic acid in the drinking water in the proportion of one teaspoonful to one quart of water. This is not given as an infallible cure, but it does seem to prevent the trouble from getting headway and to assist recovery when the birds are infected.

To raise turkeys profitably it is necessary that they have a good range where they can pick up an abundance of grasshoppers and other insect life as well as seeds, waste grain and green feed. Given a range of this kind in a district that has not become infested and turkeys are one of the best paying crops that can be grown. Turkeys can be raised in semi-confinement that is, in fields where the range is limited, but as in that case the feed has practically all to be supplied, it will not take much figuring to show that the profits are greatly decreased.

### Methods of Breeding

The Bronze variety is by far the most popular. It is very large, hardy and in beauty of plumage is unsurpassed. In selection breeders care should be taken to see that special attention is paid to size and vigor. The male should be of good size with a deep, well rounded breast; long, broad back, and legs set squarely under him. Yearly hens make the best breeders, but well matured pullets do excellent also.

About ten females is a good number to allow for each male, but at a pinch a vigorous male will look after twice that number. In breeding season the tom are very pugnacious so that if the flock is large enough to require many males it should either be divided and each male given a separate run with his share of the females or they should be allowed with the flock alternately.

### Feeding for Profits

The breeding stock is best fed on dry grains, both whole and ground. Special care should be taken to keep the breeders from getting over fat. Wheat, oats, barley and corn are all good feeds, but reliance should be placed largely on the coarsest grains. Alfalfa and clover hay are readily eaten, and sour milk is always acceptable.

### Build Nests in Field

Turkeys have a good deal of wild nature and like to select secluded places for their nests. Instead of trying to get them to lay in houses it is better to place A-shaped coops or barrels laid on their sides in sheltered places for them, otherwise many of the birds will try to "steal" their nests. After laying a litter of eggs if she is "broken up" she will begin to lay again. The breeding stock should be selected from the poults, hatched in the early broods. The later broods may be used for market purposes.

### Rearing and Hatching

The hatching and brooding may be done by means of turkey hens, chicken hens or artificial methods. If large numbers are to be hatched, the incubator will be found to be the easiest method. The artificial methods compare very favorably with the natural and necessitate very much less labor. Or, if it is preferred, the eggs may be hatched in the incubator and the poults given to turkeys to bring up. This is best accomplished by giving a few eggs, just before they hatch to as many broody turkeys as will be required or if a few poults are placed under them at night they will generally accept them without trouble.

### Protect from Lice

When the hatching and rearing is done artificially there is seldom any trouble from vermin, but when the

natural method is followed it requires careful attention to keep the poults free from lice. The hens when they are setting should be thoroughly dusted two or three times during the period, and after the hatch a piece of ground should be kept spaded so that they will be able to dust themselves freely. A little carbolic vaseline or other grease rubbed lightly on the top of the heads will kill head lice.

### Handling the Poults

When the poults arrive they should be left in the nest or in the incubator, as the case may be until they get thoroughly dried and gain a little strength. If to be brooded naturally, the hen should be confined to a coop until the poults are strong enough to follow her. If to be brooded artificially the brooders should be heated to about the same degree as the incubator that is the brooder should be about 100 degrees F. The poults should not be fed until about thirty-six hours old. If any of them appear weak and unwilling to eat take a medicine dropper and give it a dose of sour milk. It is wonderful how this will bring them on. The first feeds may be bread crumbs moistened with milk and dried off with wheat middlings or other light mash foods. Supply grit pure water and an abundance of sour milk, while a liberal amount of onion tops, dandelion clover or other succulent green feeds should be chopped and mixed with the mash. Feed little and often but don't overfeed. It is the overfed turkey that usually succumbs. Just as soon as they are able let them get out on range and rustle for their living. A light feed of grain will bring them home at night and you will not only save feed, but turkeys also.

GEORGE ROBERTSON  
Central Experimental Farm.

### BREAKING UP BROODY HENS

A hen is one of the most jealous creatures and if placed in a wire-sided coop where she can see the rest of the flock ranging about the yard, she is very restless especially if there is a male with the flock frequently calling his mates to partake of a choice morsel of food and if plenty of food and water are supplied she eats often, thereby keeping her body built up so she goes to laying again in a short time.

The plan followed here at the experiment station is to place the hen in this kind of coop on the day after she remains on the nest and does not lay, she is kept in the coop four days and then released. During the time she is left in the coop she is given all the feed and water she wants. About 4000 hens are treated in this way each summer at this place. The records show that hens broken in this way begin laying again as follows:

The time from the laying the last egg till the hen began laying again was 10 days in March, 8 days in April, 10 days in May, and 12 days in June. There were more broody hens in June than in April, but for practical purposes we might say the average is 10 days. These coops can be easily built by anyone out of scrap lumber and a little wire.—(T. E. Quisenberry Missouri.)

### SALT NECESSARY FOR CHICKENS.

Very often salt is not included in the poultry ration. It is very necessary, however, as a proper amount aids digestion. It also has a tendency to ward off disease by keeping the fowls strong and vigorous. It is claimed by some authorities that salt keeps the whole system in good working order, preventing the blood of impurities, thus preventing colds, cancer or roup. It also has a tendency to expel those miserable wiry gizzard worms, often found in fowls.

But while salt is important, great care must be taken not to feed it in too large quantities. If given in excess it will produce inflammation of the mucous membrane and is apt to cause bowel trouble and loss of feathers. It is generally conceded that an ounce of salt is sufficient for the soft food of 100 fowls. The best way to apply it to the food is thoroughly to dissolve it in the hot water with which the mash is to be moistened. In this way it can be more evenly distributed among the hens.

Many people believe that an over-supply of fat causes hens to cease laying but in this, N. L. Harris superintendent of poultry at Kansas State Agricultural College, does not concur. He says the reason such hens do not lay is because their livers are not working properly, and that plenty of exercise in scratching for their food is the remedy.

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### BRITISH SUBMARINE CHASERS

Off Kent, in the English Channel, a tiny black dot rides the surge of the blue water. One hundred yards farther from the shore lies another, beyond it another, and still others, placed at one hundred-yard intervals, chart the course of the dreaded English submarine net.

The dots are barrel floats, each attached by wire cables to the mesh entanglements below. They are adjusted finely to the water pressure, so that the moment that a big fish—or a submarine—blunders blindly into the snare the floats above become submerged.

And the fishermen are watching. Up and down the line of floats a ceaseless patrol is maintained. Never an instant passes in which a majority of the floats are not under eager observation by alert watchers in the fishing smacks. There is an air of earnestness about it all, far different from the bluff joviality of seine fishermen on the Grand Banks.

The smacks, too, are odd for fishing purposes. They are long, low, racing motor boats, built with an eye more to speed than to seaworthiness. A little back of the middle of their lean, forty-five foot lengths are the engines multi-cylindrical affairs delivering from twelve hundred to sixteen hundred horse-power. This tremendous power gives the "submarine killers"—for thus the British navy has christened these boats—a speed of over forty knots an hour, sufficient to enable them to out-manoeuvre any torpedoes which the hunted submarines may launch at them.

Nor are these wasps without stings. Each motor boat carried forward a six-pound rapid-firing gun, the largest weapon that ever has been mounted successfully upon a motor boat. It is just heavy enough to puncture the defensive armor of a submarine, yet so small that it can be handled by two men.

When one of these fast boats, swirling along the course of the steel-net floats sights one of the barrels that is acting suspiciously, it swings out around the float in a wide circle. If the barrel stays submerged the men on the motor boat know that a submarine has become entangled and is struggling to get free. The circle narrows. The motor boat finally plies more slowly in a narrower route, keeping her six-pounder trained constantly on the spot where the submarine must rise if it gets clear.

And the submarine must come to the surface if it can, for the lifting power of its air tanks is practically the only saving strength it possesses once its propeller gets entangled. While the float is under the surface divers are at work far below, striving desperately to clear away the mess of entanglements.

If they succeed, the submarine floats free and rises to the surface, to be greeted immediately by a rain of shots from the six-pounders. One fair hit usually suffices, for submarines, in spite of the tremendous water pressure they are built to withstand, are fragile creations with respect to defensive armor equipment.

If they fail, the submarine's enemies above wait five days. This lapse of time sees every living thing in the submarine asphyxiated. Meantime the motor boat has scooped off to the nearest destroyer, the net is raised at the designated point and the conquered submarine is towed into port.

Sometimes of course, the "killers" are the killed. If the submarine gets free and succeeds in unlimbering her gun—which is larger than that carried by the motor boat—the latter has little chance except in flight. Oftentimes a lucky hit from a revengeful submarine sends a fragile motor craft to the bottom, but the odds are strongly against the submarine getting the slightest opportunity to defend herself.

Though the fact is not widely known because of the jealousy with which the manufacturers have guarded their secret, these submarine killers—the wasps of the British navy—are importations from the United States. Accurate data are next to impossible to obtain, but according to the statement of a British officer whose name cannot be revealed, many of these motor boats are shipped from American factories to the allies.

A despatch from Lutz, Russia, on Saturday states that "Austrian prisoners are unanimous in statements that Austria is finished, and that the entire nation is united in demanding peace at the earliest possible moment."

## The Farm

### SILLO A PAYING PROPOSITION

It is safe to say that more silos will be built in Canada this year than in any previous year. Corn silage has proved to be superior to roots as a succulent feed for dairy cattle, and when it is realized that a ton of corn can be grown for anywhere from thirty cents to one dollar more cheaply than a ton of roots it is apparent that the man who keeps cattle and has not got a silo is not making the best of his opportunities.

If growing corn instead of roots effects a saving of half a dollar per ton when eighteen or twenty acres is reserved for succulent feed each year (which is by no means an excessive acreage), by growing corn, over \$150 would be saved in the season's crop. This is enough money to put up a silo.

Although for many years silage has been regarded as one of the best succulent feeds for dairy cattle, it is only comparatively recently that it has received proper recognition as a feed for fattening steers. Some experiments carried on in the States recently show that cattle that are fed as much as fifty and seventy-five pounds of silage per day sold for almost as much as those fattened chiefly on grain while the cost of making one hundred pounds gain was from \$2 to \$3 less. We quote from Wallace's Farmer: "At the Missouri Station, one lot of steers which received an average daily ration of 37.6 pounds of silage, 4 pounds of alfalfa hay, and 5 pounds of oil meal, sold for \$9.65 per cwt. while another lot received an average daily ration of 16.3 pounds of silage, 3.9 pounds of alfalfa hay, and 15.3 pounds of shelled corn, sold for \$9.75 per cwt. In other words the steers getting no corn, but a large amount of silage, together with oil meal and alfalfa hay sold within 10 cents of those getting 15 pounds of corn a day. These high silage steers actually sold 5 cents higher per cwt than another lot which received an average daily ration of 17.5 pounds of silage, 3.7 pounds of alfalfa hay, 15.6 pounds of shelled corn and 2.6 pounds of cottonseed meal. It is interesting to note also that the steers receiving the larger amounts of silage did not shrink any more than those receiving the smaller amounts. The dressing percentage was almost but not quite so high in the case of the low silage steers."

"The Missouri experiment, when taken in connection with Iowa and Pennsylvania experiments, indicates very strongly that the beef cattle men have finally reached the point where they are almost compelled to rely on large amounts of silage. For years the Englishmen and Scotchmen have fed their average steer 70, 100 or even 120 pounds of roots, together with not more than eight or nine pounds of grain.

"Silage is a little more concentrated than the roots used by Englishmen and Scotchmen, but it looks as though the corn belt feeders had at last been driven to adopt the methods of the feeders across the water."—The Canadian Countryman.

### RAISING PIGS WITHOUT MILK

For young pigs, just after weaning it is difficult to find anything that will take the place of skim-milk. When skim-milk is not available, there is danger of the pigs becoming stunted at this period of their life, especially pigs that are weaned young. The Ontario Agricultural College conducted two trials with tankage and blood meal as substitutes for skim milk. These two feeds proved nearly equal in value, and since the tankage costs much less per ton, it was regarded as the more satisfactory.

In the first trial the tankage constituted about one-fourteenth of the total ration and in the second trial one-tenth of the total ration. About two pounds of milk to one pound of meal were fed in each trial. The average of the two trials shows that to produce 100 pounds of gain it required:

375 pounds of meal and 34 pounds tankage,  
390 pounds meal and 727 pounds skim-milk.

The pigs getting tankage ate their feed quite as eagerly as those getting skim-milk and continued thrifty throughout the experiment. Tankage, therefore, proved a very satisfactory substitute, as far as gains in weight were concerned, but when skim-milk can be obtained at 15 cents per hundredweight, it is cheaper than tankage at prevailing prices, according to this test.

In a second trial, tankage made by the Harris Abattoir Co., of Toronto, was compared with skim-milk for young pigs. The tankage was fed in proportion of one pound of tankage to six pounds of meal. The tankage pigs made an average gain of 1.02 pounds per pig per day, the skim-milk group, 0.93 pounds, and the checks group on meal only, not quite

74 pounds. Placing a value of \$22 per ton on the meal, we find that in this test the skim-milk was worth 27 cents per 100 pounds and the tankage, \$2.92 per 100 pounds. This test, therefore, like the preceding one shows that it is economical to furnish young pigs with feed rich in protein, and that it is good practice to use a feed like tankage when skim-milk is not available. It also goes to show that young pigs can be raised economically without skim-milk.

In other experiments, other substances, such as linseed meal, "black-strap" molasses, and tea from alfalfa hay have been tried, but none of these approached tankage in efficiency as a substitute for skim-milk for young pigs.

The Michigan Experiment Station also compared tankage with skim-milk for young pigs. The pigs on skim-milk made slightly larger gains, but when skim-milk was valued at 20 cents per 100 pounds, and tankage at \$1.62½ per 100 pounds, the tankage-fed pigs made cheaper gains than the skim-milk pigs.

### FARM ITEMS OF INTEREST

The farmer who says that ordinary scrub stock is good enough for him may be telling the truth.

It has been proven by every generation of farmers that there is nothing to be gained by cross-breeding.

Science will not fatten stock; but it will help smooth out some of the "wrinkles" in stock feeding and management.

A good sheep is one that will pay its own expenses with wool; will pay the money it costs if shipped to market; and will pay a profit if kept for increase.

While one class of stock may pay better than another, do not lose sight of the fact that the average farm needs a few head of every sort in order to make the best and closest use of all the products.

A horse trainer says the training of colts cannot be commenced too early. Accustom them to being handled, teach them to lead, to stand tied, to have their feet and head handled, and to be tractable.

July hatched chickens can usually be depended upon to begin laying in January. Pullets won't lay until they are fully matured, proper feeding and care will insure quick growing and early maturity.

A mixture prepared as follows will keep the agricultural implements from rusting: Melt together lard and powdered resin, one part of the latter to three of the former, and if it is desired add a little lamblack. Paint the iron or steel with a brush.

From the Rockefeller Institute comes the statement that if an egg is fried on one side only there are so many bacteria which take refuge on the unfried side that they may make one ill, but if the egg is cooked on both sides the bacteria cannot escape and the egg may be eaten with no fear of the consequences.

Science is now looking to potatoes to provide a substitute for gasoline. It has been demonstrated that a kind of alcohol can be produced from many vegetables, and with special success from potatoes. Will the potato disappear from the dining tables of the country to provide for motor cars?

### KILL HOG LICE

It has been estimated that a 150-pound hog has 92,000 drops of blood. Suppose he is supporting 1,000 lice and each takes one drop of blood per day, what per cent of his blood will be lost daily and who will pay the bill?

The question is important right now, for lice are worse now than in summer. The hogs pile up closely and spend much time in their beds. The lice take advantage of the situation and breed rapidly.

To remove the lice is neither difficult nor expensive. Dipping as spraying with coal-tar compounds is dangerous in winter, but three other treatments are available. These are:

1. Equal parts of kerosene and machine oil mixed together and applied with an oil can, brush, or swab.  
2. Crude oil (thinned with kerosene if too thick), applied with a brush or as a spray.  
3. Powdered staphisagria dusted on the pigs, or steeped as a tea and applied with a brush or a spray.

For a small bunch the first treatment is the most convenient, but when one has many hogs the crude oil is cheaper. Be sure to apply behind the ears and in both flanks. The lice prefer folds of the skin.

Clean the beds and pens thoroughly also. If these are thoroughly sprayed with the oil there should be no further trouble from the lice. If the hogs sleep in straw sheds one can keep them free from lice by treating them every two weeks. Try it—R. C. Ashby University Farm, St. Paul.

Dan Patch, pacing stallion, died recently at Savage, Minn., of athletic heart. In 1906 he paced a mile over the St. Paul track in 1.55 the world's sulky record. Dan Patch was bought by M. W. Savage for \$60,000.

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11.38	* Clarence	15.17
11.55	Bridgetown	15.01
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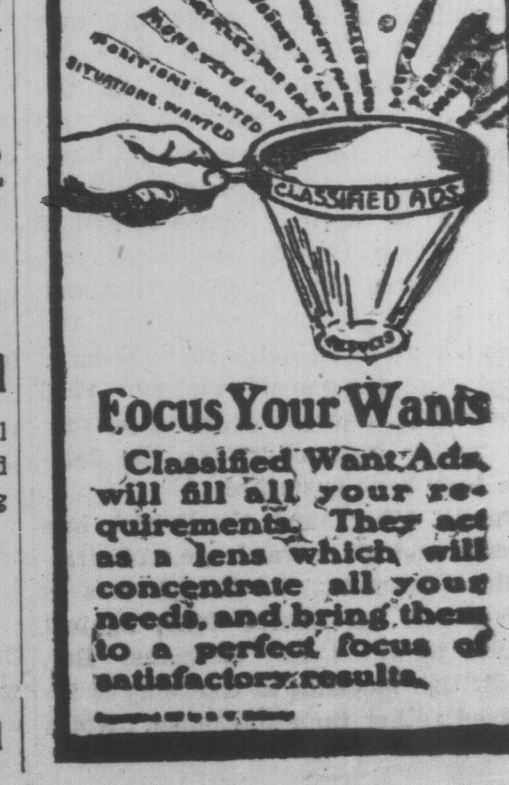
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