

Answered.

The director of this department has resolved himself into a large interrogation point, and will undertake to answer any questions our readers may choose to ask from time to time. If you are in difficulty along any line, let us know, and we will do our best to help you.

MR. EDITOR:—Please tell me how much it would cost to start the poultry business in B. C. so as to pay?

R. E. C.

Toronto, Ont.

The above question is so broad that to answer it here is almost impossible. Several inquiries of a like nature have been received. We have arranged for four articles as follows: Price of a Poultry Ranch. Price of a Poultry House. Price of Market Poultry and Eggs. Price of Success. They will cover all the ground. The first will appear next month.

MR. EDITOR:—I would be glad if you would tell me how much the duty is on thoroughbred fowls and eggs from the United States.

E. C. W.

Kaslo.

Thoroughbred fowls are entitled to enter free provided they are accompanied with a certificate reading something as follows: I hereby certify that I have this day shipped to John Jones of Kaslo six pure bred White Leghorn fowls per express for breeding purposes only.

John Smith,

Shipper.

Eggs will be subject to the regular duty of five cents per dozen. You must be careful about the certificate or it will make you a lot of bother.

MR. EDITOR:—As editor of a public poultry journal I would like you to write me a letter on Incubators.

I. S. C.

Victoria.

Oh! what a temptation!! A request to write a letter on Incubators. Surely the field presented is large enough to satisfy any one. But I refrain, for I remember having read, "That fools rush in where angels fear to tread" and I have no desire to earn for myself any great and exalted position by informing a long waiting public "what Incubator is best and Why." Write our advertisers, they will tell you all about it.

TACOMA LETTER.

In my last I said something in regard to running an incubator, and promised a letter on broilers. It is now time to begin to set your machines for the early spring broilers, as they will pay better during the months of February, March and April than at any other time during the year.

When the little fellows hatch they should be left in the incubator until they are quite dry and then removed carefully to the brooder, care being taken that they do not get chilled in the transit. Have the brooder heated to ninety degrees—on no account have it too hot. The proper temperature at which to maintain it is as near ninety degrees as possible.

Before putting the chicks in the brooder spread over the floor a layer of bran to the depth of about an inch. This is nice for them to pick in for the first few days. Clean it out about the third or fourth day and replace it with finely cut hay—clover is best.

Do not attempt to feed until the chicks are twenty-four or even thirty-six hours old, then for their first feed give them bread crumbs mixed with a hard boiled egg—one egg to every dozen chicks. Place grit and fresh water before them and keep them supplied from the very first. If you have milk, either sweet or sour, they relish it immensely, and it is most excellent for them. Have the drinking vessel of such a form that they cannot get any more than their bills into it. They should never be allowed to get their feet wet.

The diet of bread and eggs should be kept up for a week, feeding every two hours, and then a little green food and finely chopped lean beef should be added to the bill of fare. These two latter items should not be fed too liberally for the first few days as they are apt to cause diarrhoea—which is one of the most common diseases with which chicks have to contend.

After they are a week old their diet should consist of boiled vegetables, mashed and mixed with corn meal, every two hours during the forenoon, and cracked corn, wheat and steel cut oats after noon. Young chicks should never have anything soft after noon, but they should have grains and green food, such as chopped lettuce, cabbage, clover, etc.

When they are three weeks old they can be fed whole wheat and for a change boiled whole wheat makes a splendid

morning ration. Feed it warm and add enough bran and corn meal to absorb all the moisture.

Feed every two hours all they will eat up clean until they are three weeks old and then four times a day will be often enough.

At three weeks the temperature of the brooder should begin to be gradually decreased until the chicks are removed at six weeks.

The brooder should be kept scrupulously clean as nothing is more detrimental than foul odors to the health of the chicks. A good way is to have two pieces of oil cloth just the size of the brooder and when one is taken out to be cleaned and dried the other can be put in. This saves both time and trouble.

Our Poultry Show is now booming and we expect to have the largest show of the season. We will get out our Catalogue December 25th and if any of our friends will send us their advertisements we will appreciate it. Our rates are \$5.00 per page, \$3.00 per half page and \$1.75 per quarter page.

So many shows being held on the Coast this winter should cause a decided boom in everything in the poultry line. First we have the great San Francisco Show, Jan. 2nd to 9th, then Tacoma January 15th to 19th, Seattle 14th to 19th, Vancouver January 21st to 26th, to be followed by Nanaimo and Victoria. Mr. H. S. Ball, of Shrewsbury, Mass., a Judge of national reputation will place the ribbons for San Francisco, Tacoma and Vancouver and the chances are even that he will be at Victoria and Nanaimo.

Yours truly,

HARRY H. COLLIER,

Sec'y Tacoma Poultry Ass'n.

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EXHIBITION DATES.

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Season 1894-5.

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PACIFIC COAST.

Nanaimo, B. C.—Second Annual Show Nanaimo Poultry Society, Feb. 12-14th, Nanaimo, B. C.

Vancouver, B. C.—First Annual Show Vancouver Poultry and Pet Stock Association, Jan. 23-26th, C. Spice, Secretary.

Tacoma, Wash.—First Annual Show Tacoma Poultry Association, Jan. 15-19, H. H. Collier, Secretary, Tacoma, Wash.

Victoria, B. C.—Seventh Annual Show British Columbia Poultry, Dog and Pet Stock Association, January 1895, W. S. Chambers, Secretary, Victoria, B. C.