

The Breeding and Feeding of Poultry.

(Extract from Central Experimental Farm Bulletin.)

That there is a paying margin of profit in properly managed poultry has been shown by experimental work as well as by results achieved by well known breeders and published by them, from time to time, in the Poultry and Agricultural press. That margin of profit has been found to vary in amount according to the favourable or unfavourable circumstances of the producers. Some are more favourably situated as regards location to a good market than others; some may have feed in greater quantity and at cheaper cost than others, climatic influences may be a factor in certain cases, but under all the conditions named satisfactory percentages of profit have been secured. Breeders in the neighbourhood of a city or town market where high prices are common, or, within easy reach by railroad of the same, have better opportunity to make a larger margin of profit than those in other parts of the country and who by force of circumstances have to sell to the collector of eggs and chickens, or, to country stores, transactions with the latter being often in the way of trade.

WHAT IS A FAIR MARGIN OF PROFIT ?

Under favourable conditions breeders who have corresponded with our department or the press have stated their margin of profit to be highly satisfactory.

Mr. A. McPhadden, Dominionville, Ont., president of the local Farmers' Institute, has stated that by selling new laid eggs in winter at 40 cents per dozen and a superior quality of poultry in the early fall months at 10 cents a pound to Montreal dealers that he has found, after a careful account of cost, a profit of two hundred per cent.

Mr. Wm. Moe, of South Franklin, Que., claims by obtaining eggs in winter and sending them to a Montreal dealer as well as his poultry in summer, to make one hundred and eighty per cent over cost.

J. R. H. of Wentworth Co., Ont., in *Farmers' Advocate* of March 9 last says, after describing his methods of management:—'Have had eggs all fall and winter in good supply. Have kept account and have sold more than \$2 worth of eggs for every \$1 worth of feed consumed. And in growing early chickens for market have had \$3 for \$1 cost. I find I can raise chicks to eight weeks for \$8 per hundred and make them ready for market. Yes, my hens pay and pay well.'

Our own experimental work has also shown satisfactory profit over cost of feed.

THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF MANAGEMENT ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS.

But before margins of profit, such as shown, can be secured, it must be borne in mind that a thorough knowledge of how to manage is imperative. Successful poultry keeping is an exact and exacting science. Exact, because if not enough food is given there is little or no product; if too much, the fowls become too

fat and the result is the same. Exact, because adaptability, keen observation, untiring perseverance, and a proper appreciation of the value of little essentials, coupled with a liking for the occupation are indispensable. The roadway to successful poultry keeping is strewn with the wrecks of individual, or combined effort, in attempts at attaining profitable results without the requisite knowledge of how to do so. It is well that this should be understood, at the outset, by the large number of correspondents from whom so many letters are received on the subject of poultry keeping. These correspondents may be classified as follows:—

1. The correspondent who has heard that there is a large margin of profit in the production of broilers, and would like a description of the necessary plant, method of management, estimate of outlay and all particulars in order to successfully prosecute the business. Would selling the eggs in winter at 40 cents per dozen pay better than by converting them into "broilers"?

2. The correspondent who is confident that there is money in poultry. Having a limited sum of money, is willing to invest it in a small poultry plant. Has little or no knowledge of poultry, but would like all information as to quantity of land required, latest styles of poultry houses, number and kind of fowls, whether grain feed should be grown or purchased, most economical rations, and all such instruction as is calculated to lead to success.

3. The inquirer who has lost his health in business. He is convinced that poultry keeping may be made a means of livelihood as well as a restoration of health. Desires information as to the quickest way of acquiring knowledge of how to proceed.

4. The correspondent who has had experience in poultry raising in the mother country and intends to devote his time to its prosecution in this country in conjunction with market gardening, or small fruits, or both, would like all information as to breeds of fowls, accommodation, feed and management most suitable to this country.

5. The inquirer who is situated on the outskirts of the city and has time and room to permit of the pleasurable and profitable keeping of a number of fowls. How best can he carry out his intention?

6. From farmers inquiring as to what has been found the best variety of fowls for eggs and flesh, the best and cheapest style of poultry house, how many fowls can be profitably handled by one man, and where are the best paying markets for eggs in winter and chickens in summer?

ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE.

It is evident that the operations outlined by Nos. 1, 2 and 3 would be that of specialists requiring expert knowledge and special facilities. Such knowledge can best be acquired by an apprenticeship at a large poultry plant of which, at present, there are only two