

## Poultry Chat

By H. E. Vialoux, Charleswood

A "Happy New Year in the Poultry World," more chickens and better chickens raised in 1917 than in 1916. This should be our slogan, as the demand for good poultry and eggs has increased and will continue to do so in the future. Canadian poultry products are making a good name for themselves in the English markets—one consignment has already gone from Winnipeg direct to the Old Country. Therefore, the keeping over winter of a sufficient number of hens, good laying stock, should be impressed upon all poultry raisers this New Year. Prices for chickens are high and feed grains a most expensive item, therefore, the temptation to deplete the farm stock is great—"withhold the axe" and plan for the future. The egg crop for 1917 must be considered and two chickens should be raised where one graced the earth last season.

Our Canadian egg and poultry supply must not diminish in these war times of need. The man on the Western farm

more young, well matured pullets are being shipped into market than usual, which is certainly regrettable and a short-sighted policy on the part of the grower. The fattening of 2,800 chickens for the Christmas trade at the Manitoba Agricultural College must have been an interesting sight and quite an achievement. They are such beauties when finished and the flesh of a chicken will almost melt in the mouth. Certainly the fattening station is here to stay and will solve the problem of putting a properly fattened bird on the market instead of the half-fed specimens so often sent in to the dealers, who are complaining of "skinny chickens" as usual this fall.

January is not too early to secure good male birds for the spring. Birds should be selected and orders placed to be filled when the weather moderates in the spring.

Valuable breeding stock should never be shipped in zero weather in this country. Undoubtedly good cockerels of the



Upper—Side view of the powerful French tractor which builds trenches and constructs breastworks as it travels along. The photo gives an intimate view of some of the mechanism which does the work and shows French soldiers operating the machine.

Lower—Rear view of the tractor, showing huge scoops which remove dirt, and other parts of the mechanism which does the work of scores of men.

can surely devise some means of feeding his hens on a paying basis. New laid eggs on December 1 fetched 75 cents per dozen in all the markets, including the Farmers' Market, Winnipeg. Frosted or shrunken wheat makes a good grain feed for laying hens, especially if buried deep in their litter on the floor of the hen-house.

One of the cheapest and best mashes can be made with bran mixed with vegetable matter of any kind, adding some chop as a change. Even turnips will be eaten with relish by the fowls and refuse cabbage and mangels all save the feed bill from getting too big for profit. Every small potato and all household scraps should be added to the mash. Peelings of all kinds I use this way. On a cold day a great pan of small potatoes baked in the oven and fed at noon to the laying hens will make them sing a merry lay at once. Judging from reports there is plenty of injured grain in the country and its better use can be made of it than feeding the pullets and year-old hens over winter. Dealers say many

utility breeds—barred rocks and orpingtons—the kind of fowl the farmer should have, will be scarce when the breeding season opens.

An event of more than passing interest to all lovers of pure bred birds of high degree will be the big annual poultry show which takes place next month in Winnipeg. The Winnipeg Poultry Association is doing very good work in Manitoba fostering the poultry industry in every way. An energetic staff of officers is working on all the necessary arrangements to make the show "the best ever." Western farmers and their wives attending the farmers' convention at the Manitoba Agricultural College should make a point of visiting the show. Here they will have an opportunity of securing the best breeding stock in the country.

If a glass stopper sticks, put around it a little olive oil, and in an hour or so, if it still sticks, place the whole bottle in warm water and tap the stopper gently on either side. It is sure to come out.

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