

## POULTRY YARD

### Poultry on the Farm

J. Durst, Huron Co., Ont.

Of late years farmers and their families have taken much more interest in poultry raising than formerly. The result has been that this branch of the farm is now an important source of wealth to the country. There are yet, however, a very great many who believe that poultry cannot be made to pay and that fowls are more bother than they are worth. Those who honestly hold that opinion had better leave poultry alone, for it is certain that unless they like the birds, and will take pleasure and interest in caring for them and providing for their wants, they cannot make poultry pay.

The same principle applies to all other classes of live stock. If a man does not like the animals he is handling sufficiently well to watch them closely and supply them with all they need and perhaps a little more, he had better give them up and devote his attention to something that has no life in it. In dealing with living and intelligent creatures it is the little attentions that count quite as much as the observance of general rules. A great many farmers fail with poultry in being careless in little things, for instance proper housing. Give your poultry plenty of room if possible. Don't cram them in so small a space that they scarcely have room to turn round. Providing exercise is another common failing. Too many sim-

ply throw down the feed for their hens. It is greedily gobbled up by the fowl, who then go and stand in a corner the rest of the day. Keep plenty of cut straw on the floor and have the hens scratch for all they eat. This will keep them healthy. Then feed a variety of feed. There are no laws to be laid down in regard to feeding, as different poultry men adopt different ways of feeding. Above all keep plenty of grit, oyster-shell, ground bone, charcoal and fresh water, also plenty of fresh air, and be very careful to have them free from lice. These are just a few of the many things to be looked after in the poultry line.

#### KEEP AWAY FROM MONGRELS

The poultry man aims to produce always the best type of the breed to which he is devoting his attention; at least he ought to. But, how often do we see a flock on the farm, where characteristics of every known breed show forth. Such a mixture the writer always detests. If you wish to have success take a breed of fowl, good egg producers, and don't cross them. Keep them pure.

It is the hen that lays that is the one that pays, but there are two classes. The first being that which is useful only for the production of eggs, the birds being a little too small for market purposes. The second class comprises the breeds which are sufficient in size to make them important as producers of wholesome and attractive meat. It must not be understood, however, that the larger breeds are deficient as egg producers, this is not the case. In fact in the exper-

ience of the writer, some strains of these breeds were most profitable egg producers. They were more so because they were good winter layers, which birds of the exclusively egg-producing class seldom are, unless they receive more care and attention during the winter months than they are likely to get upon a farm.

From my considerable experience with the rearing of poultry, both by the natural method, and also by means of the incubator, I have found the natural method, or hatching by means of the clucking hen to be the most profitable for the farmer. My reasons are various: 1st. The farmer seldom takes time to tend an incubator properly. 2nd. Each succeeding generation hatched by the incubator is weaker than its predecessor. 3rd. If one happens to spoil a hatch in the incubator his loss is greater than with

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### BRANT POULTRY YARDS, Brantford, Ont.

of the same weight, thus making them a most desirable table fowl. In fact, they are acknowledged by many authorities as the "King of Table Fowls." They are ranked among the best of layers. They stand our Canadian win-



#### A Good Specimen of a Favorite English Breed

The illustration taken from life is a typical Silver Gray Dorking male, owned by Mr. Walter McGlennan, Northumberland Co. Ont. He has won many 1st, and special prizes at leading Ontario poultry shows.

the hen. Good hatches are had by both methods. However, if one wants to rear good strong specimens for breeding purposes give him the hen to hatch and raise them.

#### A General Purpose Fowl

Wallace McGlennan, Northumberland Co., Ont.

In this advanced age we are constantly looking for something new, and in many cases an improvement on the old. While in the chicken world we are making new varieties and breeds every season or two, the writer does not think that the attention of the people should be drawn away from some of the varieties of poultry which have stood from the ages down. I refer particularly to the Silver Gray Dorking. We have the White, Colored and Silver Gray varieties of this breed which the American Standard of Perfection recognizes, but perhaps the variety which is the most popular and which is the most extensively bred is the Silver Gray. The Dorking is one of the oldest if not the oldest breed in existence to-day, being bred in the early days of British history. It is of English parentage, but it has been bred and greatly improved in this country for many years back.

The Dorking is a very low set fowl, with a long, full breast. Its legs are short and stout, which tends to give this long low set appearance. The flesh is of very delicate fibre, and is very juicy and sweet. They are much finer boned than other breeds of fowl

ters admirably, and if given the proper care and attention which any fowl should have, they will fill the egg basket to the entire satisfaction of their owner.

From the standpoint of the farmer the Dorking should be especially considered. Combine their qualities in a bird and see what we have: Good size, good laying qualities, fine table qualities, splendid setters and good mothers, very docile to handle, and last, but not least, a most beautiful breed.

For the man who is "only keeping a few hens," where is there anything that will fill the bill better than this. This is the fowl that should have the attention of every fancier, small breeder and farmer, for experience has taught the writer that they are indeed worthy of attention from all sides.

It is not my wish to belittle other breeds. Anything in the shape of a hen has a place with me, but while other breeders are praising up the good qualities of their favorites, Dorking fanciers should blow their horns too. Let us hear from some of the other breeders.

Never feed decayed meat, mouldy grain, or give fowls stale water to drink.

Start with the breed that you think you want, and then stick to it. The stock-raiser who shifts every few years to a new breed never gets anywhere in his operations, except nearer to the poor-house, perhaps.

## FENCE TALK No. 4

Before you buy any fence—even Page Fence—make it prove up its value. Then you'll know what you're getting. Test it two ways, thus;

Have the dealer cut for you, before your eyes, a piece of horizontal wire from the roll of Page Fence and any other fence. Now for the fire-test. Heat both pieces cherry-red; cool them in cold water, and start to bend them.

The Page wire will have taken such a temper that after breaking off a piece the fresh end will cut glass—because it is "high-carbon" steel that takes a temper. That proves its toughness, its hardness, its power to stretch farther, stay tighter, and sag never.

The other wire will bend like copper wire—because it is only hard drawn steel, that won't take a temper. That shows it up as soft, weak—breaks at 1,800 lbs. compared with Page wire that stands 2,400 lbs. tensile strain. Shows it up, too, as sure to sag, hard to make tight, certain to give out sooner, by far.

And then the eye-test—look at the locks of the other fence. Have the man give you one to cut apart. Study it where the wires cross; look for marred surface where the cross comes—that means weakness. Then look at the cut-apart Page lock—positive, cannot slip a little bit, shows no sign of squeezing or pinching.

Look, too, that the running wires are wavy enough to allow amply for expansion and contraction—as the Page does.

Last, the third test—the cost-test. A Page Fence stands up and stands tight on two posts to any other fence's three. Figure the fence-posts saved, digging labor saved, and the time saved in putting up the fence.

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