

**POULTRY DEPT.**  
Conducted by  
S. Short, Ottawa

The question is frequently asked, "Is there money to be made raising fowls as a sole means of making a living?" To this my answer is, I have known several try it, some intelligent men, and they have, after two or three years, branched out into some other business as a main issue, and continued to keep fowl as a minor branch. There are in this province men who make money with poultry, but they are fanciers and exhibitors—men who are experts in judging specimens of the different breeds which they buy, sometimes at a very cheap figure, from someone who does not know an exhibition fowl. They then exhibit and sell the birds again at a high price. I am doubtful though, if these men make much more than from \$300 to \$600 a year. Very few of them do that. Again there are fanciers who attend the leading shows, and buy the prize-winners in the breeds that they handle, frequently paying from \$50 to \$75 a bird.

They often advertise extensively the fact that they have these birds in their breeding pens and have eggs to sell from \$3 to \$5 a setting. Money is made in that way, but only as an addition to an income earned mainly from some other source.

I do not know one person who has made a living raising poultry and eggs for the everyday market. While I make this statement, I do not say that it cannot be done. The market of today is totally different to that of 2 years ago. Then, in the cheapest season, June, fresh eggs, choice, could be purchased for 15 cts., this year the same article sold for 22 cts., and in some cases 25 cts. a dozen. In Dec., also, fresh eggs were 9 to 10 cts. a doz. more than they were two years previous. The main increase is noticeable in dressed fowl. This increase in selling price is somewhat offset by the cost of feeding material, but not altogether. It may be, that

now better prices prevail for poultry products, money could be made in this way, but I would advise that poultry raising should be engaged in, in conjunction with some other industry, say, market gardening, fruit raising, bee keeping, or dairying. With either of the first 3 industries, most of the work is in the summer time, when the fowls need or can get along with the least attention, leaving the winter months free to look after the fowl when eggs are the highest price.

With proper arrangements the fowls can use for runs during several months of the summer the orchards and berry patches and will destroy injurious insects and caterpillars. In this way, one has 2 chances of getting a living. Should the crops fail, the fowl would perhaps come to the rescue, and vice versa. In any event, to any one who has an inclination for work of this kind there are few occupations so healthful or interesting as poultry keeping.

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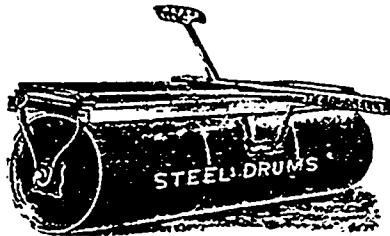
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