

tion right as far as I can. I do not question that the manure from the food contains all the fertilizing matters of the food that have not been digested. It is the *valuation* of them that I think excessive, and this excess is a serious injury to all purchasers of the foods and of fertilizers as well. At these times, when farm products are lower than in my memory of nearly half a century, I find that the values of these feeding stuffs are as great or greater than ever; and when a ton of bran is worth more to buy than a ton of wheat, and the refuse of the cotton oil sells for more than the whole cost of the seed (and the same with most of the other valuable feeding stuffs), and the manure from a ton of clover is valued more highly than the clover itself, I am inclined to think, and to say to others interested, that something is out of joint about it; and this, I am convinced, is this assumed value of the elements of plant-food in the manure. (1)

I bought malt sprouts for \$4 a ton when I first used this excellent milk-making food, and I paid \$18 a ton for the first ton of cottonseed meal, when it was a new thing, 25 years ago. I have bought bran for \$6 a ton, and at the same time I was paying \$2.50 for a ton of New-York manure. And it was this cheapness of the foods that led me to feed largely. I then paid no more for fertilizers than they are now selling at, and this enormous advance in the cost of foods and the still high price of fertilizers, out of all proportion to the value of the crops, seem to me to prove that excessive value of the residue of the foods, based on the equally excessive valuation of the elements of fertilizers, is a great mistake, and that the work of the stations and the estimates of the agricultural chemists are all too much in favor of the sellers of these things, and against the interests of their clientele, the farmers. I would not insinuate or be thought to mean anything derogatory to them in saying this, for I have full confidence in these gentlemen in every way; and in making this remark I simply mean that they have taken an excessive standard, by which most assuredly the sellers of these things are encouraged to charge a price that I think—with many others—far too high, as compared with products of them.

Hence those remarks to which Prof. Collier takes exception. And as it seems this accidental quotation from the article referred to has opened a discussion on these points, I should be very glad if the many intelligent contributors to these pages will discuss the matter from their point of view as stated in the above lines. There is no question of its importance, and I think no doubt of the propriety of my view of the case.

H. STEWART.

The Poultry-Yard.

The different egg and poultry markets—Requirements of the different markets—Our home market—Work for the month of August—Early chickens wanted.

(A. G. GILBERT.)

If the demand for eggs for hatching purposes, during the past season, from the Experimental Farm and breeders all over the country may be taken as

(1) We agree completely with Mr. Stewart in this.—Ed.

an earnest, there is a very great increase in the interest in poultry matters. Certainly the demand for information on matters relating to poultry management has been much greater than in any year in my experience. I have received several letters—one of which I send you—(1) speaking of the good work done in this direction by your *Journal of Agriculture*. It has long been my contention that if we could only get the farmers aroused to the value of the comparatively neglected hen to them, as a revenue producer, that good to them and the country, at large, would surely follow. There can be no fear of a want of good markets for as we have already pointed out these are open to our farmers:

1. Our winter home market.
2. Our summer home market for eggs newly laid and of superior flavour.
3. The English market worth from sixteen to eighteen millions of dollars annually.
4. The U. S. market, but we say little of it at present as there is yet a duty of 3 cents per dozen on eggs, going into that country. Notwithstanding, a large number of eggs are exported to that country.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE DIFFERENT MARKETS.

It may be as well to note the requirements of the different markets as follows:—

For the **BRITISH MARKET** large eggs, weighing six to a pound, if possible, and not less than seven to a pound are wanted. They must be carefully packed and arrive with a clean appearance and with a good flavour. For such eggs there is an unlimited market.

In my bulletin on "Poultry and Eggs" issued last year the following is said in relation to the shipping of eggs to the British market:—"As to careful packing the shipper can attend to that but it is only the farmer who can obtain the large eggs with the good flavour. The large eggs may be had by the farmers keeping and breeding the fowls which lay them and the superior flavour can be secured by care in feeding." And it may be added by making it imperative to have the eggs non-fertilised. The latter subject has been gone into at some length in my two preceding letters.

THE U. S. MARKET.

While attending the annual meeting of the Ontario Poultry Association in January last the statement was made by a Toronto poultry breeder that notwithstanding the 3 cents per dozen duty he had made arrangements with a first class hotel in New-York to send the proprietors selected new laid eggs during the fall and winter at fifteen cents per dozen over the Toronto market price whatever that might be and at that time I think it was thirty or thirty-five cents per dozen. And the circulars of Messrs. W. H. Reed & Son, Boston, call for large brown eggs for which three cents per dozen more than for white eggs will be paid. So that to obtain a tip-top price on this market large and carefully selected eggs are necessary.

OUR HOME MARKETS.

But we have a good market at our own doors that we should first cater for before we seek outside markets. I mean the markets of our large cities in winter. When I was attending a farmers meeting in Montreal last January I was told that new-laid eggs had sold that week at sixty cents per dozen. That meant that such eggs at

(1) But which we never received.—Ed.

that price were a luxury, that only the rich could purchase. There is a good margin of profit for our farmers in eggs at half that price and it is to be hoped that ere long our farmers in the neighborhood of such a market will awaken to their opportunities. In all parts of Canada such high prices do not prevail it is true, but it is more particularly for the farmers of the Province of Quebec that I am writing and they have certainly in Montreal and Quebec good markets for new laid eggs of a superior quality in winter and summer.

OUTSIDE MARKETS

It is to be hoped that when our farmers awaken to the necessity of getting a large non fertilized egg for shipment to the English market in summer, that we shall be able to bring some of those twenty two millions of dollars at present spent in European countries, into the pockets of our farmers. And it can be done by intelligent effort and management.

DRESSED POULTRY

We should also put a better quality of dressed poultry on our markets. I have shown how by keeping the proper breeds viz: white Plymouth Rocks; Wyandottes, Houdans or other rapidly flesh forming breeds that our farmers ought to put cockerels on the market, weighing four pounds each or eight pounds per pair in 4 months. It can be easily done if only tried.

WORK FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

The aim of the farmer, who takes an interest in his poultry, should be to get his laying stock over their moult as soon as possible, for the sooner they have their new feathers the sooner will they begin to lay. He can do much to bring on this desirable condition of his layers by allowing them free run and generous feeding. It is taken for granted that the male bird is kept separated from the hens. As the young cockerels attain the requisite weight they should be marketed and the pullets kept to replace mature hens and make good winter layers. The three year old hens should be fattened killed and eaten at home or sold. This should be done before the hens begin to moult. It has been before remarked that there is no money to the farmer in a hen over 2½ years, if an Asiatic, or 3 years if of the Spanish family, because she will moult so late that she will eat, before she begins to lay, a great deal of the profit she will afterwards make.

The early hatched chickens—and it should be the aim of the farmers to have early chickens—have attained a goodly size by this time. The cockerels ought certainly to weigh 3 lbs to 3½ lbs. At any rate they should weigh four pounds each by end of the month (August). And I am not too exacting when I mention these figures.

GOOD PRICES FOR EARLY CHICKS.

Good prices will be obtained for early chickens and ducks. Enquiry in the cities will elicit that fact. It only requires energy and intelligent management, on the part of the farmers, to make money out of their poultry and they need not at present go to a foreign market in order to do so.

Ottawa 13 July 1895.

EARLY CHICKS.

Are the order of the day and the thought uppermost these days. How are you hatching them? After nature's old method? Or shall the wee, coming prize winners come forth after the fashion much in vogue at present—that of artificial incubation? Any way to get hatched early, and well on their way to the show room whether hatched by steam, hot air or the somewhat

unreliable mother hen. Then, when hatched—how shall you feed them? Did you give millet seed a fair, square trial last year, as food for baby chicks? We did, and were much pleased with results and shall feed oceans (or less) of it this season also. In fact we are feeding it now to our incubator, winter-hatched chicks out in the brooder—chickens that will be about ready for the Lincoln market when this letter appears in the poultry news.

BROODERS AND INCUBATORS.

Of course I think I own the ones par excellence. At least one could not ask for better. My trial hatch was a most excellent one, all things taken into consideration. We bought the eggs from the farmers, and bought them in cold weather and consequently were not at all surprised when, on the seventh or eighth day we "tested out" six dozen infertile eggs from the 180 placed in our 200 egg incubator. We also marked a great many others "doubtful" and giving them the benefit of the doubt replaced them. When it came to hatching time we found them decidedly doubtful. However some of them were retested about the twelfth day and cast out, while still others that looked a little "queer" were left to see what they would do. But they did nothing in particular, except to emit a somewhat undesirable odoriferous perfume when broken, and to show that chickens had died very soon after showing the first faint signs of life. Those were undoubtedly chilled eggs. But about that incubator there was not the least odour from first to last and the machine stood in our "parlor" throughout the hatch. It will stand there throughout the next one or two hatches.

Poultry men may cry down ventilation and shut in all the foul air for their fowls to breathe over and over again if they choose, but what is necessary to man is also necessary to the perfect health of the beasts of the field and the birds of the air—or, to your biddies and mine. I could not live without fresh air, nor shall I compel my poultry to. Neither shall I freeze them out or expose them to draughts. But never shall I own a poultry house again without putting in just such a ventilator as our present main poultry house contains.

Many experienced breeders of the thoroughbreds hesitate about buying eggs because of fear of breakage and a general shaking up of egg in transportation. To be sure accidents sometimes happen because of carelessness in handling the baskets of eggs by the express company's servants. But we are very thankful that eggs will withstand long journeys and almost everything but actual breakage and still give good hatches. Eggs shipped so far as California and Washington last season gave splendid hatches. Were I wanting to buy eggs for hatching I should never hesitate about sending for them, but just "trust to luck," for the thoroughbreds I'd have, at whatever cost. Eggs carefully packed in baskets, wrapt in cotton and literally buried in excelsior, well covered and protected and plainly labeled, stand a very good chance of reaching their destination in good shape.—NELLIE HAWKS, in Western Poultry News.

DUCK FARMING.

BY JOHN J. LENTON.

Large establishments for keeping hens are not numerous, but there are a great many large "duck farms."