

### Going into the Chicken Business.

*Concluded.*

**W**HERE is no other source of danger for the amateur. He reads of men who are making money by getting lots of eggs from such and such a breed of fowls, and being in earnest about going into the business right, he concludes to get that variety from the very man too, who has the egg farm that is doing such wonders to bring him in a fortune. And he is not one of those who are too niggardly to get good stock, so he is pretty sure of success. He has brought home his purchase, the entire neighborhood has inspected them, and prophesied all sorts and conditions of things that will happen to him for being so silly as to "fool away" his money on "them air birds." However he istriumphant for does not he get eggs every morning regularly, and he is abundantly satisfied. Yes! he gets the eggs for a week or so and them "hey presto" they cease altogether. The first thing he thinks of is, they must want more feed than he is giving them and an extra allowance is given. Then he reads that meat is good to make hens lay, and the butcher is asked to supply the coarser parts of the animal, for the necessary egg food must be had. Still they refuse to add to the family wants, nary an egg can they be persuaded to lay, and the novice is in "the dumps" over his prospects. But what has happened one may ask to alter their productive condition. One of two things. The birds have laid out their clutch of eggs and if left alone would have begun again in a few days or they may have been in their previous home allowed perfect liberty to roam a. will and the restricted quarters of their new home would cause them to become too fat, and as a consequence reduce the egg production. The only idea the amateur has is that they want more feed, when in reality the very reverse is the case, for the birds in question are almost sure to get too much, as well as too-rich food from their kind, though ignorant owner. He looks over the fence and sees his neighbors mongrel flock scratching away at the manure pile and running over the entire neighborhood in absolute freedom, and he hears his neighbor say how well his hens are shelling out just now, and he cannot understand it, because his thorough-

bred high priced specimens are not doing the same. Look at the expense I have been to, to get that house in shape for them etc. Yea! verily brother But it is a gilded prison so to speak; the pen with its sanded floor; the small run without even a stalk of straw to induce them to exercise the source of poultry profit, viz. scratching. Blame not the breed, but the unnatural conditions for the want of success, and learn here that the closer you approach the plan of nature the nearer you are to accomplishing your ends. Art cannot supply Dame Nature's place, and can only aid us when we use it as a useful auxiliary, in order to accomplish a much coveted end. In pursuing art, we must keep nature in view and only press our aim in strict accordance with her laws.

This makes success doubly sure and art becomes our handmaiden, any other plan would only make us their slave. Pay as much as you like for your birds, but feed them strictly on plain fare, and give them the utmost liberty in your power that is consistent with keeping them pure. Have everything in readiness for the birds and their natural increase, before you begin to purchase and all will go smooth and merry with you; have your runs in clover; your pens large and light; everything plain and handy in them, a house for young stock with a grass run thereto, and then you can purchase your stock and raise their progeny without using the "big, big D." too often. And with considerable profit into the bargain.

### The "Bench" in Toronto

**T**HERE is a possibility of a fine bench show at the Great Industrial this year. We hope it may materialize. It would be a very great attraction as it is some time since the "doggie boys" indulged in a show. The past three years there has seen a marked increase in the activity of those interested in our ever faithful four footed friends. We trust they will have a large and successful show if they decide to exhibit. There are many good dogs, and high priced ones too, in the hands of Canadian fanciers. Our best wishes go with them for the greatest success. We are among the most ardent admirers of that best friend of man,—a good dog.