

POULTRY YARD

Knowledge Necessary

A. G. Gilbert, Before Standing Committee Ottawa

Poultry keeping cannot be made profitable without a knowledge of how to make it so. No matter by whom carried on a certain knowledge of breed, feed, and management is absolutely necessary. The farmer's stock may not be pure, or his poultry house of the latest or best pattern, but these obstacles to success can be easily and cheaply removed. He has the grain, the green food and other essentials in abundance, in many cases in the shape of waste.

But despite this, it should ever be remembered that to the farmer, his poultry is only one of the many branches of his farm work. It would certainly be misleading him to advise him to keep more fowls and hatch out more chickens than he can properly—which means profitably—handle. From 100 to 150 hens is all that I would advise the ordinary farmer to keep and he should be able to hatch and rear from 100 to 150 chickens. If he has help from his family a greater number may be hatched and raised.

With right methods financial success will follow

Edward Wynn, Middlesex County, Ont.

Fanciers like everybody else are now, or should be, reaping the benefits from a rich and bountiful harvest. They are taking advantage of the prosperous times which fact is being chimed into their ears by the politicians of our own country as well as that of our cousins to the south of us. Nevertheless, we are fairly good times, for which we should all be very thankful. Furthermore, we should do that which will insure us all that is coming to us. For as the saying goes, "We shall make hay while the sun shines." Fanciers everywhere have during the past season made an effort to raise a large number of fowls, though the season was a very late one, that came as near to the Standard requirements as possible, for they realize in the fancy poultry business good times bring good sales, as well as in every other business.

Some fanciers, especially those who are in the first year of the fancy, may get discouraged at the slow sales of the young stock upon which they placed great reliance to make up for the cost of the original birds and a share of their accommodation and feed. They may think that pure-bred fowls, being considered fancy stock, the wealthy of well-to-do classes may purchase them, and some may begin to suspect that fancy fowling is a delusion and a snare, misrepresented by the poultry press, and that too high an estimate is

placed upon the profits. Surely a business without its successes and its obstacles, its good and poor trades, its brisk and quiet times, would be something above natural.

ADVERTISING WILL HELP

Surely no sensible person would expect a constant rushing trade in fowls the whole year round when every other business or enterprise may be temporarily paralyzed. The amateur can do much during the season by judicious advertising. He cannot at any time compete with the veteran who has secured customers every year from the start, whose name is familiar to almost every lover of fowls, whether he be a practical breeder or not, who has advertised his fowls every year in widely read mediums, who takes an active part in poultry associations and shows, who discusses questions of importance and brings himself and his fowls prominently before the poultry fraternity in various ways. The amateur cannot even hope to dispose of all his surplus fowls the first few years in the fancy, no matter what may be the times. Every other amateur and professional has fowls to sell and only in keeping pace with the demand can the fowls be shipped off.

Every amateur and every professional as well must learn the all-important lesson to bear with patience every trial making efforts to meet every obstacle and carry a confident heart for every fate. These suggestions are offered to every amateur fancier with a view of assisting and cheering him during his probation, and to every one who is contemplating buying fowls this season for future breeding and selling of same.

The beginner is generally too enthusiastic, too confident, too positive about making sales and making very large profits from a few fowls. When these expectations fail he is apt to become despondent and apt to throw up the sponge and leave the trade. He will not reason to himself why it is thus; why one fancier is more successful than another, like one merchant, mechanic, or professional man leading all others. For this reason and others the fancier should make fowl-raising an auxiliary pursuit, instead of depending on it alone.

By strict economy and industry he can from a small beginning increase his stock annually so that in time he may work up a trade to warrant the giving of his whole time or attention to it. This is an extreme case, to which very few try to attain. But at the start at least, every one should make it a secondary pursuit, and avoid incurring unnecessary expenses in the way of elaborate and costly houses and appurtenances until the business and profits therefrom insure him of undertaking more commodious accommodations.

BEGIN LOW AND WORK UP

Quite a number of enthusiastic and ambitious amateurs, with a goodly share of spare cash, dash into fancy poultry breeding on a large scale at once, or on the first impulse, building costly houses and fit up elaborate buildings for the breeding of some fancy variety which has captivated their taste, or from which they expect to reap a golden harvest. Such amateurs seldom succeed and seldom continue long in the business. They are not of the right kind of material for successful breeders. The successful merchant is the man who begins low and works up; so with the chicken man. But there are those who disregard at the start the many essential elements necessary for success, and when they fail in realizing their expectations they unjustly attribute it to the many unforeseen obstacles connected with poultry culture.

As we are in the midst of the season when hundreds who are cap-



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tivated by the beauty of fine feathers will be making their first purchases, to such I would say, cultivate and practise good management, economy and industry if you wish to be successful. There are many breeds to choose from, and if you have no choice in the matter, get a breed suitable to your place, surroundings and facilities for keeping same. You admire one breed more than another and it is adapted to your place and purposes, it is the breed you should procure because you will give it better care and take more interest and pleasure in improving it.

Be sure to get good, healthy stock, not necessarily prize winners, unless you are out for breeding that kind and are willing to pay the price. If, then, you have the necessary qualifications for carrying out your intentions there is nothing to prevent your reaching the top of the ladder as a successful breeder and fancier.

A Successful Experiment

The results obtained from experiments that have been conducted recently at La Trappe Agricultural College, La Trappe, Que., with Zenoleum in the incubator, bear out the results of experiments tried at Guelph and indicate that Zenoleum tends to increase the percentage of chickens hatched, and to improve their health.

Writing about the experiments the manager of the poultry department says: "We find that the use of Zenoleum in the incubator just before setting the eggs is a preventive against white diarrhoea, that bane to the poultry industry, as a result of the incubator, in order to help the egg shell dissolve slowly, and furnish from that egg shell, the lime necessary to the building up of a strong chick."

Increases Vitality of Chicks

In the use of Zenoleum in hatching with incubators, Prof. Graham, in Bulletin 151, says:

"Experience so far indicates that various operators have not used enough of the mixture. In our experimental work at Guelph, we proceeded as follows: First, the machine was heated up as usual, and was ready to set. We then made a 10 per cent solution of the tarry compound mixed with warm water. The interior of the machine was thoroughly scrubbed or soaked with the solution. Sufficient of the solution was used so that the top of the machine would drip; the sides were very wet and

the bottom was covered with the mixture. The tray was washed, and the thermometer. Care was taken to cover every inch of the machine. While the machine and tray were still wet the eggs were placed in the machine. One can readily imagine that with such a mixture inside a hot machine the odor is strong. What the active principle is I am not prepared to say, but so far by thus washing the machine we have increased the vitality of the chicks. They are not yet equal to hen-hatched chicks but approach them fairly well in substance, which, by the way, appears to be the indicator of vitality. The more ash or mineral in a chick, the more vitality it appears to have. Our experience to date is that the washing principle is to be done before the eggs are put in, and further, if done any time after, say the first day, it is of little or no use. We have not had favorable results from washing machines at the end of the first or second week."

GOOD RESULTS

My last ad. in the Poultry Exchange of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World has given me good results. I think your paper one of the best advertising mediums.—J. F. Trevor, Pouchers Mills, Ont.

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