

## THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

Poultry Production and Markets Under no Condition should Pullets be Sold as Market Poultry

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PROFESSOR HERNER

because this year, of all years, poultry raising is a paying branch of farm work. With feed so cheap and chickens selling as high as 35 cents a pound for Thanks-giving trade and turkeys the same price, we can readily see where our farmers made the mistake of cutting down their poultry production rather than increasing it.

Winter Eggs Scarce

Winter Eggs Scarce Professo If this condition would only affect the dressed poultry trade it would not be so bad, but it does not stop with that. A scarcity of market poultry always means a scarcity of winter eggs. The supply of market poultry and that of winter eggs go hand in hand. If we cut down on the number of chickens raised, we are cutting down the number of winter eggs produced, for on the pullets will depend the supply of winter eggs. The rule in rearing chickens is that the chicks hatch about half and half, cockerels and pullets. Hence, if we cut down the hatching in the spring so as not to have so many chickens to so as not to have so many chickens to sell in the fall, we necessarily cut down the supply of pullets as well. With markets such as we have in this

With markets such as we have in this country, it seems too bad that our farmers should have lost sight of the opportunities presented in poultry raising. Of course, wheat stands out as the thing in this country and a flock of fifty hens looks pretty small beside an acre of wheat, but if we stop to consider which of the two is the bicrost graphle we certainly two is the biggest gamble, we certainly must say that it is wheat. The returns from the poultry yard naturally come in small quantities, but then they are sure, for the prices are always such that there is at least a little profit in it. Last there is at least a little pront in it. Last year was an exceptional year and poultry was away down in price, with the result that the poor man's table had chicken on it—poultry meat being cheaper than all others. The conserving public took to eating chicken on a larger scale than ever before and comparatively small cuparticips wave carried over in cold ever before and comparatively small quantities were carried over in cold storage. This finds us now with hardly any storage poultry on the market and also a shortage in this year's supply and high prices are the only possible result. On the Saturday before Thanks-giving turkeys were selling on the Win-pinger markets at 32 cents to 35 cents per giving turkeys were selling on the Win-nipeg markets at 32 cents to 35 cents per pound for fresh killed stuff, and storage turkeys were selling at 30 to 32 cents per pound. Chickens were all the way from 28 to 35 cents per pound, the former price being for ordinary stuff and the latter for choice milk fed, crate fattened roosters. These prices were too high for the ordinary man to have any poultry at all for his Thanksgiving dinner, but with the shortage the prices were bound with the shortage the prices were bound with the shortage the prices were bound to go up. In conversation with one dealer he remarked: "We ourselves are to blame for these high prices because we simply put the farmers out of the business last year by cutting down the prices so hard that they saw it was not paying them, but this year we pay for it. Today, with poultry selling at these high prices, one pound spoiling on us, represents the profit on one carcass Last year, with cheap poultry, the losses were not nearly so heavy on account of the price being so low." the price being so low.

## **Raise More and Better Poultry**

Already dealers are beginning to look up Eastern conditions to ascertain if they can get their supply of Christmas turkeys there since there are not sufficient own home demand. In view of these facts we urge our farmers to go in for better poultry and more of it another season. With a gradual change to better

Comparing the poultry situation this fall with that of a year ago, we find conditions almost the reverse of those last year. Poultry of all classes was plentiful a year ago and today there is a scarcity in all lines. Last year prices were low and feed was high and scarce, but this year feed is plentiful and cheap and the price of market poultry is ex-tremely high. It is unfortunate that we should be confronted this year with such conditions because this year, of all another and even it prices are low for the general run of stock, there is always a good price maintained for a well finished and properly prepared product. The only thing to do under ad-verse conditions is to try and put up a better class article than the ordinary and then seeure a better price.

secure a better price. Referring to our Western egg trade 1 might say a few things which may not sound very good to some of our farmers. Our eggs have quite a reputation already not for their high quality, but rather for lack of quality. The Western egg is without doubt the poorest egg on our Canadian markets today and

just now, when our eggs should be making a name for themselves in the East and in the Old Country, we must have dealers coming in here and must have dealers coming in here and telling us that our eggs are a dis-grace to the Canadian egg trade and out of all the eggs in cold storage in two of our cities, they could not find even a single carload of really high quality eggs. This is due, to a large extent, to our farmers not knowing how to produce good eggs and also not how to produce good eggs and also not knowing how to handle them properly. Probably ninety-five per cent. of the population of our cities who are buying eggs from the retail stores depend altogether on these storage eggs. In view of these facts the only conclus-

ion we can come to is that the price of winter eggs is going to be very high if not higher than ever. The supply of pullets is low, therefore the supply of winter eggs will be low. It is now too late in the season to start over again, so the farmers must make the most out of what they have. Under no conditions should pullets be sold as market poultry. We again urge the importance of this point. Take what pullets you have now and give them proper feed and care if you wish to get winter eggs. High class new laid eggs are selling now as high as 40 and 45 cents a dozen, with the summer hardly over and judging by the market demands there will be a steady climb from now till the beginning of the

There is no danger of over-doing winter egg production and our farmers can double their flocks of pullets next year without the least danger of over year without the least danger of over crowding the market. Summer eggs will, of course, be low in price, but even those eggs, if of good quality, will bring a price that will make egg production pay. The West simply has to come round to the point of producing a better class of eggs. Eastern dealers want good eggs and we have in them an unlimited market demand for this class of goods. Just a demand for this class of goods. Just a few days ago another Eastern dealer wanted to buy up a quantity of eggs but he did not dare touch them. He was positively disgusted with the class of eggs we have here in the West. Let us get ready for meeting the demands of the Eastern markets and put forth our best efforts from now on to produce eggs that are second to none on our Canadian markets.

## **POULTRY DYING**

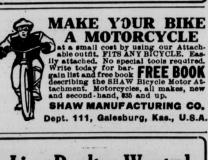
POULTRY DYING Q.-My Barred Plymouth Rocks have been dying in two's and three's of late. I do not notice many of them sick until within a few hours of their death. Some apparently just fell off the perch dead. Their heads turn purple. They have a free range, lots of pure water in perfectly clean granite pans. They get grain for morning feed and a soft feed in the afternoon about 4 o'clock. I dosed them with Epsom salts and put kerosene or formalin in the drink, but this seemed to hasten their death. I also loat 48 turkeys. They lost the power of their legs and would die off in a few days. Can you give me any assistance in this matter? MRS. M. TAYLOR.

A.-From the description given of the A.—From the description given out to disease in this flock it is very difficult to state exactly what is wrong. There has state exactly what is wrong. There has been considerable trouble this fall with roup, due to damp weather conditions, but usually in this disease the birds will be found gasping for breath and then the head turns dark in color and later on they

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