the roots are there, it does not matter if the surface seems almost torn up; it will fill in and grow more vigorously for it. Places trodden up into almost a slush by cattle very soon fill in and grow the sweetest grass. The question of manuring grass land is, in a way, a simple one; at any rate, anything that can be called manure does some good. Good farm-yard manure is never better used than when it is applied to grass. (1) It supplies the plant food necessary, and it sets the worms to work, and they effect a deeper and more thorough cultivation than can be made by any other mechanical means. This is one reason why manure which is little more than wetted straw always does well. Any decayed vegetable matter does good, and for this reason compost is valuable. Bone meal is valuable, as it provides nourishment for grasses and clovers alike. Kainit and superphosphate of lime are cheap, and essential on soils deficient in them, as is often the case where little manure has been applied, particularly if milk has been taken from the land for a large number of years. A deficiency of clovers is generally indicative of the necessity for applying them. Nitrate of soda is essentially a grass manure, and the want of a deep green in the colour of the grasses—at other times than during prolonged drought, when grass becomes brown even though there is sufficient goodness in the land—is indicative of the want of nitrogen. Excessive dressings are not desirable, as they tend to promote the growth of grasses to the sacrifice of the clovers. Sulphate of ammonia is more particularly a grass manure, but it does not check the growth of clovers to the same extent. It is, of course, by an admixture of manures that the best effects are obtained in the majority of cases, though in others there may be only one that is necessary to supply, and its application will make the others, which have apparently been dormant, wake up. The need of lime is by no means uncommon, and this is generally shown by sour herbage, such as sorrel, and the presence of hard, wiry grasses with little feeding value. Basic slag is useful for the lime it contains, as well as for the phosphoric acid. It does well where land is sour, and on moory land especially; but on hot gravel soils I have frequently seen no better result than if sand had been applied.—Ex.

(1) The write evidently does not agree with the waste of top-dressing.—Ed.

The Poultry-Yard.

What should be done at this season—It pays to be careful—Incubators and Brooders—Get the laying stock into proper condition—Canadian brains as good as any.

(A. G. GILBERT)

At this season, the aim of the farmer who intends to make money out of his poultry during the rapidly approaching winter—should be to have his laying stock, under two years, well over their moult and beginning to look their very best. If the proper care has been given to the moulting hens, the yarling hens have got their new feathers by this time. A hen or pullet never looks so well as she does when about to lay, or just after beginning to do so.

It has been pointed out in a previous number of this paper how to bring about early moulting.

These directions may be summed up as follows:

1.—Have no hen over two years of age.

2.—Give the laying stock a free run in the clover fields when it is convenient and possible so to do.

3.—During August and September feed cut bone, at least 3 times a week. If any kind of lean meat is cheaper and easier to get, feed that.

4.—If neither cut bone nor lean meat is cheap or handy, let the hens have the run, anyway, in the fields where they can get insect life. Try a soft mash, with kitchen and table wash mixed in it, three mornings in the week.

5.—If the hens are unavoidably confined to limited space, cut bone, meat or insect life will have to be supplied, in some shape. And so will green food.

IT PAYS TO BE CAREFUL.

It will pay the farmer, or poultry keeper to take a little extra care of his laying stock at their moulting time. It must be remembered that the earlier the hen gets her new feathers, the earlier will she begin to lay. The object should be to have the hens moult at the season when the market is flooded with eggs and begin to sell out when prices are becoming high. I am constantly asked (October) where new laid eggs can be had in any quantity. Indeed, this demand began last month (September) and I could only mention one or two places where new laid eggs could be had at 18 to 22 cents and as high as 25 cents per doz. I am speaking of strictly new laid eggs, not the eggs which have been preserved in the early and cheap season to be launched on the market at this time with every claim to be the "new laid" article. At this point, I may remark on the necessity of the farmer having his chickens hatched out early so that the pullets will lay about October, when prices are beginning to stiffen. I am aware it is not often possible to get out early chicks, for the hens will not "sit". A reason for this is that, in the great majority of cases, the farmers' hens do not begin to lay until early spring, and they are "late sitters" before they have laid their "quota" of eggs and become "broody." If the farmers' hens laid well during the winter, as they ought to do, I think there would be no trouble in getting early sitters.

WHY NOT USE INCUBATORS?

And if the farmers made the money out of their poultry that they would, if they gave them the same care and attention given to other departments of the farm, simple and reliable incubators and brooders would be more in vogue to-day than they are. I know it is said that incubators and brooders are "unreliable," "uncertain," "you have to sit up all night and watch them" etc. No doubt the incubators of the past were open to some of these objections, but there are incubators made to-day that are reliable and simple in operation. In many places in the United States, men have tens of thousands of dollars invested in the artificial rearing of vast numbers of ducks and chickens and make handsome profits. These men use their incubators and brooders as the market gardeners do their hot beds. They can no more get out their early ducklings and chickens wherewith to get the high prices, without their incubators and brooders, than the market gardeners can get their early vegetables, and gilt edged price for the same, without their hot beds. It is being regularly done by many, and what is being successfully done in the United States, can be done in Canada. It is only a matter of education and energy. To the "poultry specialist" in the neighborhood of large cities and who caters to the high priced markets, incubators and brooders are a necessity.

GET THE LAYING STOCK INTO PROPER CONDITION

While giving all care and attention to the moulting hens do not get them too fat, by overfeeding too much "soft stuff" or grain. With a free run, two rations per day one in the morning and another in the afternoon—will be quite enough. If there is abundance of insect life you must reduce the quantity fed. Pullets will stand more food than a two year old hen. The month of November brings some sharp weather and the laying stock should be comfortably housed at night. Any extra care and attention during moult will be rewarded with an output of eggs when the prices are 40 and 45 cents per dozen in Montreal.

CANADIAN BRAINS AS GOOD AS THE BEST

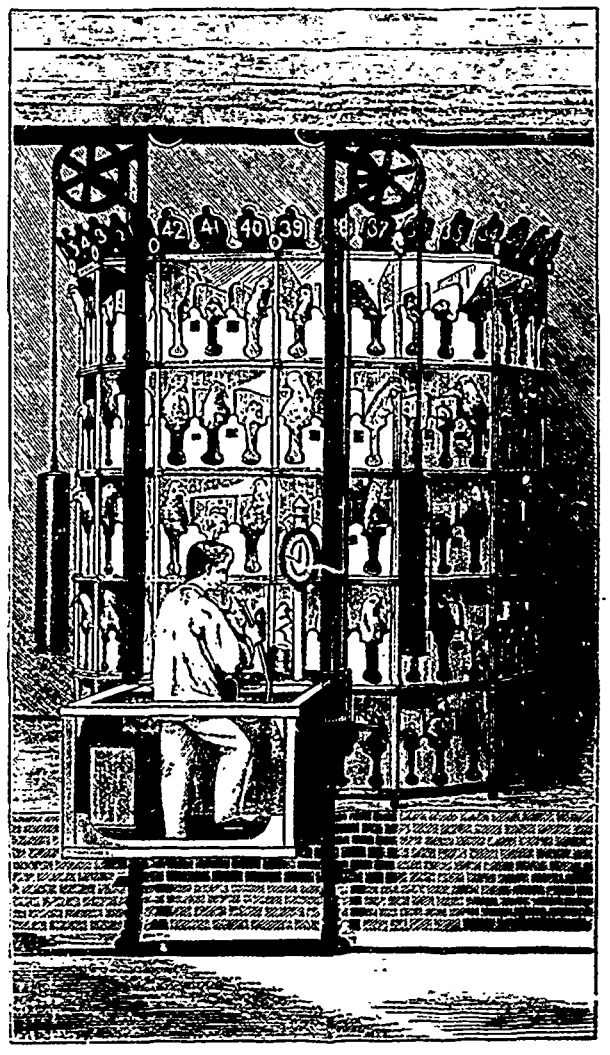
I am tired when I hear a farmer say: "Oh! that is very well for the people in the United States to do, or for the city folk to do, but we poor farmers ain't got the chance." This statement is untrue in every sense. If he said he had not the inclination, it would be true. The farmers of the Province of Quebec to day are breeding as fine cattle, as any in America; they are making as fine cheese and butter, as any on the continent; their root and field crops are famous and they can make much money and gain still more notoriety by developing the poultry interests of their Province, which they can certainly do by the application of their intelligence and energy. There are no brains in the world superior to the brains of the people of Canada.

THE "EPINETTE."

Description — The "Gaveur" — The food—Time required.

No fowls have such exquisite flavor as those submitted to this process. In the Gardens of Acclimatation at Paris it is very scientifically practiced under the direction of M. Odile Martin. "Its advantages," say the authorities, "do not consist in the rapidity of the process alone, but above all in the special quality of the meat thus produced. It is solid, very tender, exceedingly fine-grained, not overfat (which would not be an advantage), very white in color, and of flavor quite exceptionally excellent."

If this is so, of course there is no help for the chickens. They must perforce enter their "épinettes," and be mathematically crammed. Behold here the ingenious contrivance of the Gardens of Acclimatation for manufacturing this "exceptionally excellent" flavor.



THE EPINETTE.

It is a huge cylinder with fourteen faces, each in five stories of three compartments each. It holds, therefore, 210 fowls. The cylinder is hollow and empty, except for the axis on which it turns. This hollow construction renders it easily ventilated and kept clean. Before it is a box for the operator. This box, or carriage, moves up and down by pulleys. The "gaveur"—that sounds less offensive than crammer—operates thus. Commencing at the bottom of one of these fourteen faces, he seizes with the left hand the neck of the chicken, and pressing on each side of the beak, the bird is forced to