

much opposition. The argument was always "fancy fowls cost too much and require too much care." The farmer was only half wrong in this idea and, until he could be shown better results, held out against any improvement.

Gradually however a few progressive men in all parts of our country made efforts and were induced to introduce better blood into their common flocks and at last many have discarded the old dunghills and replaced them with thorough-breds. The eggs yield has been increased from the old figures to one hundred and twenty-five and one hundred and fifty eggs per year and special flocks now show even better results, and if care were taken to trace and investigate this improvement it would be found that the modern plants coupled with the exhibitions which are now held in the large cities of Dominion, notably in Montreal, Toronto, Quebec with the hard work of the officers of the Poultry Association backed up by the generous aid of both Dominion and Provincial Ministers of Agriculture, will have had much to do the present condition of times, still there is a room for more and greater improvements. In localities where these efforts have been made, the farmers have found opportunities of procuring better eggs for hatching and have seen with their own eggs, which was the most convincing argument to them, the advantages of better stock and better equipment. This is very noticeable in the Western Province of Ontario as well as in our own Province of Quebec.

#### GRADING UP THE FLOCKS.

When you desire to grade the flock up to a higher point of excellence such work should be done by a careful and judicious selection of pure bred males. It is better to use both males and females pure bred but farmers, as a rule, prefer to procure males and cross on their hens. If farmers will use the best males, however, crossing would not be objectionable, but they often exchange males with some neighbor or accept as pure bred fowls some that are but grades, which does not effect any improvement. The best to be had is not too good when you desire to improve your stock.

S. J. ANDRES.

#### FATTENING POULTRY.

*To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.*

Dear Sir,—I have seen several very able articles on poultry feeding and raising by S. J. Andres, in your paper recently; they are well worth a careful study by every one who pretends to keep a score of hens.

I agree with him, that hens if well cared for and fed properly, pay better than the same amount of capital in any other branch of farming. In the first place arrange with some good grocer in the city of Montreal to give him all your eggs fresh, do not keep them a month or two until the market rises, you can easily get at least 5 cents a dozen more for your eggs than the wholesale price the whole year through, and for 2 or 3 months, say November, December and January, you can easily get a good long price for them and you will not be able to supply the demand. I have heard farmers say that they would rather sell eggs at 10 cts. a dozen in summer than 25 cts. in winter, or rather they have more profit on the summer eggs than on the winter ones, but I would say that there is no need of selling eggs at ten cents. I got a market last summer for all the eggs I could spare at fifteen cents, and that only for a very short time, not more than two and a half months, then 20 cents and before Christmas I expect to get 35 to 40 cents a dozen.

As to fattening chickens, there is lots of money in it to those who fatten them properly. If you wish to raise all your own chicks, perhaps it would be better to get an incubator; if not, you can buy your chicks when wanted, there is almost an unlimited demand for well fattened poultry and at a good price. A firm is ready to buy all the well fattened poultry at Montreal, and pay 10 to 11 cts. a lb.; the former price for large chicks say over 4 pounds and the latter for smaller ones. The market is ready from the first of September, and even earlier, until the end of November. During that time, a thousand or more could be fattened easily. The Federal government has several illustration-stations in operation, and the first lot has been shipped by the Steamship Vancouver from Bondville, Que., to Liverpool.

This will be done until private enterprise takes it up, and learns how to do it properly. I have not seen what the cost of these chicks is this year, but last year they cost 6 cents a lb.; a profit of at least 4 cents, a good round sum; as the chicks

