

are located first and the poultry house then placed on the most convenient space, when it should have received consideration before the larger buildings were all located. In caring for the various classes of live stock, the question of labor is always an important item, and the class that requires the closest attention to petty details, as a rule, requires the greatest amount of labor. As poultry keeping is wholly a business of details, the economy of labor in performing the necessary work is of great importance. Buildings not conveniently located and arranged become expensive on account of unnecessary labor.

As it is necessary to visit the poultry houses several times each day in the year, convenience is of more importance than in case of almost any other farm building. The operations must be performed frequently, so that any little inconvenience in the arrangements of the buildings will cause not only extra expense in the care, but in many cases a greater or less neglect of operations that ought to be performed carefully each day.

Poultry houses are likely to be more or less infested with rats and mice, unless some means are provided to exclude them, and this should be taken into account in selecting a location. It is generally best to locate the poultry house at some distance from other farm buildings, especially if grain be kept in the latter. Convenience of access and freedom from vermin are two desirable points to be secured, and they depend largely upon the location. Everything considered, it is safest to have the house quite isolated.

A dry, porous soil is always to be preferred as a site for buildings and yards. Cleanliness and freedom from moisture must be secured, if the greatest success is to be attained. Without doubt, filth and moisture are the causes, either directly or indirectly, of the majority of poultry diseases, and form the stumbling block which brings discouragement and failure to many amateurs. It must not be inferred that poultry cannot be successfully reared and profitably kept on heavy soils, for abund-

ant proof to the contrary is readily furnished by successful poultrymen who have to contend with this kind of land. The necessity for cleanliness, however, is not disputed by those who have had extended experience in caring for fowls, particularly the less hardy breeds. That an open, porous soil can be kept comparatively clean with much less labor than a clay soil, will be evident to those who are at all acquainted with the habits of domesticated fowls. When the fowls are confined in buildings and yards, that part of the yard nearest the buildings will become more or less filthy from the droppings and continual tramping to which it is subjected. A heavy or clayey soil not only retains all the manure on the surface, but by retarding percolation at times of frequent showers aids materially in giving to the whole surface a complete coating of filth. If a knoll or ridge can be selected where natural drainage is perfect, the ideal condition will be nearly approached. Where natural favourable conditions as to drainage do not exist, thorough underdrainage will go a long way toward making the necessary amends to insure success.

---

## The Grazier and Breeder.

---

### JUDGING BEEF CATTLE.

---

*Address by Thos. Crawford, M.P.P., to Cattle Breeders at the Provincial Winter Fair.*

---

Judging cattle is one of the most important subjects in connection with agriculture; that is to say, it is important that we should know how to do it in order to enrich our farms and fill our coffers where cattle-raising and feeding is practised. Now, a good deal of the success of feeding depends upon the judgment shown in buying. In buying steers to feed, two factors demand attention—they are, profit and quality. Quality in the prime steer is one of two kinds—one is in-bred and the other in-fed. We have in this steer before us both qualities. This animal is practic-