

## WHAT I WOULD DO IN THE POULTRY BUSINESS.

BY C. J. DANIELS, TORONTO.

THIS heading might seem strange to some that know Daniels has kept poultry from his youth up. There are two classes that keep poultry, one, what we call the fancier, a very important individual in his line of business, viz., he is all the time breeding up to a standard of perfection by which means we have a far better class of poultry to-day than ever before, our annual shows are great educators to that end. But we cannot all be fanciers and make a success of breeding poultry for exhibition purposes; it takes years and a lot of study to do this. Anyone can keep a few hens and keep them at a good profit. Only a generation or so ago the hen of commerce was almost unknown. She was allowed or compelled to shift for herself, picking up her living around the barn or house, thus she gained the sobriquet of barn-yard or dung-hill fowl. To-day she bears the world over the proud title of the Canadian Hen, her produce cannot be cornered and the prices controlled or demoralized by a few to the benefit of themselves and the detriment of others. The poorest of the poor can command as food of her stores as the most powerful potentate.

Now as to what I would do if I

were in the poultry business from a mercantile standpoint: I would make a specialty of getting eggs, for I believe there is more profit in eggs than any other branch of the business. First the variety of fowl I would keep. My choice would be between the white or buff Leghorns or Anconas, either of these will outlay any other variety of fowl I know of.

I should have said it is most essential that the birds have a good, comfortable house. If you do not have this you will have no success in getting eggs in winter, when they pay best. I would commence to hatch out my chicks the first of January and to accomplish this a good incubator, or incubators are indispensable, also a good brooder or brooders. By starting in January you will have cockerels you can put on the market by end of March and at tip-top prices before your neighbour has got his chicks out of the shell. Having marketed your males at a good figure, you can turn your attention to your pullets and have them laying by August, and kept at it all winter. One thing certain there is not a red cent in raising late chicken. Just last week a friend of mine, (this is November) sent me in twenty late chicks to try and sell for him. I dropped a post card to a well-known poulterer in town to come up and take them; best he could do for me was twenty-five cents per pair, he had

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just bought eighty pairs at that price. You will say no money in that. True, but take the other view, the same week I wanted a dozen strictly fresh eggs for a regular customer of mine and I had to send to three places before I could get them and had to pay thirty cents per dozen for them. Do you see the force of my argument. I had to pay five cents more for a dozen of eggs than what a pair of late chicks fetched. But to get eggs in winter means work. Like the colored brother who stayed in the house and prayed the good Lord to send him some chicken, but his prayer was never answered, but next night he went out and fetched them and got eleven that night.

You will have to do your part and go out to the hen house and feed regularly, and see they have plenty of scratching stuff on the floor to keep the blood in circulation and plenty of fresh water.

Raising poultry has attained that degree of importance that it is no more sneered at as a wifely occupation. The feeding of poultry has now become almost a science,

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