



Poultry Yard.

The Hen Question—Is Poultry Profitable?

This following from the Springfield (Massachusetts) *Republican*, will have some interest:—

"We have been highly interested, of late, in the success of a young German family near us in the poultry line, and are permitted to draw from their six months' account book. On the 1st of January, 1863, Lewis Ritter, of West Springfield, had fifty-two hens, chiefly black Spanish, and five common ducks, inventoried all told at \$22.50. They were kept in a warm octagonal poultry-house and yard near the junction of the Connecticut and Agawam Rivers. In the month of January they laid 307 eggs, which sold, at 28 cents a dozen, for \$7.16. They ate that month three bushels of corn, worth \$3.16; one bushel of buckwheat, worth 80c.; fifty pounds of meat, worth 89c.; 64 pounds of meat, worth \$1.23; refuse onions, worth 30 cents, and red peppers worth 12 cents; total, \$6.54. The profits of that month were 62 cents. Only about ten of the fowls laid, or the profits would have been much greater. They were capable of five times that yield. In February they were similarly fed (except that the buckwheat and meat were increased, and the corn and meal decreased) at a total cost of \$6.21, and they yielded 492 eggs, which sold at about 25 cents a dozen, for \$10.80. The profit this month was \$4.66. In March they laid 434 dozen eggs, which brought \$8.80, besides 26 which were used for setting. They consumed \$6.70 worth of feed, and yielded a profit of \$2.15. In April their keeping cost \$7.16, and they laid 654 dozen eggs, which brought \$16.25, yielding a profit of \$8.09. The price of eggs ranged from 22 to 36 cents, according as they were sought for setting. In May they were charged for feed \$8.61, and credited with 51 dozen eggs, at \$10.20—profit \$2.16. In June they ate \$7.10 worth, and yielded 42 dozen eggs at \$10.43—profit \$3.33. Total profit for six months, \$21.96. The least profit was in January, and the greatest in April.

From the same source we learn that pullets hatched in March often commence laying in September, that fowls commonly decrease in their laying properties after their second year, and that eggs of maturest hens are surest to hatch. The estimate for the yield of a good laying hen the first year is 150 eggs, the second year 100 eggs, and the third, 50 eggs. Continued laying debilitates a fowl, hence good layers are often poor setters, and the worse fateners. Polands and black Spanish fowls stand highest as layers, game fowls as setters, and Dorkings, among the English, are prominent for the table. For all purposes combined, probably the Brahmas or Dominiques are best. The Brahmas, doubtless, are the best of all the Asiatic varieties, and their large size, yellow skin, juicy flesh, and winter-laying, make them very desirable."

Speaking of the laying qualities of pullets, reminds us that we knew a brood of chickens to be hatched on the 28th of October, 1829, up in the cold region of Vermont. They thrived and did well. In that icy climate, hens were not expected to and did not commence laying till about the 1st of March. One of the three chickens spoken of was a pullet, and it was an egg laid by her that furnished us the first fruit of our hunting hens' nests that season. She was not much, if any, over four months of age.

GAPES IN CHICKENS.—A writer in the *Rural New Yorker* says that he has found by accident, that dough raised with milk rising is a sure and safe remedy for gapes in chickens, fed while fermenting, but while still sweet. He has tried it for six years, but says that where he seasons the feed of his chickens with salt, as for cooking, they never have the gapes.

THE BRAHMA FOWLS.—A farmer in Massachusetts who has had experience in keeping poultry of different breeds, and upon a somewhat extensive scale, has decided in favour of the Brahmas. He says, "they surpass in laying qualities, and for the market, any breed of fowls he has ever kept." This opinion also corresponds with that of many parties in this city and elsewhere who have given them a fair trial. —*Maine Farmer.*

THE DE SORA POULTRY HUMBUG.—The *Country Gentleman* claims to have demonstrated that the great French poultry establishment, whose fowl and eggs were said to be produced by the million, is a fiction. Doubtful of the truth of the big stories in circulation about the monster establishment, our contemporary prevailed on a gentleman about to proceed to Paris to investigate the matter. This gentleman writes from Havre, under date of April 14, 1864, as follows: "As to M. de Sora and his chicken establishment—at the *Halles*, the great market of Paris, I inquired of several large dealers in eggs and fowls, and none of them had ever heard of him, or any establishment of the kind conducted on the scale his was said to be. At the *Camploir National d'escompte*, where, had he any paper out, or did he any banking business whatever, they would have known him, they could give me no information. Two of the large hotel-keepers of Paris also knew nothing of him. I wrote to one of the largest dealers in game and *volailles* in the Palais Royal—he had never heard of either M. de Sora, his chickens, his capons, or his eggs. I searched the *Almanach Bottin*, which contains the name, one might say, of every individual of any note doing business in France—that of de Sora was not to be found. After all this, I think you can safely put him and his establishment down as existing only in the imagination of some *farceur*, who from time to time amuses himself by gulling the public with the statistics of this great affair, which no one else has ever either seen, or even heard of, except through him in the journals."

DOMINIQUE FOWLS.—This variety is, very justly, becoming popular where best known, especially for hardiness. We find the following description of them in a very valuable article upon poultry, in the late report of the Department of Agriculture:

"The *Dominique* is the best fowl of common stock that we have, and is the only fowl in the country that has enough distinct characteristics to entitle it to a name. These fowls are full medium size, being but little less in weight than the Dorking, have full breasts, rounded full bodies, double or single combs, and yellow legs. Their main plumage has a light grey ground colour, while each feather is barred crosswise with a darker shade. They are frequently known by the name, "hawk coloured fowls." They are hardy easily raised, retain their peculiarities with great tenacity, have yellow skins, a colour preferred by many for a market fowl; and taking these fowls all in all, they are one of the best varieties in common use."

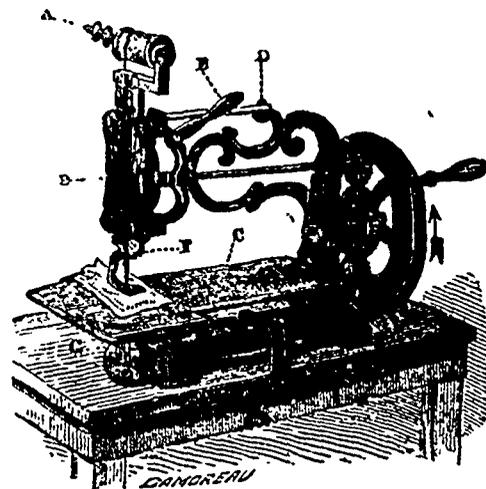
The flesh is good and they are fine layers. They roost high and hence are not in the way like the lazy Asiatic fowls.

The Black Spanish are most beautiful fowls, but a winter like the past is very disastrous to them. Undoubtedly, with extra care in winter, they are the best layers in the world; but we would not recommend them for the general fowl of the farm by the side of the *Dominique*. The Spanish for a village or city are first.

To substantiate our estimate of these fowls we will state that Mr. Wentworth, who has experimented with almost every kind of known fowl, has abandoned all others, and is now starting with the *Dominique*. We know of none of them for sale in the West.—*Prairie Farmer.*

TURKEYS.—Turkeys may be made profitable where they can have the range of a piece of road way or pasture and meadow. Three hens and a gobbler are better than a great number. The black and bronze varieties are esteemed the hardest and best. They will mate about February or March. Take the first litter of eggs and set under common hens; the turkey hens will soon lay again; now let them have all the eggs they will cover, and sit. When the young are hatched, you should so divide those hatched by the common fowls as to be taken care of by the turkeys; confine the young chicks in a small pen, made of a few boards, on a well covered grass plot, and change the pen every few days. They should also have shelter in case of storm. Feed bread crumbs and hard boiled eggs chopped fine. Avoid corn meal, unless first baked and soaked in milk. Young turkeys are very tender, while the grown bird is very hardy. In pasture or meadow we think them very useful, because they feed on and destroy innumerable insects.

The Household.



Raymond's Improved Family Sewing Machine.

THERE is no branch of industry in which invention has done more to help the toiling millions than by the application of machinery to the purpose of sewing. The great saving in time and cost which is gained to the tailor, shoemaker, dressmaker, &c., by the use of a sewing machine, has made it an indispensable necessity to them, if they would carry on business profitably. The leading machines are so favourably known, and have earned such an established reputation, that they are confidently bought by the parties above named, at a heavy outlay, with the certainty that they will quickly repay their cost. These machines, however, are all, more or less, complicated, and require a great deal of time to be spent in learning successfully to use them. In the workshop and manufactory they have proved a great help; but many families who have felt able to purchase one of the expensive articles, have found, to their great disappointment, such unlooked for difficulties in working it, that they have set it aside in despair as useless. The wants of the family are not met by the machine purchased, simply because it is not easily adapted to the great variety of work to be done, it requiring a skillful workman to put it in proper order for each class of goods to be sewed.

The machine represented above was designed and brought out expressly to overcome this difficulty. The aim has been to produce a machine so simple that any one can change it from the coarsest to the finest work, and use it successfully on every class of family sewing, and at the same time to make it at so small a cost, as to be within the means of every-body.

These objects, it is believed, have been accomplished. This machine has been in use and on trial for several years. It has from time to time been improved, so that it has now reached a high standard of excellence. Taking all things into account, it is undoubtedly the best machine made for family use. Its cheapness, combined with its efficiency, makes it the sewing machine for the million. After some months' trial of it, it is only justice to say that it has far exceeded our expectations, and proved itself a most effective machine for all ordinary purposes. We understand it is having a large and increasing sale, and have little doubt that when better known it will take its place as a welcome member of many of the households of Canada.

This machine is manufactured at Guelph by Mr. Charles Raymond, the inventor, and sold at \$12. It is also for sale by Mr. A. Christie, local agent, King Street, Toronto, and by Mr. John Hewlett, travelling agent, Gerrard Street, Toronto. Further information may be had on application either to the manufacturer or agents.