

Winnipeg, April, 1910.

way your fault, for it is her business to lay eggs.

Success depends more on the care given to fowls than the breed.

To purchase eggs is the least expensive way to get a start of fine poultry, but it takes longer.

Do not set eggs from the small breeds under large hens, because they are likely to break them.

Chickens, turkeys, ducks and guineas kept in the same yard will be almost certain to end in failure and disappointment.

When hens are moved from one place to another during the laying season they will diminish laying, or perhaps stop for a while.

Select the breed you like best, take the proper care of them and depend upon it they will take care of you.

Farmers who have a patch of wet land, marshy and almost useless, could get a little return from it by keeping geese. A few would get most of their summer food from such a spot and will pay better in proportion to their cost than any other stock on the farm.

The Breed to Choose.

There are breeds and breeds of hogs—black, white, red and striped.

There are breeds differing widely in characteristics; there are also types in the same breed differing almost as much. In this chaos of breeds and types, which shall we choose?

The first point to consider is our environment and the feeds at hand. Where corn is the staple and dependable crop it is always the cheapest hog feed. Here we want the compact, easy feeding and quick maturing type. We want the kind that will weigh 250 pounds at eight months of age on corn, supplemented with clover or alfalfa pasture.

The hog best adapted to these conditions is the so-called lard-hog. The breeds so classed are the Poland China, Duroc Jersey, Chester White and Berkshire, though strains of each of these breeds are so bred that in reality they do not properly come under this classification. In sections where barley, rye, field peas, etc., are the staple feed crops the bacon type of hog is best adapted. These feeds are lean meat producers and with them the bacon type is easily maintained. The leading true bacon breeds are the Yorkshire and Tamworth, though some strains of lard hogs, especially Berkshires, are bred along bacon lines. Feeds and environment have much to do with animal characteristics, while the lard hog under the bacon environment will in time become longer bodied, deeper sided and later maturing.

The type to choose is the one best adapted to one's surroundings as concerns feed, and the breed to choose is the one that suits the personal fancy, and at no time forgetting that type is of more importance than breed.

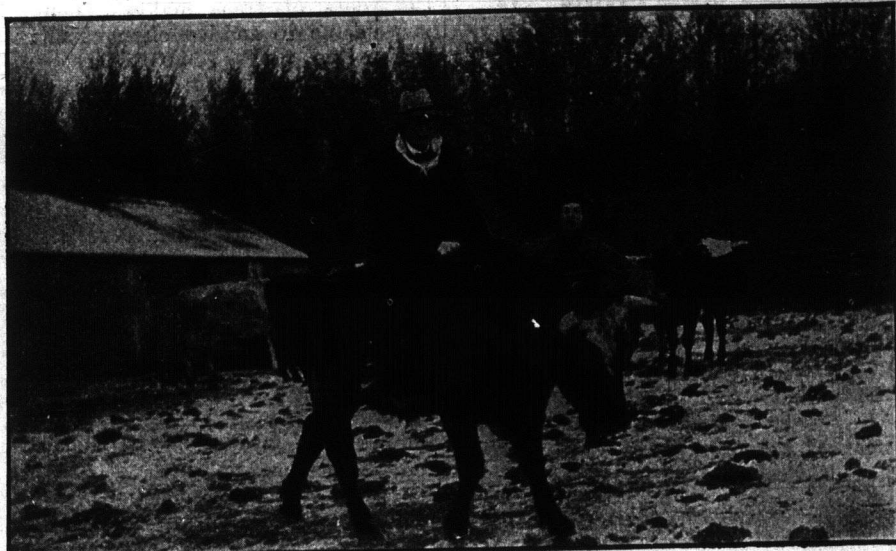
Poultry Mixtures.

What could be more pleasing to the eye than a flock of chickens of one breed? Uniform in color, all of a size and all of one pure breed. On the other hand there could not be anything more pleasing than a flock of mixtures. Such a flock bears resemblance to a paint dealer's color card—no two of the same shade. In size they vary all through the list from the Bantam to the Brahma, with pedal extremities ranging in length from the short-legged Dorking to the long-legged Shanghai. Such fowls have been inbred and cross-bred until they cannot claim to be the descendants of much of anything.

It is the very absurd custom of a great many breeders of chickens to get each spring a different breed of cockerels. They will then proceed to make such rank crosses as the Mediterranean breeds mated with Asiatics. These rank crosses tend to destroy the good qualities of each of the original breeds and begets a mongrel offspring. Select the breed that suits your fancy and requirements and stick to it. Even if

you start with grades, keep grading up with pure bred cock birds of the breed you have in mind, introducing fresh blood each year, and you will in the course of a few years have a flock to be proud of. Such a flock of uniform grades of pure bloods will give better results and prove a better paying proposition than all the mixtures that ever got mixed. This you will note by the following reasons: Where large and small breeds run together the smaller ones are continually being fought and cowed. On the other hand, when feed is given the flock the smaller, being more active, get more than their share. Heavy hens set upon eggs laid by light hens always stand a good chance of breaking about half. Your light weight hens will not likely be disposed to hatch either class of eggs. The market and consumer requires eggs of uniform size and color. They will likely call for the brown eggs or they may perhaps call for white, whichever best suits their individual tastes. You cannot produce eggs of uniform size and color from your "mixtures," and therefore cannot command the fancy prices. The market and poultry dealer will always give a few cents more per pound for a coop of uniform poultry where their dressing qualities are about equal. A coop containing one breed will always attract the eye of the buyer.

The day for haphazard breeding is fast passing, or should be. If a person will have the nerve to still contend, at



Out for an Early Morning Spin, near Stonewall, Man.

the present development of poultry, that his "mixtures" are the proper thing such a person is about sixty years behind the times. He is still living in the age when people kept "dung hills."

If plenty of eggs are your requirements, select some one of the nervous so-called non-sitting breeds. If your object is weight select a breed of the "great big" fellows. Providing you require a general purpose fowl for both eggs and flesh, one of the American breeds will give satisfaction. Go your neighbors one better. Keep a flock of pure blood chickens and hear them run your breed into the ground. This is only jealousy—they are envious of your fine looking flock. Pay no heed whatever to what any person may say to discourage you on the breed you have selected. Stick to it, stick until you have a flock of pure bloods, uniform in every manner, and a flock that will swell your purse.

How to Treat Plants.

Azalea. In the house needs much water. If possible, leaves should have a heavy sprinkling every day. Prefers a temperature not less than sixty degrees when making new growth. As the flowers fade pick them off. Keep the plant in a cool room when not in flower.

Begonia. Tuberous begonias bloom during the summer and must be allowed to rest in the winter. Dry off in November and let them live in retirement; in March they may be repotted. The

fibrous-rooted begonias are the winter-flowering ones. They need good drainage, a soil of loam, leaf-mould and sand. Put the plant in an east window—shade is better than sun, but a light, sunless window is the best. In May the plant should be given a rest by gradually withdrawing water. But it must not remain dry more than a few days at a time, then give water enough to keep leaves and stems from wilting. When new growth has begun water more freely, cut out old growth and repot. It likes warmth.

Boston Fern. The easiest of all ferns for growing in the house. Needs light, but not sunlight, soil of leaf-mould and plenty of water. In the summer keep in a shady place in the open air. Remove old leaves, particularly if affected with scale.

Calla. Don't give a calla too large a pot. For any but an unusually large bulb a six-inch pot is large enough; or, which is best, several plants may be grown in a tub or large pot. A good soil is of one-third fibrous loam, one-third manure and one-third sand; or a soil of leaf-mould and peat may be used. Keep the soil wet. When flowers appear liquid manure may be applied. In June Callas may be taken outdoors, left under a tree or anywhere in the shade, the pots turned on one side and forgotten until September. Then repot in fresh soil, set in a cool place to make roots, water moderately until the young growth has started; then bring into warmth and sunshine.

Cactus. Give good drainage, use

sandy soil. Cacti can stand heat and warmth. The rose-colored cactus epiphyllum is the best for a living-room. Needs little water.

Cyclamen. When in flower don't let the bright sunshine on the plant. Keep in a cool room (fifty-five degrees at night). Don't let it become dry at the roots. Don't use too large a pot. It may be repotted in same-sized pot.

Dracaenas. Warm atmosphere, soil of leaf-mould and loam. Keep moist.

English Ivy. Does not require sunshine, but pot should have a place near the light. Soil should be ordinary garden loam. Roots should be kept moist, not wet. To deter scale and mealy-bug wash occasionally with an infusion of fir-tree-oil soap.

Fuchsia. Thrives best in an east window. Don't try to grow it exposed to afternoon or midday sun. Give good drainage, and abundance of water both for roots and foliage; with good drainage you can hardly give it too much water daily. Soil should be leaf-mould and coarse sand. Fuchsia speciosa is the best winter-blooming variety.

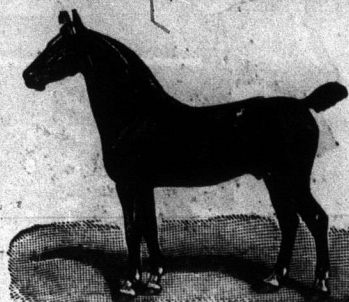
Heliotrope. Give all the sunshine you can. Don't let a heliotrope get pot-bound, it needs plenty of root room and can stand two or three shifts of pots during the season. Soil should be of sand and some leaf-mould. Don't let it get dry at the roots; it can use twice as much water as a good-sized geranium.

Lantana. Pinch back as advised for geranium, otherwise it will be straggling.

Plumbago. Very easy to manage—grown in any soil, but should be cut back as soon as it has flowered.

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