

## POULTRY FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT

CONDUCTED BY A. G. GILBERT, MANAGER POULTRY  
DEPARTMENT, DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL  
FARM, OTTAWA.

**Note.** Mr. Gilbert is nothing if not practical and experimental. He will from his rich store of information on the subject of "Practical Poultry," give REVIEW readers each month the results of his experience for the past thirty years. He will be glad to answer questions or afford information on any particular subject.

## A GREAT SUCCESS.

THE RECENT POULTRY SHIPMENT—SOME DEDUCTIONS  
FROM FARMERS AND BREEDERS STANDPOINT.

**T**HE first trial shipment of fattened poultry—that is, poultry in first-class condition—has reached the British market and has been a success. The Department of Agriculture is not only to be heartily congratulated, but the country. It means the beginning of an extensive trade with the British people in THOROUGHBREDS not SCRUBS. The consignee was Alderman Ruddin, of Liverpool, a dealer of large experience, who writes to Prof. Robertson:—"I was agreeably surprised at the all round excellence of your small experimental shipment of Canadian Capons. On opening the case the birds were found to be in beautiful condition and presented a most saleable appearance. After the birds were uncased I hung one to find how long it would keep its bright appearance and found that it became milky white in color as soon as the bird had dried out of the chilled state; to-day, five days later, it is as nice looking as a fresh killed bird." The birds readily sold for 16 cents per lb., WHOLESALE, which was equal to \$1.75 per pair! Just fancy a pair of chickens selling in Canada at that price! But let us tabulate the expenses attending the experimental shipment and then make our deductions:—

	\$ c.
The Chickens were purchased per pair for . . .	50
Cost of fattening, per pair . . . . .	31
Cost of packing cases, per pair . . . . .	3
Transportation and selling charges, per pair . . .	22
Total of expenses . . . . .	\$1 06
The chickens sold per pair at . . . . .	1 76
Margin . . . . .	70

Leaving a margin of 70 cents for profit and to pay labor. From a farmer's standpoint the manure is generally considered an equivalent for labor expended. Again, the farmer would be more likely to raise the chickens from his own eggs than to purchase them. The cost of fattening which was done with rations composed of finely ground oats, skim milk and tallow could be reduced to a minimum by the farmer. It will at once be seen that if the small shipment had been made by a farmer that the margin of profit would have been much greater to him. We learn "that the chickens were plucked but not drawn and weighed an average of 5½ lbs. each at time of sale." From a breeder of thoroughbreds standpoint the weight is too large for that of scrubs and hardly heavy enough for thoroughbred Rocks, Wyandottes or Brahmas. The conclusion he would likely come to is that they were first crosses into which any of the breeds named had entered. And from what the writer saw of the very fine chickens (of the same lot) as were shipped, he concluded that, if not barred Plymouth Rocks they were chicks in which the barred Rock largely predominated.

There is a lesson in the above to the thinking farmer. It is that the nearer we come to the thoroughbred the greater the margin of profit. Are we not warranted then in coming to the conclusion that had the first experimental shipment—which has been so successful—been composed solely of thoroughbreds that a dollar margin of profit would have been the result instead of 70 cents. We leave the holders of thoroughbreds to come to their own conclusions.

It may not pay the farmer to ship his own chickens to the British Market, but it will certainly pay him to raise thoroughbred chickens to sell to the exporter who will have nothing else. But the most startling phase of the shipment is that the experienced Liverpool poultry dealer calls our "first crosses"—Capons! We all know that Capons are considered the largest and best fed birds that go from France to England.

What will be said when our fine, plump, luscious looking thoroughbreds reach the English dealers. Truly the thoroughbred has a great future.

If your hens are in the colder parts of the Dominion