

WILL YOU HAVE GOOSE FOR CHRISTMAS?



PICKING GEESSE.



The bird is yearly becoming more popular as holiday season near: How they are raised and fattened for market: Their value to the farmer: :

THE Christmas season has come to be the harvest time for the goose growers. Although the Christmas goose is not quite as important a bird as the Thanksgiving turkey, it bids fair to be in years to come, for even now there is a very large and growing demand.

As a rule, goose growing is carried on only in a small way by most farmers, for these birds cannot be confined in yards like chickens, at least not with any profit. They are heavy eaters, but, unlike other poultry, they prefer grass. When pastured out they will graze like cattle. It is estimated that six geese require about the same amount of pasturage as one cow, but they can be kept on low and marshy land that is not desirable for cows.

Thousands Shipped From Canada. Large numbers of geese are raised in Wisconsin, Michigan and states farther south. Much goose farming is also done in Quebec, and on Prince Edward's island, and a large proportion of the geese grown there comes to the United States. At least 15,000 geese are shipped across the border every season.

Many farmers make no attempt to fatten the geese which they grow, but sell them to men who operate large fattening plants. Often geese are brought to these plants from farms hundreds of miles away, sometimes being driven over the road and sometimes being transported by train or in wagons. By a curious coincidence the largest goose fattening farm in the East is located at Mansfield, Mass., while the largest farm in the West is at Mansfield, Ill. Each fattens from 10,000 to 20,000 geese a season, but while the Massachusetts geese are all killed and dressed at the farm, those fattened in Illinois are shipped



God's Promise Is Perfect Peace. The peace of God which passeth all understanding is the peace Christ left to men. This is that peace in which God has promised to keep his children as the normal condition of their regenerate lives. Those lives must in one sense be often troubled; God's peace will not make them otherwise. Clouds and storms will gather and break; his power will not be shown in driving them away, nor in lessening their fury, nor in sheltering us from them, nor in hardening

Our Responsibility. We have not merely to make our way in the world; we have not only to keep our own character from spots and stains; we have to labor to get the spots and stains and shadows out of the lives of others. I am perfectly certain that our Lord is calling us at the beginning of this new year to this high service; that he has need of us, that there is some little bit of work in some corner that will not be done if we do not do it. It is time we assumed some responsi-

Geese Easy to Drive. This trade exists all through the season, but the dressed geese from the Bay State Mansfield are intended mostly for the Christmas market. Of course the geese cannot be held until Christmas time before they are killed, but those which are dressed early in the fall go into cold storage, where they can be kept several months in perfect condition.

Geese can be driven over the road even more easily than turkeys. When nightfall comes turkeys make a desperate effort to find a roosting place, wherever they may be, but geese can be kept plodding along with much less trouble. W. H. Firke, who owns the fattening farm in Illinois, has sent his son as far away as Tennessee to buy up geese. One year he bought 2,000 in that state alone. Another season this son traveled thousands of miles in nine weeks picking up geese, mostly in small lots, for it is seldom that a farmer has more than a score or two. Buying geese in scattered farming sections means driving them a long distance over the road. Sometimes a flock has been compelled to travel 60 miles before a convenient railroad station has been reached.

Wear Tar "Shoes." As is quite natural, geese become footsore when forced to walk long distances, but Mr. Firke long ago devised a method of putting shoes on them, which has proved very successful. The birds are driven over a thin coating of soft pine tar and then through a pile of sand. The tar sticks to their feet and the sand sticks to the tar, so the geese are shod easily and economically.

The farm at Mansfield, Mass., is operated by Charles Austin, who has been in the business for half a century and is reported to have made a fortune in it. Mr. Austin gets most of his fall geese from Canada. They come by train, being three days on the way, housed in stock cars. They are driven three miles from the station to the farm, and then are given a chance to take a cleansing bath, which they certainly need.

After a day or two the geese are driven into yards with low wooden fences, 50 geese to a yard. Here they remain for four weeks while being fed all the cornmeal mash they will eat. This mash is mixed in a long metal trough at the feedhouse and distributed from a wagon, which also carries a hogshead of water. This plan is quite different from the one followed at the Mansfield (Ill.) plant, for there the geese are fattened on whole corn, which is fed from huge hoppers, the birds being allowed to help themselves. Amazing gains are made at both farms, and one method seems as good as another. The geese are always very thin when they arrive, perhaps weighing only five or six pounds, but four weeks of hard feeding will increase this weight to nine, ten or perhaps twelve pounds. Half a bushel of corn, Mr. Firke estimates, is the amount required to make a thin goose fat. It takes an expert to know when a goose has reached the limit of its capacity, for if it is not marketed then it is likely to lose in weight or die.

Purebreds Not Killed. Market geese are largely mongrels, but progressive farmers are now keeping good strains of Emden, Toulouse or other varieties. Some of the geese

our hearts that we shall not feel them. The peace of God which passeth all understanding is the peace Christ left to men. This is that peace in which God has promised to keep his children as the normal condition of their regenerate lives. Those lives must in one sense be often troubled; God's peace will not make them otherwise. Clouds and storms will gather and break; his power will not be shown in driving them away, nor in lessening their fury, nor in sheltering us from them, nor in hardening

ability, not for ourselves alone but for others, somebody near us whose strength is falling and who is losing heart in the weary struggle, or somebody who is being mastered by temptation. The call of God to us all seems to be to rise up and help our Lord in his fight against evil and wrong everywhere.—Charles Brown.

from Prince Edward's island are Canadian wild geese which have been domesticated, and they sell very well in the East. Canadian geese, crossed with the more common varieties, make good market birds.

One distinct advantage in keeping geese lies in the fact that the same breeders may be retained for years. Geese live to good old ages; indeed, one sometimes hears of octogenarians.

Merry Christmas By GENE FOWLER

DESPITE the fact that Our right shoe is Hurting and there is no Money in our right hand Pocket or our left or Our coat or our vest or Our trousers or anything We step out to shout a Merry Christmas because That is what everyone does Who conforms and adheres And follows and recognizes And sticks to convention And we think of last night When Henry and Tommy and Webb and Gene and Jack and All the rest of the boys Wished us a Merry Christmas But they didn't give us Any presents except those Little presents of mind But that was just as well Only we cannot give any Presents now as it is our Rule to give away presents That are given to us Especially and particularly Those burn cigars by Webb and Gene and Jack and Anyway we don't want a lot of presents for we might Be arrested for impersonating a moving van and When we asked a young kid Who was passing along the Street if he believed in Kris Kringle he said who Did he ever lick and We gathered from his comment That he thought Santa Claus was a breakfast food And then we heard about a Rich girl this morning who Gave his wife a \$4,000 Picture for Christmas and We felt that he knows Nothing about art and his Gift indicates that he is Merely careless about money And a tramp told us that A fine lady said she would Give him a square meal if He would sweep off the walk And he agreed to sweep and To dust and clean the sidewalks and walk and everything but Told the fine lady that she Needn't expect him to make An after-dinner speech And he reminded us of the Laziest man in the world Who is so economical in Expending energy that when He licks his child he puts The parlor carpet over the Youngster's geographical Center in order that he can Do two jobs at once and Although we feel that the boss Is harsh in making us work A day like this we wish Him a Merry Christmas and An extra dry New Year. —Denver Post.

perfect peace, because beneath there lies the rocky bed, firm and unchanging, on which a whole world of waters may be stayed forever.

Tall, but Short. Wife—James, do you know that you are a very small man? Husband—How ridiculous! I am nearly six feet in height!

Wife—That makes no difference; whenever I ask you for money to go shopping you are always short.—Pearson's Weekly.

Had to Be Good. Mr. Newlywed—Do you know, my dear, there's something wrong with the Christmas cake? It doesn't taste right. Mrs. Newlywed—That is all your imagination, for it says in the cookbook that it is delicious.

Great Will Power. "Dobblitz is a very remarkable man." "In what respect?" "He went to buy some Christmas presents and only spent twice the amount he intended to spend."



Cease Firing! By FREDERICK T. CARROLL

The sergeant in the trenches Slid his rifle from its mound And bared his aching forehead Where a red-stained rag was wound. "Tonight, somewhere beyond us, There is holly on the door, And children smile in sleep," he said, "Unmindful of the war. And somewhere there is laughter, And hymns of praise are being sung, Mistletoe and ropes of green Are somewhere being hung; Yet we who stand on guard tonight, Expectant, sleeve to sleeve, Our hearts by battle hardened, Forget it's Christmas Eve! Thru miles of hostile distance Where the tender home thought climbs, I hear the frost-claimed echo Of silver Christmas chimes. Pardon, comrades, for my fancy Runs wild and free tonight; 'Twas but a bursting shell I heard Off there upon our right." Then he shouted from the ramparts Where life and death held tryst, At the lines of hidden legions Thru the settling powder mist. "Must our presents be but leaden Like the rest that you have sent? Then may Christmas faith among you Spoil your aiming and prevent! Unless you court a greater sin Than you or I conceive, Ground arms and fly the true flag, Make the password 'Christmas Eve!' Let memory of days that were The thirst of vengeance quench. So the glory of the season May invade each bristling trench; Let every heart be softened, Every war tense should receive The silent, hallowed message That is sent on Christmas Eve!" Then, as to his cry was answered, Clear a bugle order rang From far off in the distance: "CEASE FIRING!" it sang. And the War God loosed its fingers At the mandate of the horn, The Star of Bethlehem gleamed down And Christ our Lord was born.



My Christmas Wish By GEORGE MATHEW ADAMS

This is my great, earnest Christmas wish—that the Christmas Spirit may enter me and that it may fill me, enthrall me, and then that I may dip into its wealth of Love and give it away—to Everybody—everywhere. So that even War can never be again. And Peace shall eternally endure in the Hearts of men.

A Popular Book. Church—Have you given much attention to the books in evidence during this season? Gotham—Oh, yes. "And which do you consider the most popular this Christmas?" "Oh, the pocketbook, by all means."

That's What They Will Be. Mrs. Yeast—Going to do the stocking at this Christmas, dear? Mr. Yeast—Oh, Christmas stockings be hanged!

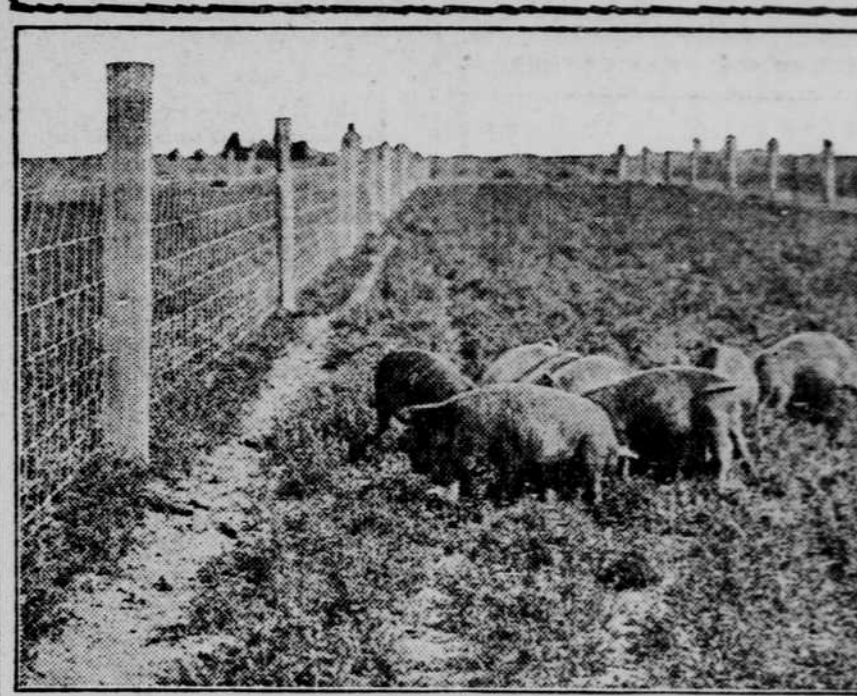
Sluggish Liver. One with a sluggish liver should have more outdoor exercise and a hot tub bath daily. She should use either a loofah or bath brush and dry with a Turkish towel. It is well to drink the juice of one lemon in a cupful of hot water before breakfast every morning and walk at least a mile every morning and walk briskly, not saunter.

Like a Motor. "Don't knock," said Uncle Eben. "A man is like one o' dese here motors. When he gets to knockin' it shows sompin' wrong."

The Brite. "What's the matter with young Mrs. Gadder?" "She's borken-hearted and says Mr. Gadder no longer loves her." "Why does she think that?" "She wrote a letter to Santa Claus, asking for a set of furs and gave it to him to mail." "Well?" "And he mailed it."



GRAZING HOGS ON IRRIGATED ALFALFA



HOGS GRAZING ON WESTERN RECLAMATION PROJECT.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) By pasturing hogs on alfalfa on the Truckee-Carson Reclamation project farm in western Nevada, greater returns were received in 1915 than could be expected from the same alfalfa made into hay. The gains made by the hogs, on the other hand, were much cheaper than could be expected from keeping the animals in feeding pens.

The hog-raising experiment was begun in May, 1915. One quarter of an acre of alfalfa was used; this plot was subdivided and the pigs were changed



Alfalfa Rack in Use.

from one pasture to the other each week. Ten pigs were used in the experiment, five of them being grade Durocs and five grade Berkshires. They were of fair quality, but three of the lot did not do well. While on the pasture the pigs were fed daily a supplementary ration of rolled barley at the rate of two pounds of grain for each 100 pounds of live weight. They also had access to a mixture of condiments, including slacked coal and salt.

The pasturing period extended from May 16 to September 18. During the

early part of the season the pasture produced more feed than the pigs could consume, but later it was kept so short that after September 1 the growth of the pigs was retarded materially. The pigs were each weighed every week throughout the season. In the summary the value assigned to the rolled alfalfa is \$30 per ton, and the value of the increase in live weight of the pigs is assumed to be 7 cents a pound. The results are computed on the basis of the acre unit, though only a quarter of an acre was actually used.

Results of Pasturing Hogs on Alfalfa With a 2 Per Cent Ration of Barley on the Truckee-Carson Experiment Farm, 1916.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Pounds. Items include Hogs on Alfalfa, Final weight per acre, Total gain per acre in 125 days, Grain fed for each pound of gain.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Value. Items include Hogs on Alfalfa, Gain at 7 cents per pound, Barley fed, Net gain per acre.

The same report gives results of tests with eight varieties of wheat, five varieties of barley, eighteen varieties of tomatoes, and four varieties of onions. The experiment with two varieties of mangels indicated that the Golden Tankard variety gives larger yields in the section than the long red mangel, and that barnyard manure is very valuable in growing this crop. On manured land the Golden Tankard gave a yield of 27.5 tons per acre, while on unmanured land the average yield was 17.2 tons. In the onion experiments a fertilizer test seemed to indicate that a complete fertilizer composed of all three gave better results than potassium sulphate, ammonium sulphate, or acid phosphate when applied separately.

SOLUTION OF SOME PUZZLING PROBLEMS

Light May Be Obtained as to Natural Peculiarities of Soil by Experiment Plot.

(By P. K. EDWARDS.)

One way of solving the many interesting and puzzling problems in the soil and plant kingdom is by an experiment plot. Here light may be obtained as to the natural peculiarities of soil, or the special effects of fertilizer on certain crops, or in what degree to supplement stable manure for fertilizer, or under what fixed conditions the ambitious garden lover may obtain the most gratifying results for flowers and vegetables. In starting this miniature farm, then, use substantial stakes at the corners of the plot and mark them plainly 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, leaving a space of two feet between each two plots to prevent the plants on one plot from feeding on the other. Make each plot 6 by 24 feet and plant in the same crop on all the different plots. Take winter potatoes, for example. On plot 1 spread 10 pounds of dried blood and 15 pounds acid phosphate mixed (where the amount used is so small it can be distributed more evenly by mixing it with its weight in earth); on plot 2 spread 7 1/2 pounds sulphate of potash and dried blood mixed; on plot 3 use no fertilizer; on plot 4 use 7 1/2 pounds potash and 15 pounds acid phosphate mixed; on plot 5 use 7 1/2 pounds potash, 15 pounds acid phosphate and 10 pounds dried blood, and on plot 6 use only stable manure. Take great care not to sow any fertilizer on the spaces between the plots, and after the fertilizer has been spread harrow the plot thoroughly lengthwise.

The blank plot must not in any way be overlooked or neglected, for with it are to be compared all the other plots in order to see just what have been the benefits derived from fertilizing. To make clear what such an experiment may teach, suppose, for instance, the yield on plot 3, where no fertilizer was applied, is represented by the number 100; the yield on plot 1 by the number 150; on plot 2, 160; on 4, 140; on 5, 175. With these numbers it is proved each of the three fertilizers is beneficial, for were it otherwise the yield on plot 5, where all the fertilizers were used, would not have been greater than on plots 1, 2 and 4, on each of which only two fertilizers were used. It is always of importance to keep a notebook, setting down everything of interest concerning the plots (such as measuring each separate yield), and information gained soon enables the experimenter to buy

CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISEASE OF SWINE

Kentucky Farmers Formerly Lost \$2,000,000 on Account of Deadly Hog Cholera.

Hog cholera used to cost Kentucky \$2,000,000 a year. Last year losses from this disease in the state were only half that sum, according to Dr. Robert Graham, head of the department of live-stock diseases at the experiment station. For six years this campaign against cholera and has just got the machinery of control in working order. There are 24 depots in the state for the distribution of serum, 22 of which were established in the last two years. Due to the rise in hog prices and the demonstrations in cholera control by the experiment station farmers have come to see that this disease may be controlled and that it is worth while to take all possible measures to control it. The experiment station has been in touch with less than half the outbreaks, and hopes by extending its activities with the co-operation of farmers to reduce the present million-dollar loss to a much smaller figure.

DUCKS PROFITABLE ON GENERAL FARMS

Fowls Can Be Raised With Success and Profit, Says Government Poultry Expert.

Ducks can be raised with success and at a profit on general farms, says Alfred R. Lee, a poultry specialist of the department of agriculture, but they do not appear to be as well adapted as a source of income to average farm conditions as fowls, although they serve to add variety, both of meat and of eggs, for the farmer's table. If the demand for ducks, and especially for duck eggs, increases, breeds of ducks which are good layers should be profitable on farms, particularly where there is good pasture land containing a stream or any running water. Farmers rarely give the necessary care to their ducklings, either in feeding or in marketing, to be able to cater to the trade in fancy green ducks.

REPAIRS IN FARM WORKSHOP

Little Training and Necessary Tools Will Enable Farmer to Fix Up Ordinary Breaks.

The question as to how far to undertake repair work on the farm will depend largely upon the farmer himself, some farmers are half mechanic and half inventor while others are not mechanically inclined at all. The economy of time is the deciding factor, and while repair in a workshop by skilled

mechanics ought to be more satisfactory, yet by the aid of a little training and a few necessary tools the farmer can repair all ordinary injuries to farm equipment.

Good Horse Sense. Sound feet are the basis for a good horse figuratively and literally. A horse will rest much better at night if cleaned up in the evening. Indiscreet feeding causes many good horses to be discarded and condemned to drudgery.