

POSTAL SERVICE SHOWS A PROFIT

First Time in History, According to Report of Cabinet Officer.

RAISE IN RATES IS FAVORED

President Concurs in Recommendation of Commission on Second-Class Mail Matter—Again Suggests Adoption of Parcel Post System.

Washington, Feb. 22.—For the first time in the history of the postal service that department of the government showed a profit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, according to the annual report of Postmaster General Hitchcock transmitted to congress today. Accompanying the document was the report of the commission on second-class mail matter appointed by joint resolution of congress on March 4 of last year and a brief message of the president, in which he called attention to the principal features of the two reports.

Would Increase Second-Class Rates.

The report of the commission on second-class mail matter makes the following recommendations:

1. The rate of 2 cents a pound on copies mailed by publishers to subscribers, to news agents, and as sample copies, and by news agents to their subscribers or to other news agents.
2. The rate of 1 cent for each 4 ounces for copies mailed by other than publishers and news agents; that is, the present transient rate.
3. The present free-in-county privilege retained, but not extended.

The commission also recommended that the cent-a-copy rate for newspapers other than weeklies and for periodicals not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, and the 2-cent-a-copy rate for periodicals exceeding 2 ounces in weight, when mailed at a city letter-carrier office for local delivery, be abolished.

As to the effect and adequacy of the proposed increase of 1 cent a pound in postage the commission says:

"Such an increase will not, in the opinion of the commission, bring distress upon the publishers of newspapers and periodicals, or seriously interfere with the dissemination of useful news or information. A reasonable time should be allowed, after the rate is fixed, before it is put into effect. While the new rate will be very far from compensating the government for the carriage and handling of second-class matter, it will to some extent relieve the existing burden and result in a more equitable adjustment of rates."

Both the president and the postmaster general concur in the recommendations and regarding the proposed increase in newspaper postage the president says: "The proposed increase of 1 cent a pound in the second-class postage rate, I believe, to be most reasonable, and if sufficient time is allowed before the change goes into effect it should work little serious injury to the business of the periodical publishers, while equalizing, at least in a measure, the burdens of postal taxation."

Rates Should Be More Equal.

Commenting further on the proposed increase, the president says: "The postal service is now, for the first time in years, operated upon a self-sustaining basis, and in my judgment this is a wise policy; but it should not be carried out at the expense of certain classes of mail matter that pay revenue largely in excess of their cost. It is not just that some classes of mail should be exorbitantly taxed to meet a deficiency caused by other classes, the revenue from which is much below their cost of handling and carriage. Where such inequalities exist they should be removed as early as practicable. The business enterprises of the publishers of periodicals, however, have been built up on the basis of the present second-class rate, and therefore it would be manifestly unfair to put into immediate effect a large increase in postage. That newspapers and magazines have been potent agencies for the dissemination of public intelligence and have consequently borne a worthy part in the development of the country all must admit; but it is likewise true that the original purpose of congress in providing for them a subvention by way of nominal postal charges in consideration of their value as mediums of public information ought not to prevent an increase, because they are now not only educational but highly profitable. There is no warrant for the great disparity between existing postage rates on periodicals and the cost of the service the government performs for them. The aggregate postal revenues for the fiscal year 1911 were \$237,879,823.60, derived mainly from the postage collected on the four classes of mail matter. It is carefully estimated by the postoffice department that the revenue derived from mail matter of the first class is approximately one and one-half times the cost of handling and carriage; that the returns from third and fourth class matter are slightly in excess of their cost of handling and carriage; and that while second-class matter embraces over 65 per cent of the entire weight of all the mail carried, it, nevertheless, yields little more than 5 per cent. of the postal revenues."

The Commission on Second-Class

mail matter consisted of Hon. Charles E. Hughes, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; President A. Lawrence Lowell of Harvard University, and Mr. Harry A. Wheeler, president of the Association of Commerce of the city of Chicago. In commenting on their findings the president says:

"The report discloses a most exhaustive and critical inquiry into the subject of second-class mail matter after adequate notice to all the parties in interest. Extensive hearings were held by the commission, at which the Postmaster General and the Second and Third Assistant Postmasters General appeared and submitted formal statements presenting the various contentions of the Post Office department, together with all the relevant official data and evidence relating to the cost of handling and transporting second-class mail matter. Certain of the leading magazines were represented by counsel, while various other publications appeared by representatives."

"The findings of the commission confirm the view that the cost of handling and transporting second-class mail matter is greatly in excess of the postage paid, and that an increase in the rate is not only justified by the facts, but is desirable."

Cost Inquired Into.

"The commission reports that the evidence submitted for its consideration is sufficient to warrant a finding of the approximate cost of handling and transporting the several classes of second-class mail known as paid-at-the-pound-rate, free-in-county, and transient matter, in so far as relates to the services of transportation, post-office cars, railway distribution, rural delivery, and certain other items of cost, but that it is without adequate data to determine the cost of the general post-office service and also what portion of the cost of certain other aggregate services is properly assignable to second-class mail matter. It finds that in the fiscal year 1908, the period for which the statistics for the Post Office Department were compiled, the cost of handling and transporting second-class mail, in the items of transportation, post-office cars, railway distribution, rural delivery, and certain miscellaneous charges, was approximately 6 cents a pound for paid-at-the-pound-rate matter, and for free-in-county and transient matter each approximately 5 cents a pound, and that upon this basis, as modified by subsequent reductions in the cost of railroad transportation, the cost of paid-at-the-pound-rate matter, for the services mentioned, is now approximately 5 1/2 cents a pound, while the cost of free-in-county and transient matter remains as formerly, namely, each at approximately 5 cents a pound."

The commission suggests that the department "maintain an adequate cost system, so that the effect of the new rates may be closely observed and a proper basis may be secured for the consideration of any future proposals."

President Taft again concurs in the recommendation of the Postmaster General for the adoption of a parcel post system, suggesting the inauguration of such a service on rural routes and in the city delivery service first.

Ownership of Telegraph Opposed.

Hitchcock's recommendation for government ownership of the telegraph lines under the supervision of the postal service is not approved of by the president. Regarding this he says:

"There is only one recommendation in which I can not agree—that is one which recommends that the telegraph lines in the United States should be made a part of the postal system and operated in conjunction with the mail system. This presents a question of government ownership of public utilities which are now being conducted by private enterprise under franchises from the government. I believe that the true principle is that private enterprise should be permitted to carry on such public utilities under due regulation as to rates by proper authority rather than that the government should itself conduct them. This principle I favor because I do not think it in accordance with the best public policy thus to increase the body of public servants. Of course, if it could be shown that telegraph service could be furnished to the public at a less price than it is now furnished to the public by telegraph companies, and with equal efficiency, the argument might be a strong one in favor of the adoption of the proposition. But I am not satisfied from any evidence that if these properties were taken over by the government they could be managed any more economically or any more efficiently or that this would enable the government to furnish service at any smaller rate than the public are now required to pay by private companies."

The report of the Postmaster General is full of statements of changes in the organization and methods of the postal service made since the last annual report, and of tentative drafts of legislation embodying certain recommendations of the department which need legislation to carry them out. It also calls attention to the fact that the revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911, amounted to \$237,879,823.60 and that the expenditures amounted to \$237,660,705.48, making a surplus of \$219,118.12.

The report shows that the postal savings system was begun experimentally in January, 1911, and that it has now been extended so as to include 7,500 presidential post offices, which includes practically all of the post offices of that class. Preparations are also being made to establish the system at about 40,000 fourth-class offices. The deposits in 11 months have reached a total of \$11,000,000, distributed among 2,710 national and state banks.



MAKING IMPROVED NEST-BOX

Weight of Hen Causes Platform to Tilt, Thereby Closing Door—Size Should Vary.

The size of the nest should vary according to the breed, writes Fred L. Bailey in the Farm and Fireside. For the Asiatic breeds it should be not less than 3 1/2 feet long, 15 inches wide and 20 inches deep. The hen enters the nest by walking in on the platform. Her weight causes the platform to tilt, which, by means of the lever attached, closes the door. When the

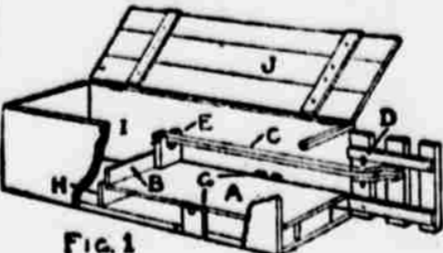


Fig. 1 Improved Nest-Box.

hen leaves the nest, she goes for the light which comes in at the slat door. Her weight on the front end of the platform causes the door to open, and it stays open until she finds food and water and is ready to go back on the nest. The box is built with no floor, so the nest can be made directly on the ground.

Explanation: A, platform, 1 1/2 feet long by which hen enters nest. B, board across back end of platform, on which she puts full weight when entering, causing platform to tilt. C, lever attached to platform and door, showing door open. D, point where lever is attached to door. E, point

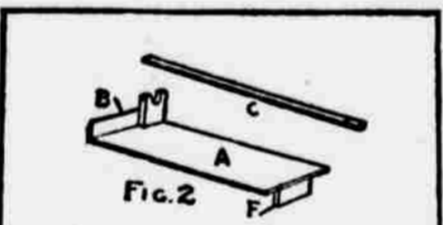


Fig. 2

where lever is attached to platform. F, board attached to under side of front end of platform, causing platform to stop on a level when door opens, and helping to balance platform. G, cleats with notches in upper ends for axes of platform to rest in. Notches are 8 inches from the bottom of the box. H, partition board between nest and platform. I, nest. J, cover.

THOUGHTS OF SPRING FEEDS

Birds Should Have Variety, Especially Great Deal Reasonably Rich in Protein—Lime Is Needed.

Apoplexy among fowls is generally confined to the overfat birds and generally the heavier breeds are subject to it. It is, therefore, necessary that the keeper does not feed any great quantity of fat-forming feeds to his birds, especially to the heavier breeds. In the spring of the year more than any other time of the year the birds should have a variety of feeds, and especially a great deal of feed reasonably rich in protein should be included in the ration.

Soft-shelled eggs are usually produced in considerable numbers at this time of the year. The reason for this generally lies in the fact that the birds do not get the proper feed. To form an egg shell the proper materials must be present, and if they are not present the soft-shelled egg is the result.

Lime is one of the necessary materials needed in the formation of an egg shell, and at this time of the year, when the hens are beginning to lay, a liberal amount of lime should be present at all times where they can partake of it when they desire. In providing any kind of feed whether it be vegetable or animal feed, be sure that it is pure and wholesome. Musty grains and rotten meats will cause sickness many times when the flock is in perfect health.

Guineas as Watchers.

A good point about guineas is that they make a good "watch dog." Every person who writes of these fowls mentions this point, but a good thing will bear repeating, in common with wild birds, they are always on the lookout for enemies, and quickly detect hawks, dogs, strange persons, etc., that venture near. Their wild cries on such occasions soon put the intruders to rout, and also put all the fowls on the place on their guard. If hawks are numerous a few guineas in the flock will prove of great help in preventing their depredations.

Laying in Winter.

Almost every hen running at large lays in the spring and lays well. If the poultryman can provide these conditions through winter, his hens will lay then the same as they do naturally in the spring.

Geese Pay Well.

No kind of poultry keeping can be carried on at so small an expense for buildings and equipment as that of raising geese, because of the hardiness of the birds, and their desire to remain in the open air.

RAISING POULTRY FOR EGGS

Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Issues Bulletin Giving Results With Plymouth Rocks.

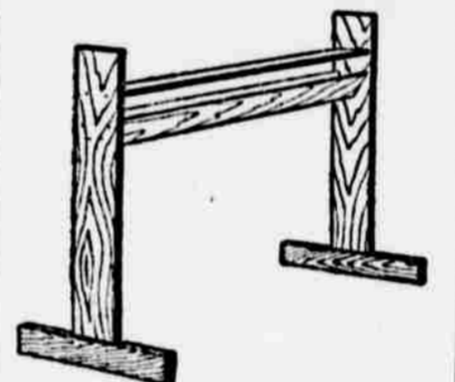
Under the above title the Maine agricultural experiment station has issued Bulletin 192, which summarizes all of the results of the experiments which have been carried on at the station during the last 13 years in attempting to improve by breeding the average egg production of a strain of Barred Plymouth Rock poultry. An account is given of the results of the earlier experiments in selecting the highest producers as breeders without regard to any other qualities than their trap nest records. It is shown that this plan of breeding failed to obtain any distinct improvement in flock production. The experiments of the station to find out whether continued artificial incubation and brooding has a harmful effect on egg production are described. The effect of inbreeding on egg production is discussed on the basis of extensive experimental records. This is followed by a clear and simple explanation of a new plan of breeding which has been tried during the past five years, and which is based upon the conception that high egg productiveness is inherited in certain "blood lines" and not in others, and that by a proper system of pedigree selection it is possible to isolate the high producing lines. The last section of the bulletin is devoted to an exposition of the gratifying success which has attended the application of this new plan of breeding to the station flock. Strains which have high egg productiveness fixed as a definite character have now been obtained and are being propagated at the station.

FOR FEEDING TURKEYS ONLY

Small V-Shaped Trough Elevated to Height to Allow Big Birds to Pick From Is Useful.

Often on a farm where turkeys are raised right along with the chickens and other poultry, it is desirable to feed them heavier than the other poultry, yet suitable means of doing so are not available without a fenced yard to separate them, writes P. C. Gross of Ohio in the Prairie Farmer. In such cases the following contrivance serves admirably:

A small V-shaped trough, of immaterial length, is elevated by means of supports to a height that will allow the turkeys to stand on the floor and pick from it, yet be too high to permit the chickens and small fowls to do likewise. Three or four inches above the top of the trough, as wide as the trough, is attached flatwise. This prevents the chickens from flying up and standing on the edge of the trough. The sides of the trough



Trough for Turkeys.

should not be very wide as this would prevent the turkeys from reaching the corn or other feed in the bottom of the trough.

With such a trough the turkeys may be fattened right among the other poultry, and no feed wasted on the other fowls.

Of course, the chickens will climb on top of the flat board, but from it they can not reach the trough.

POULTRY NOTES

A good egg is a rare production. The breeding season will be upon us now before we have had time to think.

The Indian Runner duck is not inclined to fatten so readily as other varieties.

It is estimated that it requires the feathers from about ten ducks to make a pound.

Full fed hens, having a well balanced ration, will lay larger eggs than hens on stunted feed.

A warm house does not mean that it be air-tight. Laying hens must have fresh air at all times of the year.

By this time you should have your spring breeders and the cockerel with which they are to be mated selected.

The Indian Runner duck is not a new variety, although it is not as old as some of the other varieties of ducks.

Duck eggs are in demand by confectioners, as they impart a glaze to their icing, which cannot be had with hen eggs.

The critical period of the turkey is the first eight weeks of its life. About 48 eggs is the average yearly record of the hen.

With many flocks, the addition of an ample supply of meat to the ration will cause a marked increase in the size of the egg.

It takes lots of scheming and coaxing to get the hens to lay eggs this cold weather, but they are worth the price after you do get them.

Hens with plenty of exercise and comfortable surroundings lay heavier eggs than those in restricted quarters: often eggs 10 per cent heavier.



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Is made of an indestructible felt base, beautifully colored and grained by a special process, made possible by a recent discovery. It is protected with a triple coating of varnish which receives the brunt of the wear.

Gal-va-nite Flooring is easy to keep clean, and will not crack, peel or blister. It is absolutely damp-proof, vermin-proof, odorless and sanitary. Makes warm floors in winter and smaller fuel bills.

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"I have used Sloan's Liniment for years and can testify to its wonderful efficiency. I have used it for sore throat, croup, lame back and rheumatism, and in every case it gave instant relief."
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is excellent for sprains and bruises. It stops the pain at once and reduces swelling very quickly.

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Sloan's Treatise on the Horse sent free. Address Dr. Earl S. Sloan, Boston, Mass.

CHILD'S HEAD A MASS OF HUMOR

"I think the Cuticura remedies are the best remedies for eczema I have ever heard of. My mother had a child who had a rash on its head when it was real young. Doctor called it baby rash. He gave us medicine, but it did no good. In a few days the head was a solid mass, a running sore. It was awful; the child cried continually. We had to hold him and watch him to keep him from scratching the sore. His suffering was dreadful. At last we remembered Cuticura Remedies. We got a dollar bottle of Cuticura Resolvent, a box of Cuticura Ointment, and a bar of Cuticura Soap. We gave the Resolvent as directed, washed the head with the Cuticura Soap, and applied the Cuticura Ointment. We had not used half before the child's head was clear and free from eczema, and it has never come back again. His head was healthy and he had a beautiful head of hair. I think the Cuticura Ointment very good for the hair. It makes the hair grow and prevents falling hair." (Signed) Mrs. Francis Lund, Plain City, Utah, Sept. 19, 1910.

Although Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold everywhere, a sample of each, with 32-page book, will be mailed free on application to "Cuticura," Dept. L, Boston.

Wonderful Control.
"Do you believe in hypnotism?"
"Yes," replied Mr. Cumro, "there must be some such thing. Every now and then I hear of some one who manages to get a cook to stay in the country."

Temperance is reason's girle and passion's bride, the strength of the soul, and the foundation of virtue.—Jeremy Taylor.

Many things may come to the man who waits, but better things come to the chap who waits on himself.

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Cures the weaknesses and disorders of women. It acts directly on the delicate and important organs concerned in motherhood, making them healthy, strong, vigorous, virile and elastic.

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It Makes Weak Women Strong. It Makes Sick Women Well. Honest druggists do not offer substitutes, and urge them upon you as "just as good." Accept no secret nostrum in place of this non-secret remedy. It contains not a drop of alcohol and not a grain of habit-forming or injurious drugs. Is a pure glyceric extract of healing, native American roots.