

WOMEN AS MANAGERS OF POULTRY FARMS

By MRS. B. F. WILCOXON

THE successful management of a poultry farm depends primarily upon the natural taste for the business sufficient to embrace a love for as well as an interest in fowls. The woman who succeeds must have a capacity to manage details—ability to direct hired help if such is necessary.

She must have power to understand the market and good judgment in regard to the merits of the different breeds. There are many notable examples of women who have succeeded with poultry raising. I know many who are good fanciers, many good commercial poultry raisers and they are all energetic. They know how to push aside the difficulties that arise in the poultry business.

During a trip I once took I visited a real poultry farm where a woman was hired on a monthly salary for taking charge and performing all the labor connected with the farm. I know many who have large turkey farms, many own large duck farms. Ducks have come to stay and the breeder who gives them special attention will realize a good profit from them. There are great possibilities in store for duck raisers.

Poultry farming is a hobby of mine. I know it to be one of the healthiest outdoor occupations that women can enter. Women perhaps need hobbies even more than men do; their lives are more circumscribed. Woman is often held at home by a thousand ties which she would not loosen if she could and could not if she would. Let her have a hobby, then, which will direct her thoughts from her small cares.

Some time ago a man said to me, "Chicken raising is nothing but a fad." Even so; it does one good to have a hobby to ride if they only get there. It will pay to ride a safe hobby and there is nothing more profitable than the "fancy fowl fad."

Did you ever attend a poultry show and notice how many exhibitors there are? There is just as good a chance for a woman to win a prize on her poultry as men. It's simply a matter of knowing how.

A great many women when they want to increase their income just add to the number of their flock, and if you want to sell out your stock you can do so any time of the year. The hungry public buys our poultry products greedily and at any time.

A great many have a taste for country life and natural capacity for the management of a farm; with poultry raising the raising of fruit can be combined profitably. Who is adapted? The woman who may become a good manager of a household has the qualities which insure success as poultry raisers and women would not be poultry raisers if they did not have a strong taste in that direction.

If she is endowed with that taste all else follows naturally. If we care for poultry we like to see it and this trains the eye to recognize types and to estimate a correct value from it; it enables one to detect the conditions which in the beginning may make the difference between success and failure.

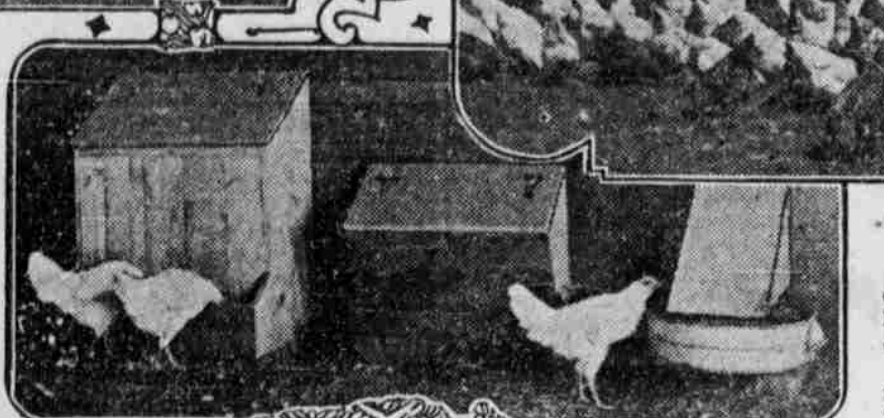
A prime requisite with poultry is that it be kept. The sympathetic nature in woman leads her to provide for comfort. Her care for appearance has real value in the market, which is the final test of her ability to produce. It is in this place where we differ from women in all other callings. We are not handicapped by our sex.

We have never had a discount proposed because poultry was owned by women, while on the other hand, no matter how well we teach, clerk, etc., we find an inevitable discrimination against us in the pay offered our ability in those lines.

Poultry farming affords a profitable outlet for intelligence and energy with independence. If we are fitted for this work we will find a perpetual charm in poultry raising. It also gives us an opportunity to maintain a home where others may find refuge. There is no monotony in such a life. We have the poultry papers, the fairs and shows—these keep the mind alert and the interests engaged.

The woman engaged in it finds the business of poultry raising projected on such a generous scale that she has no fear of others in the same business. Then, too, the poultry farmer is her own boss. Poultry farming has many features which would appeal to women. She is mistress of the situation. The business is hers.

Don't be an amateur in this. Spend all your ability in becoming a professional. If the woman who half stars trying to teach, clerk, etc., would only employ their time raising poultry for the market they would make fortunes. If nine-tenths of the actresses would put as much time and study on the characteristics of a hen as they do studying Lady Macbeth



A Fine Flock of Plymouth Rocks—Some Young Ducklings—Trap Nets—Simp's Feeding and Drinking Devices—White Wyandottes.

they would be walking on velvet instead of beating the hard pavement looking for a job.

If nature intended you to do this work, do it. A successful foundation with poultry is first made by going into details in regard to the little things that in the beginning seem to be so insignificant.

Women have greater aptitude than men. The present-day farmer is the man of the hour (man or woman), who has already made a success in cattle and hog raising. You will not find a practical farmer who has already made a success, fall if he or she undertakes poultry. Why? Because they go about it on businesslike principles with no thought of failure.

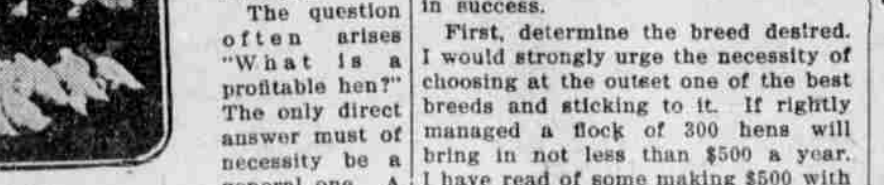
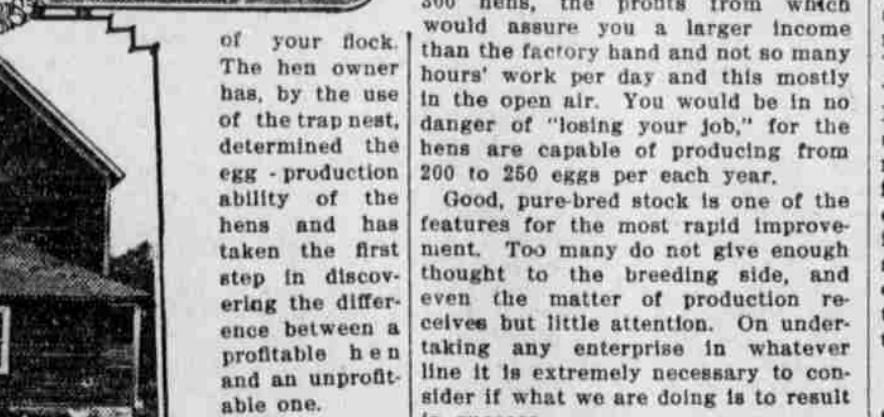
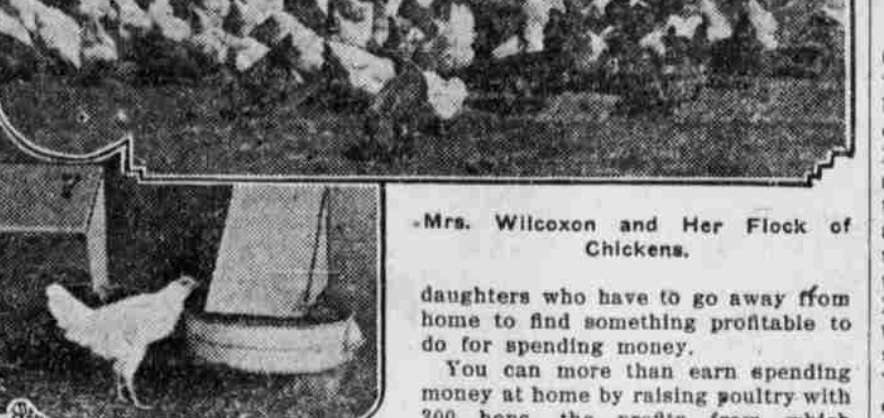
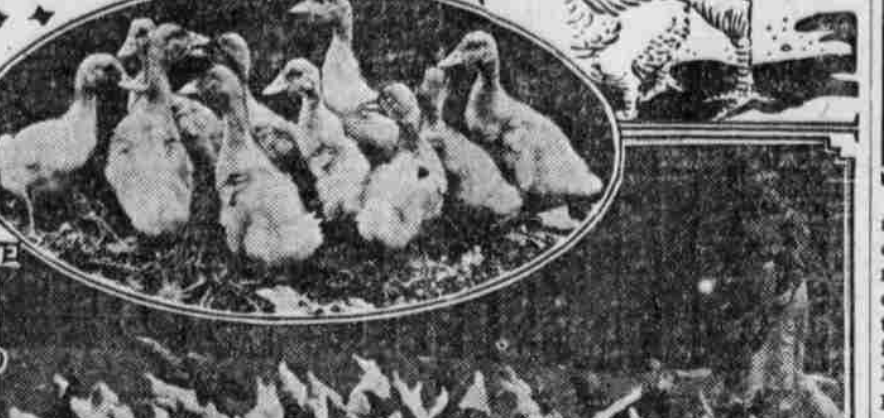
There is nothing about poultry farming but what can be learned by any bright woman and there is no part of the work woman cannot do if she is so minded. I see women in poor health reaping a good harvest both physically and financially in the poultry business, and I wonder why more women do not indulge in this health-giving business. Often women are left companionship on the farm. Why not try poultry raising instead of moving to the city to find something to do to eke out a mere existence?

They write me, "What branch of the poultry business shall I take up?" You will have to decide for yourself; as so much depends upon the location, the demand, the market, etc.

Business methods will pay. Profit or loss can be known only by good bookkeeping. We cannot overestimate the importance of keeping records of our hens. Upon these records depends the success or failure of our business. Under present conditions with the increased cost of everything which enters into the production of a dozen eggs comes the necessity for the application of stricter methods of economy and a closer attention to every detail.

We must get out of the old rut and open an account with the hens, giving them credit for what they produce and charging them with what they consume.

But some one says, "That is too much work!" We cannot afford to spend the time keeping these accounts! I dare say some of you will find some surprises awaiting you when you begin keeping an account



Mrs. Wilcoxon and Her Flock of Chickens.

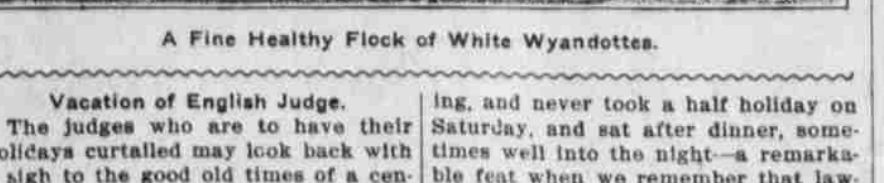
of your flock. The hen owner has, by the use of the trap net, determined the egg-production ability of the hens and has taken the first step in discarding the unprofitable and an unprofitable one.

The question often arises "What is a profitable hen?" The only direct answer must of necessity be a general one. A profitable hen may be defined as one that will produce enough

to pay for feed, care, interest on the necessary investments and some profit besides. The cost of keeping a hen will vary according to locality and cost of feed and labor.

In a great many localities the laying hen is receiving her share of attention. For a great many years in the past she has been a side issue. Very few have realized the importance of the laying hen and the prominent position she is filling in the agricultural affairs of the United States.

With the land increasing in value rapidly the farmer is now beginning to wonder how he can make the greatest amount of profit and interest on the amount invested. By this I do not advocate the farmer turning his entire attention to poultry, but just a hint to the farmers' wives and



A Fine Healthy Flock of White Wyandottes.

ing, and never took a half holiday on Saturday, and sat after dinner, sometimes well into the night—a remarkable feat when we remember that last year of the period were nearly all "three or six bottle men."—London Chronicle.

Firmness of Purpose. Firmness of purpose is one of the most necessary sinews of character and one of the best instruments of success.—Chesterfield.

ard was speedily equipped, drove back to the palace, where he was admitted and finally had the pleasure of making his bow in the hotel porter's clothes to her majesty.

Now all that is changed, and American citizens attend European courts in plain evening dress.

Accent on the A. Redd—There is very little difference between a booster and a boaster. Greene—Perhaps, but you must admit there is a difference.

Making Tomorrow's World

By WALTER WILLIAMS, LL.D.
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FREE HOLLAND'S SLAVE ISLANDS



Batavia, Java.—Kechil was only six years old. Slight of figure and short of stature, she appeared even younger. Her name, in Javanese means "Tiny One," had been given her at birth, not because she was small, but as an expression of endearment. The Javanese, a smiling, bright-eyed, brown-skinned race, are devoted to their children. Indeed, when Sina, who was Kechil's oldest

sister, the first-born of the family, came to the Java home, her parents' names were changed, according to ancient native custom, and they were thereafter known by words that mean in our prosaic English Pa Sina and Ma Sina. The baby is an important personage in the Javanese home life. Practical Penance Enforced. When Kechil went to work in the sorting room of the big tea estate she was scarcely five years of age. Labor was needed at the tea estate, however. The Dutch rulers of the East Indies archipelago have a century-old system of imposition of labor which, technically abolished in some islands and for some purposes, exists in actual practice almost to penance in districts of the tourists' beaten track. Nowhere in the Dutch archipelago is there a child-labor law. Nowhere is there compulsory school attendance. Why seek to compel the attendance of children at schools when there are no schools enough provided to accommodate those who go voluntarily? Why have a child-labor law when it would interfere with the profits of the Dutch-owned estates? The very idea seemed ridiculous to the courteous manager of the estate. As for sending girls to school—bah! That might do in Europe and of course in America, where he had heard they even sent black girls to school, and did other mad things, or possibly in Batavia and the big towns, but not in the country districts, no, indeed.

No Protection for Laborers. Nor is there a minimum wage law or any other legislation which gives

ish ideas into the heads of the natives," said a sugar-planter from Semarang. "Why, they even expect us to marry their daughters. It is not now like—what do you call it—the good old times." There are many Sinas, but the half-caste, so numerous in the East, receives, it is fair to the Dutch to say, more generous treatment, on the Dutch islands, than the half-caste or Eurasian in the British possessions. Kechil's father and brothers, Javanese of intelligence and strength, could relate, if they dared, stories of their own enforced labor which made the Dutch islands in the Far East, mistakenly called model colonies, seem slave islands. Her father could tell—and did tell, under pledge of secrecy as to his name—some things from his own experience and others from the common stock of native knowledge.

Few more fertile countries are to be found in all the world than Java. Its inhabitants are born farmers, skilled in irrigation methods and with expert acquaintance with hydraulics, and yet, living in a land where the richest harvests come with scarcely an effort, large territories are periodically visited by famine. "The cause of this," said J. F. Scheltema, "has to be sought in a system of colonial exploitation which made the natives raise products for the European markets by forced labor and deliver them into the government storehouses whence they were shipped to Holland and sold at an enormous profit. This system, called after Count van den Bosch, on whose recommendation it was introduced, to meet Holland's financial difficulties, has now been abandoned, though the corvee, the calling out of the villagers in unpaid service for the mending of roads, etc., continues as before. Even now, however, it would be too much to say that native toil, when demanded by direct or indirect pressure, always commands wages sufficient to keep body and soul together. The word "coffee" still has an especially ominous sound in native ears, for it reminds them of the oppression connected with the growing of that commodity for government purposes. Rice, the principal food of the people, if they can afford it, is also their principal crop, and yet, for reasons closely connected with the production methods referred to, the government does not come up to the consumption. Though Java exports rice, particu-

per cent of the total number of inhabitants, are grouped irrevocably in the lowest class. They are a people held in practical penance by a nation which last year celebrated its one hundredth year of its freedom. When E. F. E. Douwes Dekker and Tjipto Manoenkoesoemo, editors of the Java Express, protested and pleaded, in rather vigorous language, for fairer treatment for the natives of Java, for justice and freedom, the Dutch government promptly exiled them from the island, and they are now in banishment in Holland.

The Dutch government, sterner in administration in the archipelago than the Holland officials at home believe or wish, has been forced to take cognizance of the awakening demand for liberty and justice. The Mohammedan organization, though its chief aim is religious, has had some effect in disclosing conditions and urging social and political reform. Moreover, in a country where the discussion of politics is not merely discouraged but by law forbidden, it is hopeful to find a political society, well organized, with more than 12,000 members, the Indische or Indian party, the avowed purpose of which is equality before the law for all inhabitants of the islands. This society includes in its membership all classes and is doing an excellent educational work though, prudent as its leaders are in the main, it comes frequently into collision with the local government. The organ of the society is the Java Express, edited at Bandoeng by H. C. Kakebeke, a Dutchman by birth, a resident of Java, but by naturalization a citizen of the United States. The Express is the best edited newspaper in Java, and has the largest circulation. Kechil, Sina, their father and brothers and the 35,000,000 of the same race are not without a strong advocate.

Aims of Reform Society. "The object of the Indische party," explained Mr. Kakebeke, "is to awaken the patriotism of all Indians for the soil that nurtures them, to create a desire for political equality in an Indian fatherland and thus prepare the way for independence." It was this aim at possible future independence that caused the governor-general to decline to permit the incorporation of the society under the forms of law. "The Indische party purposes," said Mr. Kakebeke, "to teach the history of these people to them in order to awaken the latent national sentiment. We would abolish all special privileges that attach to race or caste. We are opposed to religious sectarianism or strife. We seek the establishment of technical schools that do their own technical work rather than be compelled to import men to do it. We wish free education for all, morality taught in the schools and no difference in education because of race or sex. We favor one law for Europeans and natives alike. We desire to enlarge the influence of the native in the government by giving him the right to participate in it. We wish to equalize taxation, to protect the laborer, to improve economic and social conditions, and to do all these things within the law."

Robbery by Tax-Collectors. Conditions far worse than those which the Indische party seeks to remedy in Java exist in the other islands of the archipelago, Borneo, Sumatra, Celebes and the smaller ones. In these the native is a peon, half-savage and half-slave. The exceptions are not numerous. Take the matter of taxation in Borneo, as the one sufficient example of the general rule. Let an intelligent, high-minded, patriotic Dutchman tell the story. "I lived for some time among the primitive population in Borneo," he said. "Away in the interior of the different tribes of the so-called dreadful Djaks were my helpers. Shy at first, they soon became friendly when they found that I was not after their slender belongings but paid fair wages. One day a government tax collector came. When you and I pay taxes we get something in return, police protection, courts, justice. These Borneo natives get nothing in return. The tax-collector kept at his work until there was not a fella in the whole camp that had a dollar left except myself. He stripped the camp and the native village bare of everything of value. His boats carried it all down the river—as taxes. The Djaks, who still are uncivilized and cut off their enemies' heads, when they hear of the visit of the tax-collector to any tribe, immediately attack those thus visited, knowing they will have nothing left with which to make defense. It is strange that the tax-collector is sometimes the victim of the enraged natives? I do not blame him for his tax-collecting. The stay-at-homes must have revenue, and he must produce it for them. It is a rotten system of avarice and greed."

Rebellion Mercilessly Suppressed. Occasionally even the light-hearted, happy-go-lucky Javanese rebels against such treatment and there is bloodshed. The Dutch speedily and mercilessly suppress the insurrection and the outside world, so rigid is the control of the press, hears little or nothing of it. In the other islands, particularly in Sumatra and Borneo, where the natives are less gentle than in Java, there is constant strife. In Timor the natives arose in wrath the other day at the exactions and hostilities of an official and well-nigh toppled the entire government of the island, half Dutch and half Portuguese into the sea. Though there are many excellent and unselfish men in the Dutch administration of the East Indies, the system is one of exploitation primarily. It shows well on the bank books, but not in the lives of the native men and women.

Kechil's face brightened into a smile. She had begun work early that Sunday morning—the exploiter of Java has no Sabbath in his calendar—and she might earn the enormous sum of five cents for her ten hours' labor. The stern overseer, too, had smiled at her—visitors were in the room—and the gentle Javanese are quick to respond in kind to generous humor. Suddenly the baby worker's face hardened into a frown. Perhaps the overseer's smile suggested her sister's fate.

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Natives of Java.

protection to the native laborer, young or old, in Java. "It isn't hard work," said the manager, "this sorting of tea. The baskets with the tea are light. These handled by the young girls weigh but a few pounds. The hours are only from six in the morning until four in the afternoon, with time for lunch." There may be a difference of opinion as to the work. To shake a sieve holding ten pounds of tea, more or less, for nine or ten hours a day, in a climate of tropical heat, might be regarded by some persons as rather hard work. In the sorting room with Kechil were a hundred other laborers, girls and women. "The wages," replied the manager. "We pay according to the work done. Our scale of wages is about a half cent higher than that usually paid. Some of the more skillful women can earn 50 or 60 cents a day, Dutch money (in American money, 20 to 24 cents)." Kechil, the Tiny One, had been working a year. She was paid the equivalent of four cents, American money, a day.

The Overseer's "Housekeeper." Kechil's mother and two sisters work in the factory. Her oldest sister, Sina, had worked there. She did not now. She had a dash of rose-color in her rounded cheeks, was graceful and pleasing to look upon, with the merry laugh and chatter characteristic of the Javanese. One evening the overseer called Sina into his bungalow. She struggled, but of no avail. Her father appealed to the magistrate, but with no more success. The double standard of justice exists in Java—one standard for the Europeans and another, save in a few notable cases, for the native. Sina remained as "housekeeper" in the overseer's bungalow, her predecessor being no longer pleasing in the master's sight. She did not return to the tea factory, nor did the color return to her cheeks. "These Europeans and missionaries put foot-

ly rice of superior quality, it imports for native use a far greater quantity of the coarser kinds." Kechil's father, like many of his fellows, worked for little or no wage for government or planter that they might have profit, and then, after hours or in vacation days, grew rice and other food products to support his family and himself.

Java, thanks largely to the official tourist bureau, is the best known of the islands constituting the Netherlands East Indies. It is also the best governed, the most prosperous and the one where the most consideration, slight though this may be, has been shown by the Dutch government for the welfare of the natives. Java has a population of 35,000,000, more than one-third the population of the United States. Six hundred to a square mile live on the island. Borneo, Sumatra and Celebes, all islands in the Dutch archipelago, exceed Java in size. In these the conditions are even less favorable to the development of the native population.

Have No Political Rights. In Java the primary schools open to natives are few and inadequate, and, except recently for doctors, there are no higher institutions of learning. The native wishing higher education must go to Holland. Taxation is high, particularly for the native, and the returns he receives therefrom are few indeed. He has no voice in any administration of the island's affairs. He cannot vote nor hold office of any importance. He travels in railway cars and is herded in public place in apartments, contemptuously marked "Indians," which compare with the quarters set apart for Europeans as the slums with the palace. The laws are specifically drawn to divide the population into classes and the natives, intelligent, peaceful, moral, though they may be, constituting 98%

GOT INTO PROPER UNIFORM

Secretary Seward Showed Resource of Diplomat in Meeting Requirement of Situation.

At one time such divinely hedged kings and queens that trembled was not alone in fasting to prep at them. Americans in civilian dress also were kept at a distance. In this connection there may be cited an instance where Secretary Seward had part. Seward, who had been received with

great respect in Russia, came to England, and naturally desired to go to court. He was to be presented at the levee by the American minister as a senator of the United States.

He drove off at the appointed hour to the palace, but was stopped in the corridor by a man in uniform, who said that Mr. Seward could not pass because he was not "properly dressed."

The American was in full evening dress, but it would not do. The official explained that he must have knee

breeches, silk stockings and buckled shoes, all these being absolutely necessary. An idea struck Seward. There was an old man about his size, the porter of the hotel at which he was staying, who sat in a box in the hall, and off the American drove to find him.

The mission was crowned with success. The porter had a beautiful pair of new knee breeches and black silk stockings, together with buckled shoes. A few shillings for the loan were all that was needed. Mr. Seward

was speedily equipped, drove back to the palace, where he was admitted and finally had the pleasure of making his bow in the hotel porter's clothes to her majesty.

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