

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



To stimulate a large flow of milk, a cow must receive considerable protein in her food, in proper proportion to the carbohydrates and fat; this has long been an accepted fact, but feed high in the nitrogenous elements costs more than most farmers feel they can afford to pay, in view of the low price they are able to obtain for their milk. Alfalfa contains a very high percentage of this nitrogen—in fact the highest of any of the forage plants usually grown.

The farmer has as much right as anyone to wear a good suit of clothes and adorn and beautify his home. In fact, it is his duty to do so. It is also part of his duty to furnish good reading matter for the family. We should strive to so elevate and dignify the business that any man could be proud to say, I am a farmer.

Only the best cows should be kept. If there is an abundant supply of fodder, wheat and oat straw, cows that will freshen in the spring can be cheaply wintered, and it will pay to carry them over.

Winter wheat should not be sown too early or its growth will become so rank and succulent that it will not withstand the freezes of winter, according to the Pennsylvania experiment station.

Horses are now being raised for particular service, and the commercial value of the animal can easily be increased 25 per cent, by generous feeding the first year after it is weaned.

The man who does his level best to succeed will never be an utter failure no matter what his ultimate financial condition. The only real failure is the man who never tries.

As a rough fodder for young animals alfalfa is unequalled, since it contains in generous quantities the well balanced properties necessary to healthy and rapid growth.

Dairymen recommend drilling six pecks of rye and four pecks of barley to the acre. The two grains make a thick growth and much finer herbage than rye alone.

Too many farmers keep their farm horses tied by the head all winter in a dark, stuffy stable without any ventilation whatever, and up to their hocks in manure.

In producing hogs either as breeders or for the pork market, the feed question is the predominant question, as it is the principal cost in growing the hog.

The hog that will turn back to the farmer the most pounds of pork in the shortest time for the feed that he eats is the one that he wants to make money with.

Weaning should not be a violent and abrupt function, but the young animal should be prepared by preliminary education for the first great ordeal of its life.

Mulch the asparagus bed with a good coating of straw manure and cut away and burn the tops as soon as the frost has blackened them.

Less than a score of years ago horses were selling by the dozen for about the same money that a good horse will bring today.

Some of our experiment stations go so far as to say that an acre of rape will produce as many pounds of pork as an acre of corn.

Secure the small fruits from danger. Do this early to be certain of it, for small fruits will be of exceptional value next year.

The bush fruits, like currants and gooseberries, can be set in the fall in the same way as cane fruits, also grapes.

Endive is not seen in the garden as often as it should be. When well blanched it makes a delicate salad plant.

The little cracks in the poultry house are what play havoc with the flock, especially if they are where they will allow little currents of air to reach the fowls when on the roosts.

No one who knows anything about hens keeps a hen until she is three or four years old, unless she has superior qualities.

Heavy losses and much discouragement finds its source in improper management of breeding ewes during the late summer months.

Many farmers make the mistake of thinking lime a true fertilizer, when it acts as an aid in the soil to allow other fertilizers to work. In this respect it might be called an indirect fertilizer. However, it has a small amount of real fertilizing value, especially as many of the crops, clover and the legumes especially, require it in their growth. Most soils, though, contain enough lime for all plant needs, when other soil conditions are right.

A famous French poultry expert gives a simple and easy way of making hens lay in winter. It is simply giving the fowls grain that has been limed. Without showing special fondness for such grain, fowls eat it all right. This diet is harmless, provided it is not continued too long. Wheat is generally used for this purpose, but barley, oats and corn can be treated in the same way.

The main ingredient of wood ashes is potash, an alkali, which, as all alkali, has the power of neutralizing acids. Hence the application of wood ashes on our soils corrects the acidity the same as caustic lime. The ashes also contain a considerable proportion of lime, which has the same action.

Nothing bespeaks the character of a man more than an attractive home, a well kept lawn and happy wife and family and those all represent giving attention to the often neglected odds and ends of our time.

A great many horses are going westward from the corn belt to help develop the industries of the Pacific coast. Eastern buyers find strong western competition in Iowa and Missouri.

Keep and breed and try some of your hens that you like, then if they demonstrate superior qualities hold on to them till they die, even if they run down to only fifty or sixty eggs a year.

If the six million farms in this country were laid out in one square tract they would comprise a tract of land almost half as large as the United States, or twelve hundred miles each way.

It is an excellent practice to look ahead and arrange some means whereby the ewes as soon as the lambs are separated can have a new growth of palatable forage to graze upon.

A tree or plant that has had all summer to grow in, and has become well established by a considerable root growth, stands a better chance to go through the winter safely.

The man who cannot milk without abusing cows has no business in the cow stable. A kick or blow will retard the secretion of milk and may injure the cow for time to come.

The care of the lambs so that they do not lose their lamb flesh is in accord with the feeding of all kinds of stock that we wish to prepare in good form for the market.

Land that has been seeded to crimson clover, and the crop turned under has been found to contain twice as much humus, moisture and nitrogen as that which has no clover.

Flowers in the window speak in an unmistakable language of interest in the things that add real charm and dignity to the daily grind and help to make life worth living.

Corn silage may be fed as soon as the silo is filled, provided you have cattle enough to eat all that has started to ferment or heat on top of the silo each time you feed.

There are two reasons why sheep are not more plentiful on the average farm; fences are not good enough to hold sheep and the mud is frequently fatal at lambing time.

With a nutritious supply of palatable pasture old ewes can be recruited up in flesh very rapidly and gotten into marketable condition before winter closes in.

An over crowded poultry house does not mean thrift for any, and especially for smaller and weaker ones, which are usually the young and smaller pullets.

The higher price is partly won by increased weight and partly to superior quality of well-covered soft-fleshed chickens.

Progress in farming is an individual problem from the solution of which the state, the nation and the world must benefit.

Hens that are good layers and that are fed right will lay up to 40 per cent right through the first half of the moult.

Iowa is in a class by itself as a hog state. Apparently most of the corn grown in Iowa is fed to its 6,485,000 swine.

Many a man has been surprised at the effect of one load of barnyard manure scattered about under a tree. It gives new life and fruitfulness.

An ordinary 160 corn-belt farm can carry about forty dairy cows, but 240 sheep would test the pasturage harder.

Grape vines make a satisfactory fence if trained on five wires.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK SUPERIOR POULTRY BREED

Several Good Reasons for Popularity of This Variety Among Farmers—Make Excellent Layers and Are Hardy.

(By F. S. JACOBY, Poultry Division, Kansas State Agricultural College.)

It is not always an easy matter for one who intends to keep poultry for the first time to make a wise selection of the breed best adapted to their purpose. Numerous articles have been written in the poultry papers concerning the merits of various breeds, but as a rule these articles have been written by breeders whose opinions are prejudiced in favor of the breed which they keep. Consequently they are often confusing and misleading to the beginner. With this in view the writer will endeavor to give an unprejudiced opinion of the merits of the various breeds.

For convenience, we will classify the breeds into three classes: 1. Egg breeds; 2. Meat breeds; 3. General purpose breeds. There are other breeds which do not come in this classification, but as a rule, they are unprofitable and are raised only for their beautiful plumage, or some other characteristic.

The three principal egg breeds are the Leghorns, the Minorcas and the Hamburgs. If a person contemplates receiving their income entirely from eggs and can afford to eliminate the dressed poultry side of the business, one of these breeds should be his choice. The Leghorn enjoys the greatest popularity of the three at the present time and probably will continue to be as popular in the future.

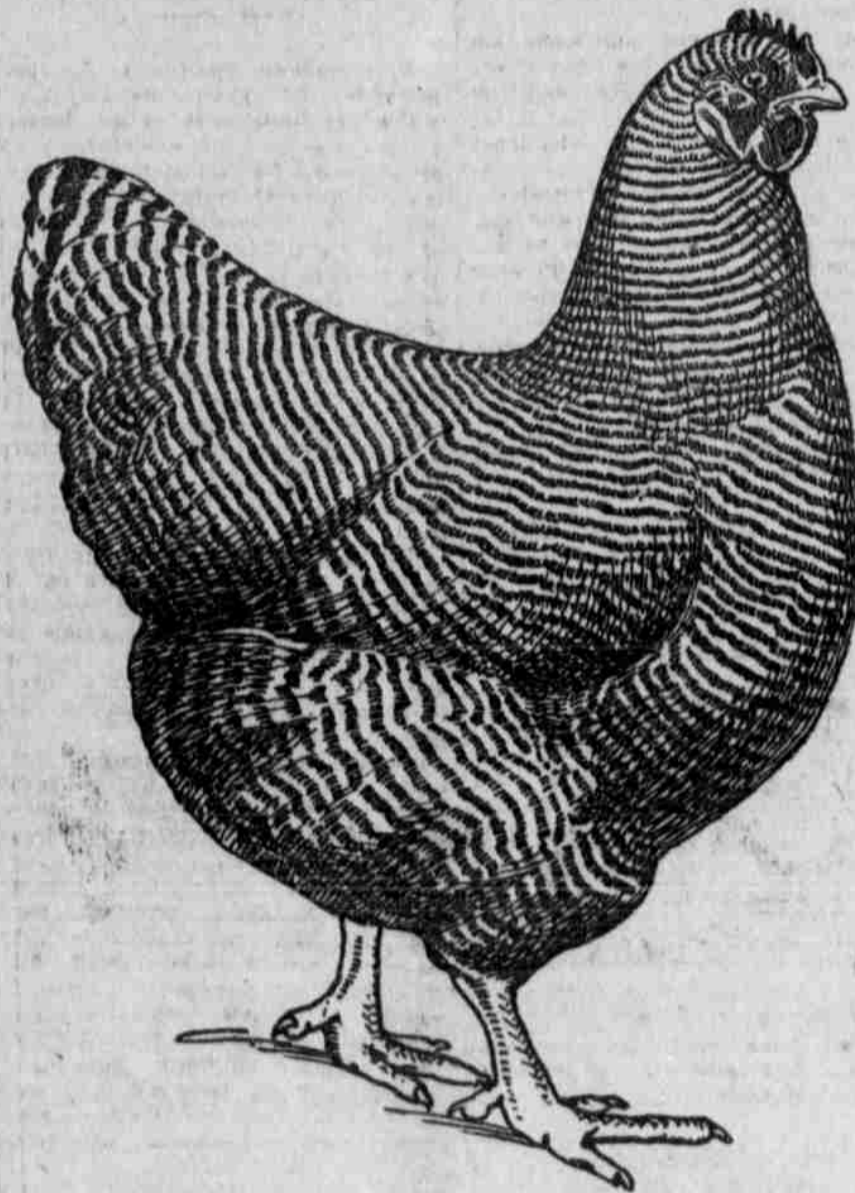
Owing to the small size of the breed, they consume less feed than the larger breeds and consequently produce eggs at a much lower cost. The records of a pen of White Leghorns and White Plymouth Rocks at K. S. A. C. showed that it cost 1 cent a month more to feed the Plymouth Rocks than the White Leghorns. The Leghorns laid more eggs than the Rocks and produced a profit of \$1.87 per hen for 8 months as compared with \$1.61 per hen with the Rocks during the same period. The Leghorn undoubtedly lays more eggs the second year in proportion to the number laid the first year than any other breed. The records at the station show that out of a pen of 17 hens, 16 had laid during 18 months an average of 283 eggs and of these 16, 14 had laid over 250 eggs, of which 4 were over the 300 mark. These birds are still laying and undoubtedly several more hens will lay above 300 eggs by the end of the two-year period. The Minorcas are larger than the Leghorns and would necessarily consume more feed, but in return lay

year. The Brahmas are excellent table fowls and in certain eastern localities are raised extensively for soft roasters. They lay as a rule comparatively few eggs, but certain strains have been developed for egg production which lay enough eggs to be profitable. The Langshans do not enjoy the popularity of the Brahmas as a meat type, but are about equal to them in egg production. One feature of this class of meat breeds which renders them unprofitable in certain localities is the fact that packers object to the feathered shanks and will not pay as high a price as for some other breeds.

The general purpose fowls are undoubtedly the most popular in the United States as in Kansas. In 1909 letters were sent out from the Kansas State Agricultural college to the farmers of the state in order to get an idea of the poultry conditions existing in the state. Of 234 farmers which reported, 118 kept Plymouth Rocks, 68 Leghorns, 37 Rhode Island Reds, and 21 Wyandottes. Many farmers kept two or more breeds. This shows the popularity of the Plymouth Rocks, and there are several good reasons for this popularity. The Plymouth Rock breed are a trifle heavier than either the Wyandottes or Rhode Island Reds. They are slower to mature than the Wyandottes, but make excellent winter layers when early hatched and bred for that purpose. During the past two years an experiment has been carried on at the college to determine whether the White Plymouth Rock could be bred for high egg production and transmit these qualities to their offspring. About 25 birds were selected for the experiment. One of these, hen 798, laid 209 eggs from January 1 to September 5, a total of eight months. The packing companies which annually buy and pack immense quantities of poultry have a decided preference for the Plymouth Rock.

The White Wyandottes are very popular and differ essentially from the Rocks in being a pound lighter in weight and more blocky in form. The Rhode Island Reds have nearly the same shape as the Plymouth Rocks, but weigh the same as the Wyandottes. For meat purposes the Wyandottes excel the Rhode Island Reds, but the Kansas farmers find the Rhode Island Reds to be the best winter layers.

Another breed which deserves mention at this time is the Orpington.



Superior Barred Plymouth Rock.

a much larger egg. The Minorcas are considered by some people very good winter layers, although I would not recommend them as such; owing to the large size of the eggs they are bred in certain localities where a premium is paid for large eggs. On the farm, however, it is different proposition and the farmer can scarcely afford to keep this breed and sell his eggs on the regular market. The Hamburgs lay a large number of winter eggs, but the eggs are usually quite small. The birds are very popular owing to their beautiful color (silver and golden spangled) and are probably the most profitable of the beautiful breeds. They are great favorites with children.

The meat breeds are made up of the Cochins, Brahmas and Langshans. The Cochins used to be an excellent table fowl, but for several generations they have been bred for feathers and the result is the utility qualities have been greatly impaired. Certain strains of this breed have been known to lay as low as 25 eggs a

They weigh nearly the same as the Plymouth Rock and are very similar in shape and other characteristics. The main differences and ones which have prevented more rapid development of this breed are the white skin and shanks. This practically bars the bird as a market fowl in this country although it is very popular in England. They are exceptionally good winter layers.

From the foregoing the reader can readily see that the truly profitable breeds can be counted on the fingers of one hand. The Barred Rock is without question placed first in the minds of the Kansas farmer with the White Rock, White Wyandottes and Rhode Island Red and White Orpington close seconds.

Burying Cabbage.

Do not bury cabbage until danger of very hard freezing. As a rule it should not be buried until about the 10th of November, and later in many sections will insure safer keeping.

PROMINENT PEOPLE

SEEMS SLATED FOR SPEAKER



Although Speaker Cannon's term does not expire until March 4, 1911, the campaign as to who will be the next to occupy the speaker's chair is already being warmly contested. Many well-informed Democrats declare that Champ Clark of Missouri, leader of the late Democratic minority, seems slated for the speakership, although James Hay of Virginia and Robert L. Henry of Texas are active rivals for the place.

Born in Kentucky in 1850, Clark emigrated as a comparatively young man to Missouri and also had an early but brief experience in Kansas. In 1876 he located at Bowling Green, Mo., and began the practice of law and in 1893 he was first elected to congress. Since then he has represented his district continuously, with the exception of one term.

Clark, like many other men who have made good, gives full credit to his wife. Before she married Clark she was Miss Genevieve Bennett, a school teacher, with a local reputation as an elocutionist. Clark was a young lawyer without any marked promise of future greatness and mighty little chance ever to shine as a self-composed, fluent speaker. His wife took him in hand, drilled him in elocution, drilled him in Delsarte until his gestures became easy, and after each speech made by her husband while candidate for Prosecuting Attorney of Pike County, she made little suggestions as to how his speech might have been made more effective and pleasing.

The home life of the Clarks, it is said, is delightful—just one little domestic cloud being known to the neighbors. This is the untidy condition of the library. Reserving to himself this room, Mr. Clark issued General Domestic Order No. 1: "Nobody is allowed to touch the books and papers in the library or attempt to clean up the room." Distinguished visitors come to the Clark home often and are delightfully entertained, the hostess making but one request of her husband's friends: "Please don't go into Mr. Clark's library!"

Around the walls are bookshelves filled with volumes that show their owner to be a student and a careful buyer of books. In the center of the room is a long table where things lie where they fall until the ear of the library sees fit to move them. The room is heated by an old Hagey stove, red with rust, and its pipe is fantastically draped with cobwebs.

His name isn't "Champ" at all—it's James Beauchamp, the latter being his mother's maiden name. Clark early made up his mind that this was too much of a name to carry into politics, so he shortened it to Champ, by which he has become known to fame.

OUR AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO



The life of Henry Lane Wilson, ambassador of the United States to Mexico, was reported to have been attempted by rioters at Mexico City during the recent embargo. Many Americans went to the American embassy declaring to the ambassador, Mr. Wilson, that they intended to arm themselves, as they considered the conduct of the chief of police, Felix Diaz, during the disorders unsatisfactory. Mr. Wilson declared he was satisfied with the attitude of the Mexican government, but that he deeply regretted that the chief of police had made no great effort to prevent disorder.

Mr. Wilson then had a long conference with Senator Creel, minister of foreign affairs, who assured him that Americans would not suffer any more and that the agitators would be punished. Senator Creel in an interview later said that the relations between Mexico and America were as cordial as ever. He denied reports of friction between the governments and gave assurance that all would be settled diplomatically. Mounted police patrolled the streets to prevent any further anti-American demonstrations. The principal high school and the national university were guarded, as was the American embassy.

Henry L. Wilson practised law and was a banker in Spokane, Wash., from 1885 to 1896 and considers that city his home. In 1899 he was appointed minister to Venezuela by President Harrison, but declined; from 1907 to 1909 he was minister to Chile, and from 1905 until the present year he served as minister to Belgium. Mr. Wilson was born at Crawfordsville, Ind., in 1857, and was graduated from Wabash college in 1879. From 1882 to 1885 he was editor of the Lafayette (Ind.) Journal.

"LAFE" YOUNG FOR SENATOR



Lafayette Young, who has been appointed United States senator from Iowa to succeed the late Senator Dolliver, is a native Iowan. Most of his life has been devoted to the newspaper profession, and last spring he celebrated his twentieth year as owner and editor of the Des Moines Daily Capital.

Mr. Young was born in Monroe county in 1848. He learned to set type in the office of the Albia Union, finishing his trade with Mills & Co. of Des Moines. In 1870 he was city editor of the Des Moines Register. In 1871 he established a paper at Atlantic, Iowa, called the Telegraph, which he successfully published nineteen years. In 1890 he bought a well-known defunct daily newspaper at Des Moines and the paper is now a thoroughly modern daily with a building of its own.

Mr. Young served twelve years in the state senate while living in western Iowa and had an opportunity to go to congress, which he declined. He was with General Shafter's Fifth army corps as a newspaper man in the Santiago campaign, and has made a reputation as a lecturer on that campaign.

"Lafe" Young is a national figure in Republican politics and is noted as an orator. In 1900 at the Philadelphia Republican convention he nominated Theodore Roosevelt for vice-president. He has been twice delegate at large to the Republican national convention from Iowa. He accompanied President Taft on his trip to the Philippines some years ago and is a personal friend of the president.

Senator Young will serve until the next legislature meets, January 8. It will be the duty of that legislature to elect a senator to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Dolliver, which ends in 1913.

ORIGINATED GARDEN FARMS



The woman who is principally responsible for the formation of the International Children's School Farm league is Mrs. Henry Parsons of New York city. She has made a practical issue of the "back to the soil" idea, and has been a real mother to thousands of children during the past ten years. She managed to secure from the city the privilege of using an old dumping ground as a garden farm. So many children applied for admission that hundreds had to be turned away.

The system she followed was to award to each child a plot four by eight feet for three months. Seven vegetables were planted and twice a year crops were harvested. This was done under the direction of assistant teachers and the crops were given to the children.

It is said that wonderful results are being accomplished. Sickly children have become strong and happy from the open-air exercise and sunshine. Industry has been inculcated and principles of honesty and courtesy established, and the health and lives of many children have been saved through these charming breathing places in the center of the congested districts of our large cities.

Mrs. Parsons is sixty-two years of age, but bright, cheerful and energetic. She has found that children love farming. Not only has she succeeded in interesting them in digging and planting as a novel occupation, but she has led their minds into intellectual fields. She has even interested them in good roads problems, the saving of our forests, the uplifting of the farming community and giving to their minds a strengthening and healthy tone.