

The Growing Importance of Egg Farming

By Robert H. Moulton

Sixteen billion of the hen fruit was consumed in the United States last year and we imported some from China to supply the increasing demand



FLOCK OF PRIZE PLYMOUTH ROCKS



"LADY EGLANTINE" CHAMPION EGG-LAYER OF THE WORLD



CHICKS JUST HATCHED



THIS HATCHERY CULMINATES 150,000 EGGS

No doubt the man who paid an even \$800 for a single hen, "Lady Eglantine," not long ago, will get his money back with liberal interest. The phenomenal value of this hen lay in the fact that she had just completed the astonishing performance of producing 314 eggs in 365 days. It is assumed that the progeny of Lady Eglantine will also be wonderful egg machines, for which reason her eggs will command the highest prices for hatching purposes; as a matter of fact, they are already selling at \$5 apiece. To be safe, this is much of a gamble, but hundreds of people will be glad to take the chance. You see, the call these days is all for heavy layers, for never has the demand for eggs been so hard to meet. Sixteen billion eggs are required to satisfy the American appetite each year.

Egg farming has reached a point where it must be included among the big business interests of the country, and the coming of the parcel post has already given it added impetus. All over the country big plants are springing up, where chickens are hatched by the thousands and shipped far and wide. Other plants are being established for custom hatching, just about as chicks have been hatched in Egypt since the days of Moses. Over there the hatching is done in immense brick ovens, of which there are some six hundred, in which 125,000,000 chickens are incubated each season. Camel's dung is used for fuel, and the operators have such keen senses that they can keep the temperature at close to 103 degrees without referring to a thermometer, which instrument is never employed.

Custom hatching in this country is quite another matter, and has been made possible only by the invention of incubators of the continuous type, heated from a coal-burning furnace and requiring only a comparatively small amount of attention. It is a line of work which farmers' wives and other women can follow with success and to which farmers themselves, as well as the owners of large poultry plants, are turning their attention. Men and women living near the larger towns, and especially if close to the railroad station or on a trolley line, are particularly well situated to do custom hatching, for people keeping a few hens will come personally with their eggs and also call for the chickens—just as they do in Egypt, by the way, except for the means of conveyance.

The initial investment need not be large. One can start with a single machine and increase the size of his plant as business warrants. A little advertising by means of circulars, or, better, in a newspaper, will bring the custom. It is first necessary, however, to learn all about running the incubator. It would be foolish to seek customers before becoming thoroughly familiar with artificial incubation and making several experimental hatchings. These can be made in the fall or winter.

Along with custom hatching goes the sale of day-old chicks. This is another line which men and women in the country or elsewhere who have but little capital may begin in a small way and increase with their business. The two branches may well be combined also. If at any time there be a dearth of custom-hatching orders, the machines may be kept running just the same to fill orders for newly hatched chickens. For hatching chicks, a charge based on the number of eggs in an incubator tray is often made. If, for example, the tray will accommodate 75 eggs, the charge may be \$2 and upwards. Just as much time and fuel are required for a dozen eggs as for 75. Of course, if the eggs to be hatched for several customers are received at the same time, they can be placed in the same machine, but it will be very difficult to decide to whom the chicks belong when they are out of the shells.

If the hatcher is using single machines, it is wise to employ the smaller sizes. The machines which come in sections are most satisfactory, for they can be added to like sectional bookcases as one's business grows. Of course the custom hatcher takes no responsibility. He does his best, and if the eggs fail to hatch, the loss is the customer's. The hatcher has no means of knowing that they were fertile, even, until a test at the end of five days is made. Likewise, the hatcher runs no open accounts, if he is wise. A deposit should be made when the eggs are left, and the remainder paid when the chicks are delivered.

Day-old chicks are best sold at a flat rate, say 15 cents apiece, with delivery charges added. Strongly made cardboard boxes especially designed for shipping chicks are manufactured and

cause broken eggs, although the point at issue is that fertile eggs are less desirable for table purposes than unfertile ones. One might imagine that with the tremendous extent of the egg business in this country, the market would be glutted. On the contrary, the demand seems to keep pace with the supply—in fact, a little ahead of it, or it would not be found profitable to import eggs from China, as was done a year or two ago.

All over the country mammoth poultry establishments are springing up. Not far from Chicago is a large plant made famous by its White Plymouth Rocks and White Indian Runners. There are 160 acres on this farm, and houses are scattered all over them. The man who owns this big plant sells much of his stock for breeding purposes, and values some of his birds as high as \$5,000. That sounds like an unbelievable figure, to be sure, but the very lowest price for which one can buy a fowl at this farm is \$5. The owner has made a fortune, is a bank director and a business man who can take rank with those who manage the big industries of the city.

One thinks first of eggs in connection with the poultry business, but growing and fattening chickens for the table is almost as important a branch of it as egg farming. Formerly no one thought of specially preparing chickens for the slaughter. The farmer simply went out into the yard, selected a likely looking fowl, laid it on the block, and chopped off its head. Quite different is the process now, especially in the West and in Canada, where fattening poultry has developed into more of a fine art than in the eastern states.

There is a difference of from three to seven cents a pound in the price paid for well-fleshed or fattened birds and that paid for poultry just off the range. As this means a difference of from 15 to 35 cents on a five-pound chicken it is well worth while to fatten the fowls.

POULTRY NOTES

Selecting Pullets.

Not every poultryman can select a laying hen by her appearance. It is true students of poultry husbandry are generally able to do this, but few farmers and poultrymen are unless they have given the subject some attention.

The following suggestions should be of help to you in enumerating some of the points in the making of a good laying hen. But these points will need to be verified. That is, you must practice if you would become a good judge or at least learn how to select your own pullets for layers. And it will be necessary for you to know how to select if you are to improve your flock.

Judging poultry is said to be a finer art than the selection of other farm animals, but the man or woman who picks pullets with a fine head, alert eyes and comb, face and wattles of fine texture, has taken the first step toward increased egg production. Good pullets should stand square on their feet, with legs wide apart, with the front end of the body slightly higher than the posterior end, and with a long back and tail carried rather high. The body should be wedge-shaped, yielding ample room for the reproductive and digestive organs.

When Eggs Are Highest.

How to get eggs in late fall and early winter when they are highest is a serious problem with most poultrymen.

Taking it for granted that the pullets were hatched early and have made good growth during the summer season, we would get the entire flock of spring pullets, yearlings and all into winter quarters in September. That is, we would have the poultryhouse and yards put in order for winter then, so there will be no rearrangement to disturb the flock or in any way disarrange its daily routine or habits during late October, November and December, when we most desire the eggs.

One of the principal factors for securing a high egg production in the poultry flock is exercise. A hen kept closely cooped will not lay as many eggs during a season; she will take on fat instead and become unhealthy. Give the hens plenty of range—and then get a larger basket in which to carry the eggs to market.

Single Comb Black Leghorns.

Not many years ago this breed was little known to breeders. They have made rapid strides and are becoming very popular. The heavy Minorca combs, high tails, very dark legs and purple instead of black plumage have all been bred out and today the Black Leghorns are as good in slope as the other Leghorns. Their combs are equally as small and neat as the whites or browns. They carry their tails low and well spread. Their legs show a good yellow color together with a good green sheen to the plumage.

Among many fanciers black is a desired color and among these admirers and fanciers the Black Leghorn, in many instances, is replacing its brown or white sister. They are persistent layers of large chalk-white eggs and there's no reason why they should lack popularity any longer.

Of Course Not.
"The engineers of both trains lost their heads."
"Then it was not a head-on collision."

There's nothing a manly man admires more than a girlish girl or a womanly woman.

Cheap.
"How did you make out with your garden this year?"
"Fine. I raised so many vegetables that the exercise I got out of working in it cost me hardly anything at all."

A henpecked man is a silent partner of his wife's woes.

Save the Babies.

INFANT MORTALITY is something frightful. We can hardly realize that of all the children born in civilized countries, twenty-two per cent., or nearly one-quarter, die before they reach one year; thirty-seven per cent., or more than one-third, before they are five, and one-half before they are fifteen!
We do not hesitate to say that a timely use of Castoria would save a majority of these precious lives. Neither do we hesitate to say that many of these infantile deaths are occasioned by the use of narcotic preparations. Drops, tinctures and soothing syrups sold for children's complaints contain more or less opium or morphine. They are, in considerable quantities, deadly poisons. In any quantity, they stupefy, retard circulation and lead to congestions, sickness, death. Castoria operates exactly the reverse, but you must see that it bears the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. Castoria causes the blood to circulate properly, opens the pores of the skin and allays fever.
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"ROUGH ON RATS" Kills Rats, Mice, Bugs Live outdoors. 10c and 50c
W. N. U., LINCOLN, NO. 39-1916.

Largest Fountain Pen.
What is believed to be the largest fountain pen ever made for actual use was completed a few days ago in New Orleans. This pen is made of silver and holds two ounces of ink. It is ten inches long with the cap and eight inches without the cap, not including the point. The pen weighs about four ounces.

More War.
Mrs. Styles—I want one of those new military bonnets.
Mr. Styles—How much are they?
"Only \$10."
"I can't afford that, and I don't see why you want a military bonnet. You're not going to fight, are you, dear?"
"I am if I don't get the bonnet."
Don't expect a soft answer when you call men hard names.

The Limit.
"What a pessimist he is!"
"Yes, indeed. Even misery shuns his company."
Its Purpose.
"So this is the prison laundry?"
"Yes, ma'am."
"I suppose you wash and iron the convicts here."
Gratification.
"You go to church more frequently than you used to."
"Yes. And apart from the instruction I derive a great deal of satisfaction from my attendance. It's a great comfort to be where people sing and play fine music without anybody's spoiling it by putting in ragtime words or wanting to dance."
Hawaii is making bricks from lava.

Iron is Greatest of All Strength Builders, Says Doctor

A Secret of the Great Endurance and Power of Athletes

Ordinary Nuxated Iron Will Make Delicate, Nervous, Run-down People 200 Per Cent. Stronger in Two Weeks' Time in Many Cases.

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Most people foolishly seem to think they are going to get renewed health and strength from some stimulating medicine, secret nostrum or narcotic drug, said Dr. Sauer, a well-known Specialist who has studied widely both in this country and Europe, when, as a matter of fact, real and true strength can only come from the food you eat. But people often fail to get the strength out of their food because they haven't enough iron in their blood to enable it to change food into living matter. From their weakened, nervous condition they know something is wrong but they can't tell what, so they generally commence doctoring for stomach, liver or kidney trouble or symptoms of some other ailment caused by the lack of iron in the blood. This thing may go on for years, while the patient suffers untold agony. If you are not strong or well, you owe it to yourself to make the following test: See how long you can work or how far you can walk without becoming tired. Next take two five-grain tablets of ordinary nuxated iron three times per day after meals for two weeks. Then test your strength again and see for yourself how much you have gained. I have seen dozens of nervous, run-down people who were ailing all the while, double their strength and endurance

and entirely get rid of all symptoms of dyspepsia, liver and other troubles in from ten to fourteen days' time simply by taking iron in the proper form. And this after they had in some cases been doctoring for months without obtaining any benefit. But don't take the old forms of reduced iron, iron acetate or tincture of iron simply to save a few cents. You must take iron in a form that can be easily absorbed and assimilated like nuxated iron if you want it to do you any good, otherwise it may prove worse than useless. Many an athlete or prize-fighter has won the day simply because he knew the secret of great strength and endurance and filled his blood with iron before he went into the fray, while many another has gone down to ignominious defeat simply for the lack of iron.

NOTE—Nuxated Iron recommended above by Dr. Sauer is not a patent medicine nor secret remedy, but one which is well known to druggists and whose iron constituents is widely prescribed by eminent physicians everywhere. Unlike the older inorganic iron products, it is easily assimilated, does not injure the teeth, make them black, nor upset the stomach; on the contrary, it is a most potent remedy, in nearly all forms of indigestion, as well as for nervous, run-down conditions. The manufacturers have such great confidence in Nuxated Iron that they offer to forfeit \$100.00 to any charitable institution if they cannot take any man or woman under 60 who lacks iron and increase their strength 200 per cent. or over in four weeks' time provided they have no serious organic trouble. They also offer to refund your money if it does not at least double your strength and endurance in ten days' time. It is dispensed by most druggists. If your druggist or general store is without a supply, ask them to get it for you.—Adv.