POULTRY NOTES

ITEMS THAT WILL HELP OUR READERS WITH THEIR MANY POULTRY PROBLEMS

The hatcheries of the Bramble Poultry Farm and the Truslow Poultry Farm, both of near Chestertown, will begin operation in December. There is a big demand in northern markets for early broilers. There is also big money in the raising of these broilers. Kent poultrymen who have equipment might utilize their equipment by putting in a brood of early chicks for broilers in January or February, and then utilizing the same equipment for their later chicks a few months afterward.

Enough experiments have been carried on in feeding cod liver oil to poultry that specialists can postively say it is beneficial when the flock does not have access to d rect sunlight.

"The greatest benefit is derived from winter feeding," G. S. Vickers, poultry secialist at the Ohio State University observes. "It is known that the oil increases production during the winter months. It improves the shell and decreases the mortality. There is some evidence that the hatchability of the eggs is increased by feeding cod liver oil.

"Its greatest value lies in aiding mineral assimilation. It probably also contains vitamins which are present in green feed. A laying hen fed cod liver oil is not likely to go down on her legs in the spring due to faulty nutrition.

"When there is difficulty in obtaining green food, feed about one quart to each 100 pounds of mash. On farms that keep 200 or more hens it is economical to buy the oil in barrel lot. It is somewhat cheaper this way."

Reports of South Dakota State College indicate that over 300 new poultry houses have been built in South Dakota this last spring using the poultry house plan distributed by the State College extension service. Many requests for this plan are again being received indicating that many new laying houses will be built this fall or early next spring.

"The storage supply of turkeys is absolutely exhausted and we predict without any doubt that fine large young toms and hens will bring 60 cents or better." This is the opinion of one of the largest commission dealers in New York City. He believes also that, as a result of the scarcity of turkeys, well developed roasters and capons will sell higher than usual.

Well begun, half done—is a wise old saying. It will hold true in the care of pullets at this season of the year. If you get them started right they will be quite lipely to lay persistently all winter long and far into the summer.

It is now high time to realize the importance of getting them well in hand in every particular. The blasts of winter will soon be sweeping over the land and the laying of eggs will be forgotten by our fowls of any age if we do not take time by the forelock and prepare our pullets for winter production.

There are various phases of this big business that must demand immediate and very serious attention. The first to be noticed will be that of permanent winter quarters.

This needs repeating for emphasis also. There is nothing better than green feed for hens that are laying, or for fowls in any form of service. Sprouted oats are A-No.-1 stuff as chicken feed in winter. They get the birds to feeling that May is surely at hand. They will devour them with wonderful earnestness any time of day or night. It will be better not to let the oats grow too much. An inch to two inches in length will be all sufficient. Of course they will eat them if they have grown to four or five inches in length; but this will not be best for them. Oats thus sprouted to an inch or two in length will be doubled in value over the dry oats. It may not be so much the superior food value that is increased, but the wholesome influence on the digestion will be of great use. A hen is a grazing animal as well as an animal of flight. She needs bulk in her food, not quite in the same degree as a cow or a sheep but nearly. You can't find a better substitute for the green grass of May and June in November or in January than freshly sprouted oats. Blessed be the man who discovered them. We should build him a monument. Better than that, do as he did.

A man's business reputation is a large part of his wealth. If you are known far and wide as a man who sells good quality stuff in good measure high class customers will want to deal with you. They will seek you out and stay by you. But if you get a shaky habit of selling any kind of stuff at the best money you can get for it, the best customers will drop you out of their list. They will take special care to avoid you. The first few pullet eggs are almost always too small to sell in the markets. They should not be offered for sale. Now and then a pullet lays large eggs from the first; but the run of the flock will lay a very small egg at first and then come to the full size of the egg in a week or two. Eat the small ones at home. They will be worth more to you if you throw them into the compost heap then they will if you sell them for full sized eggs and lose the confidence of some valuable customer.

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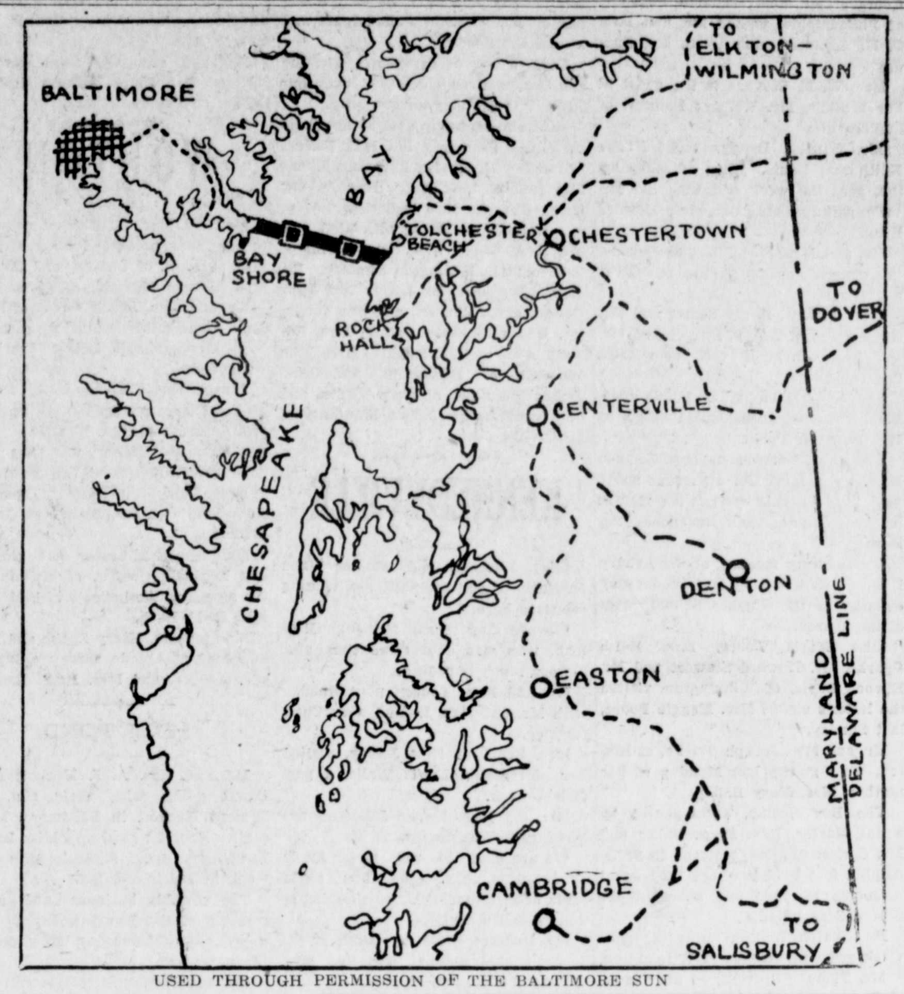
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Sept. 25

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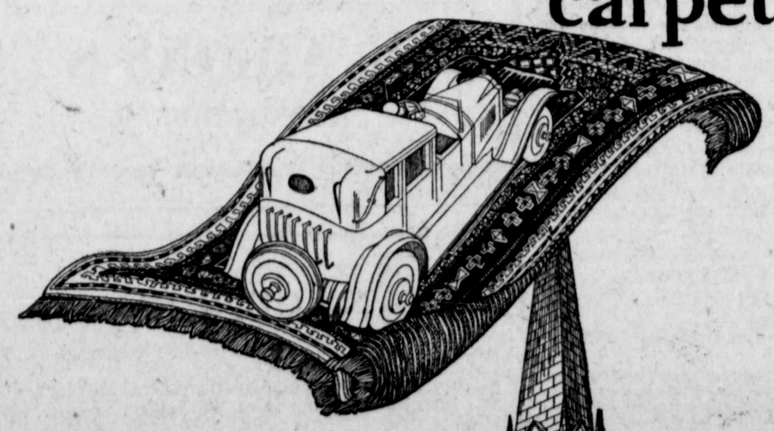
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