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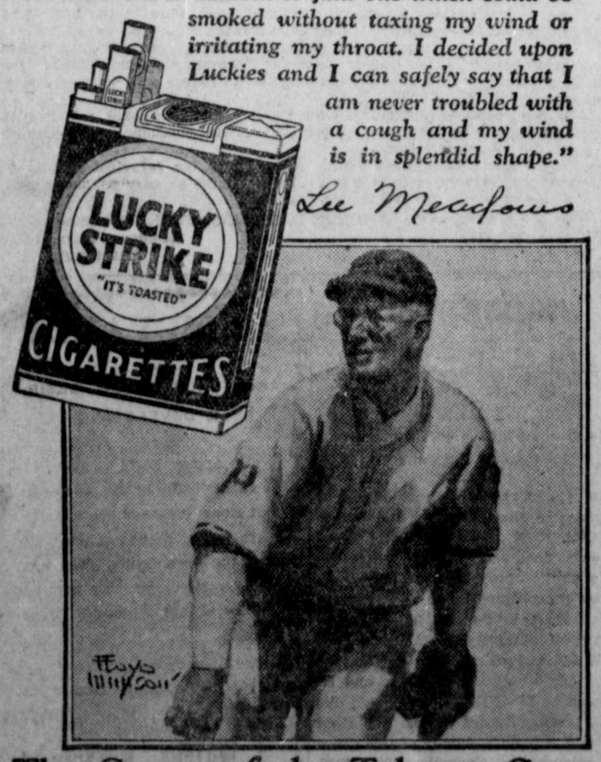
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POULTRY NOTES

A BRIEF ARTICLE OF GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE EFFICIENT RAISING OF POULTRY

BY POLK T. BRAMBLE
(Proprietor Bramble Poultry Farm)

Generally speaking, the agricultural industry has greatly improved during the past two years, and, we certainly believe, will continue to improve until it reaches its proper place in the life and usefulness of the world.

During that trying period of "agricultural deflation" which occurred shortly after the close of World War, countless farmers turned to their poultry flocks as one sure source of income, and the hens made good.

They saved untold numbers of farm families from actual distress and it is perhaps not too much to say that today poultry husbandry is the most popular agricultural specialty, as considered from the standpoint of the number of people actively interested, and is also one of the most satisfactory and consistently profitable.

America's hens are producing one and one-half billions of dollars anually and that is a heap of money.

It would not be the truth to say that poultry keeping is an industry which is free from grief or that the poultryman always has an easy time and makes big profits. This opinion unfortunately, seems to be general among those who are not informed regarding the details of the business, who base their ideas upon the prices they are compelled to pay for choice eggs and table poultry and disregard such items as the cost of production and distribution of these table necessities.

Nor is the business an utterly hopeless proposition as some of those who have failed to make a go of it would have us believe. The truth, as always, lies between the extremes.

Poultry husbandry is a very satisfactory occupation for those who are interested in living creatures and will give to the work that same attention and application required to make one successful in any other line of endeavor. It offers an independent life, interesting and healthful work, and a consistent and reasonable financial reward.

Few of us can ask more than that. At least, few get more!

In one respect, at least, the poultryman enjoys a tremendous advantage over growers of field crops, fruits and truck crops. The latter are unable to control many factors which affect their business as the weather, rainfall, etc.

If the weather is too hot or too cold, if there is too much or too little rain, if there comes an unexpected hail storm or late or early frost, the tillers of the soil suffer accordingly. But the poultryman if he be efficient, is not so greatly affected by these things.

Under all conditions he can keep his birds reasonably comfortable and correspondingly productve; he is not completely at the mercy of the elements. In this we find one of the reasons why poultry husbandry is a safe agricultural specialty.

The prime factors involved are the birds and the man. If these are both right, success is almost assured. Perhaps this explains why the poultry flocks on general farms are receiving so much attention, are being used as "an anchor to windward" to help hold the whole farm enterprise steady during seasons of crop failures or periods when staple farm crops must be sold at a price which is actually below production costs.

Much of the credit for the rapid and sound expansion of the poultry industry in America must be given to the various public agencies which have collected a vast amount of practical information on the subject and promptly made this available to the general public.

State agricultural experiment stations have done a vast amount of research work in poultry husbandry during the last twenty years and the facts thus secured have been promptly broadcast through the medium of formal bulletins the poultry agricultural and general press.

The agricultural colleges have given systematic courses in the subject to countless regular and special students and have carried the essential messages direct to the people through the activities of their extension workers. Correspondence courses. Correspondence courses of surprisingly high character have been given by both public and private institutions.

The United States Department of Agriculture has done a vast amount of work in this field. And the progressive manufacturers of poultry equipment and supplies have employed many well-trained men to give assistance to their customers not only in the matter of proper use of a given article but also in all things having to do with successful poultry management.

Any person who really wants to know how to handle poultry efficiently can secure the needed information. As a result the average poultry keeper of today is more soundly versed in the subject than was the expert of a quarter-century ago.

This practical knowledge of the why and wherefore of improved methods goes far toward removing the elements of luck or chance and, to large degree, places the business upon the firm foundation of certainty.

In one respect the poultryman cannot control things which have a big influence upon his business. He cannot fix the basic price of the feeds he must purchase or, save within certain limits, of the table eggs and poultry he has for sale.

That mysterious thing known as "the market" determines the prevailing prices on all such commodities.

The small individual producer of grain or of poultry products has mighty little influence on the nation's markets. This fact, coupled with that other fact that the poultry business is becoming more and more competitive, explains why every thoughful poultryman is adopting, so far as he may, the ruling principles of big business.

He is constantly striving to reduce overhead expenses and increase the efficiency of plant, birds and labor to he end that the production cost of every dozen of eggs and every pound of meat is reduced to the lowest level.

Having done this, he is safe, no matter what happens in the market. On a high market he makes big profits and on a low market he will secure some profit under conditions which will force his inefficient competitor out or business.

The above considerations the matter of business efficiency primarily, are forcing, or at least inducing large groups of poultrymen to combine for mutual advantage and protection. The average poultry producer, as previously intimated, is a small frog in a mighty big pond.

Purchasing his supplies and selling his products in relatively small volume he is at a disadvantage both ways. But let a large group of such folks join in a fairly close knit organization and they become important because they enjoy the double advantage of mass-buying and mass-selling.

They can purchase feeds and other needful things in wholesale quantities and thus be in position to get a wholesale price. And their products, because of the aggregate volume, may be closely inspected, graded and packed by competent men and so go into the market with a great advantage over the ungraded stuff.

Admittedly, it is not a simple task to bring into line a large number of individual producers and from them build a great organization which will function to the benefit of all. Yet it can be is being done.

Consider the record of the organization of Long Island duck growers and of the egg producers on the Pacific Coast. Few if any of the individuals connected with these groups would be willing to return to the old days of competitive unorganiged marketing methods.

It seems safe to predict that the next great movement in the poultry industry will be the general creation of organizations either co-operative or paternal in character, which shall attend to the details of buying and selling, leavng the individual farm operators free to concentrate on the problems connected ith production.

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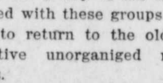
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has obtained from the Orphans' Court for Kent County letters of Administration on the personal estate of

WM. ALLEN ROBINSON

late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased' sestate are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchers thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of July 1928 otherwise they may by law be excluded from all benefit of said deceased's personal estate.

All persons indebted to this estate must settle at once.

Given under my hand this 3rd day of January 1928.

HOWARD F. OWENS,
j7 Administrator.

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