POULTRY NOTES

ITEMS OF INTEREST THAT WILL HELP OUR READERS SOLVE THEIR MANY PROBLEMS

BY POLK T. BRAMBLE
(Proprietor Bramble Poultry Farm)

With hens increasing laying, and the two local hatcheries sending out chicks by the tens of thousands every week, it seems to us that our local people would get busy and take up the business of raising poultry more seriously. Practically all the chicks leaving the local hatcheries are going outside the state. There are only two or three in this section taking particular interest in their poultry this early. Later on, however, our farmers' wives will get out their brooders and put in a few hundred chicks. But we would like to see our people get after the early broilers, keeping the early pullets from their Barred Rocks and Wyandottes and Reds. Then they would have pullets laying early in the winter, and could find a splendid market for their eggs. However, we have preached this doctrine through this column so many years, that we fear that "Verily, a prophet is without honor in his own country."

The poultry industry appears at the present time to be passing through what may later be known as the "Laboratory Age." In management we are seriously advised to keep our chicks and adult fowls "cribbed, cabined and confined" to an extent that would have been generally considered fantastic a few years ago. In feeding we have been swept clear beyond all known nutrients and the value of rations now is determined largely according to the presence or absence of hypothetical nutrients that no chemical test has exposed nor miscroscope brought to light. In breeding we have to deal with so many different characters that we can no longer mate our fowls without mathematical formulas, and when it comes to disease, it seems as if we can't go into the poultry yard without wading in germs up to our knees!

Under the circumstances, the poultryman's respect for the hen and his confidence in her innate vigor and strength of character ought to grow in volume with each shining moment Deprived of about all her natural rights and with her body mauled about, punched, banded, trapped, calipered, and hypodermicked for the agglutination and other learned tests with tapeworm names, she goes right on laying more and larger eggs and producing more and better chicks. If the hens had surrendered as easily and as completely to the dictates of the laboratory as their owners have, the state of the poultry industry today would be a sad one.

Almost from the beginning of modern commercial poultry keeping, which doesn't date so far back into the dim past as one might think, one of its outstanding characteristics has been the tendency to community development. The mention of "poultry communities" will doubtless suggest to almost every reader of R. P. J., the names of Vineland, N. J., and Petaluma, Calif., because these two are most frequently brought before the public on account of the extreme concentration which they represent. There are, however, less well-known communities in almost every state in the Union, such as, for illustration, those located in southern New Hampshire, Toms River and Mt. Morris, N. J., eastern Pennsylvania, northwestern Virginia, eastern Tennessee, southern Michigan, etc. These communities vary widely in their degree of concentration, but they all owe their existence to the common tendency of poultrymen to try to "get together."

In some other poultry journal, two or three months ago, there was an item to the effect that the 'Poultry Husbandry' Department of the University of British Columbia had been offered $5,000.00 for the pen of ten S. C. White Leghorns that made a double world record for this number of birds in the Agassiz, B. C., government supervised Egg Laying Contest, 1925-1926, by laying close to an average of 300 eggs per bird in 365 consecutive days, including famous Hen No. 6, that laid 352 eggs in the period here stated.

Mr. Reese V. Hicks, Managing director of the International Baby Chick Association, warns poultrymen to make sure that they are covered in their insurance policies against all loss. He cites the fact that many policies do not pay losses if they are the result of an explosion. Sometimes they are not paid even if fire follows an explosion.

The government has issued a "Record of Family Expenditures" in the shape of a loose leaf household account book. There are pages that are devoted to the yearly estimates of income and expenditure and a summary of property owned, and pages for re- Unfortunately this book is not available for free distribution, but it can be purchased for the nominal sum of 50 cents in cash from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture under date of January 12, gives a summary of the cold storage holdings in the United States. We note with interest that the total of frozen poultry is 117,678,000 pounds compared with 144,497,000 pounds, January 1, 1927. The present stocks of broilers, roasters, fryers, older fowl, turkeys and miscellaneous poultry are all lower than in January, 1927.

There is little culling to be done in February if the early-maturing, high-intensity and nonwinter-pause pullets were carefully identified last month and the month before. If such culling has not been done, turn back to last month's Calendar for instructions and do the best you can at this rather late date. You can tell little about rate of maturity now, but the presence or absence of the other two winter production characters can still be detected in a good many pullets Of course you will carefully inspect every bird that goes into the breeding pens to make sure that it measures up to a high standard in health and constitutional vigor.

Subscription to the Transcript $1.50 per annum.

INACTIVE FIREMEN ORGANIZE

At a meeting of approximately 100 inactive members of the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Co. held on Tuesday evening of this week, an organization was affected with the following officers:

President, T. D. Bowers; Vice President, W. B. Copper; Secretary, Clarence M. Newcomb; Treasurer, J. Samuel Kreeger. These officers with Rev. C. L. Atwater, L. G. Brown and George W. French form the executive committee.

The committee on By-Laws are Stephen R. Collins, R. Hynson Rogers, C. N. Satterfield and Rev. C. L. Atwater. This committee will draw up the By-Laws will be presented at the regular meeting of the active firemen on Monday evening of next week, for their approval.

The committee on membership is P. M. Brooks, W. B. Copper, R. H. Collins, Sr., W. T. Hicks, Clarence Newsome, L. G. Brown, W. G. Smyth. The duties of this committee are to increase the present enrollment of 142 members.

The purpose of this newly formed organization is to provide systematic means of financing the fire company and also to interest property owners of the towns and county in the expansion and development of the company. The membership committee will solicit members from all sections of the county where no fire companies are now in existance and organize other towns and farmers living adjacent, in this work.

The committee on membership will meet Friday evening, February 17th at the fire house at 7.30 p. m.

STATE ROADS HEAD ADDRESSES ROTARY

Mr. John N. Mackall, chairman of the State Roads Commission, was the principal speaker before the Chestertown Rotary Club on Monday evening of this week.

The main points in Mr. Mackall's talk were the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, Elimination of speed laws and Maryland state roads.

Mr. Mackall's talk on the bridge was rather discouraging to bridge enthusiasts as he stated that, although the bridge would be a great asset to the state, especially Baltimore and the Eastern Shore, he did not believe that the present plans calling for a sand fill to extend well out in the bay on the Western Shore was practical, and would not withstand the storms on the bay. He further stated that in a recent talk with Mr. Bonsel, one the officials of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Company, Mr. Bonsil stated that the report of the Army Engineering Division called for specifications that would require an additional million and a half expenditure and with this incerased burden the project could not be financed.

Mr. Mackall advocated the elimination of speed laws with the exception of establishing of a minimum speed law on the main highways. He pointed out how some of the main highways are blocked to the point of being dangerous due to slow moving vehicles. He pointed out that of twenty eight pedestrians killed in Baltimore City last year, twenty-seven were killed by slow moving trucks. Mr. Mackall's theory of the speed law is to throw the responsibility of the proper speed entirely upon the driver.

In speaking of Maryland's road building program during the past twenty years, Mr. Mackall started that Maryland is the only state in the Union that has had an uninterrupted road building program in the past twenty years. In proportion to the length of roads in the state Maryland has more improved highways than any state in the country and that every town of 1000 population is connected with the main arteries of the state with improved roads.

Maryland spent $100,000,000 for automobiles last year and using this figure Mr. Mackall pointed out that the tax-payers of the state should be willing to build roads over which to drive these cars. The wear and tear of automobile traveling over dirt roads will more than pay for improved roads. There are 2500 miles of improved roads in the state.

MASSEY

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Blyman and daughter, of Wilmington, were week end guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Ransom.

Mrs. Burton Edwards, two sons and Mrs. T. J. Starkey visited the latters son, Mr. Elwood Starkey, of Kennedyville.

Mrs. Chares Baker, Mrs. Russell Kelly and Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Palmatory were in Easton one day this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul King and family visited his parents, of Dover, one day this week.

Miss Louise Maslin, of Wilmington, spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Maslin.

Mrs. Mary Sparks spent Sunday with her son, Nathanial Baker, of Millington.

Mr. T. J. Starkey and son Royden were Dover visiters Sunday.

Mrs. Wm. Palmatory visited her cousin, Mrs. James LeCates, of Chestertown, one day this week.

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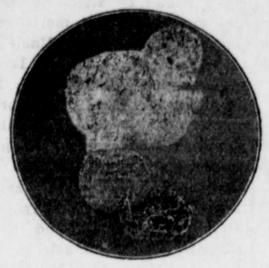
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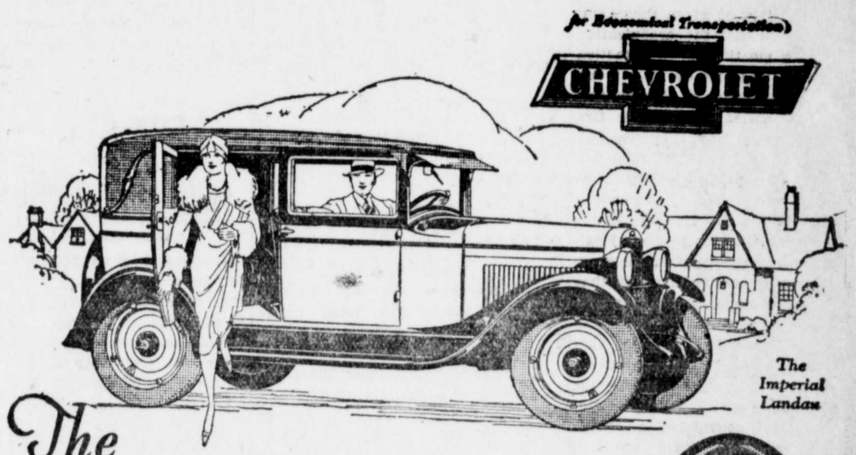
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