Poultry Raising !

George O. Brown's Practical Address on How to Raise Fine Chickens, Turkeys, &c.

Ladies and Gentlemen :

The importance of giving poultry on the farm strictly business attention is not generally observed as it should be.

With many farmers there is an impression prevailing that poultry on the farm does not pay. They make no investigation to find out why. If they did they would probably discover the very manner in which they cared for their flocks would furnish the reason why they are not profitable.

The poultry on the farm, if given the same intelligent care and attention that is usually given other farm stock, would soon prove very profitable.

Farmers should pay more attention to getting chickens hatched earlier. This will necessitate having good brooding coops—and it will pay any farmer to have such coops. A well made coop will cost a little more, but it will be snug and comfortable, vermin proof at night, and a greater number of chickens can be raised. The sooner the chickens are ready for market the better. There should be no trouble having hens that desire to sit early, when the poultry has been properly cared for. I do not mean, when I say early, hatching out chickens in January and February.

If chickens are hatched that early, special accommodations have to be provided to raise them, and unless the farmer makes chicken raising the main thing, it will hardly pay him·

With his varied other duties, the farmer cannot well have chickens hatched out before the latter part of March and first of April. This will be early enough generally speaking. When it is intended to make poultry raising quite a feature, provision can be made for caring for the extra early broods.

When it is known that no one agricultural product from the farm, according to the U. S. Census Reports, exceed in value that of poultry and eggs, it would seem that farmers should take more interest in the care of their flocks. It is a fact, however, if there is any one industry on the farm that is neglected and has to take its chances, it is the poultry.

When there is any special effort to raise a little revenue from them, it is generally the farmer's ambitious wife who inaugurates the enterprise and does the work.

No farm product commands at all times ready cash sales equal to the products of the yard. When cost and trouble are considered, nothing on the farm can be made as profitable as poultry.

Statistics show that annually over $600,000,000 worth of poultry product at regular market rates are consumed in this country. How many farmers can you find in Maryland who can truly admit that they are getting as much out of this vast sum as their favorable circumstances should entitle them to? How few farmers there are who realize that there is really a scientific way, so to speak, or as some might look upon it, a common sense method of feeding to secure certain results? The poultry breeder, however, who thoroughly understands his business, knows the importance of a well-balanced ration, as well as does the expert dairyman. He knows from experience that the food required for egg making is essentially different from that necessary for fattening. He also knows that proper feeding for eggs will not only increase the production, but improve the size of the egg.

The important inquiry then for the ambitious farmer should be, how must I treat my poultry flocks to make them a source of profit? In order to accomplish this, the first consideration should be a snug poultry house, located where it cannot, from any cause, become damp. The house need not be elaborate. The cracks should all be battened, the roosts all on one level, and not over two feet from the floor.

A shed should be provided as large as the house for the hens to scratch and dust in during cold and stormy days. Crushed oyster shells or other suitable grit material should always be accessible, and the flock be kept tame by humane treatment.

Poultry to become profitable must not be inbred as farmer's flocks usually are. Properly raised flocks will need no new blood for a long time. Let me illustrate by showing the difference between the farmer's methods and the poultry fancier's. A farmer we will say has a flock of pure bred Plymouth Rocks. When spring comes eggs are set and hatched. In due time the chicks begin to show size enough to make the farmer think of selling. He has noticed that in each brood there were some that outgrew the rest. These are the ones selected for market—because they will bring a little better price. This plan the farmer will follow season after season. What then, does he save for next year's breeding—why the slow growing or runts of all the broods.

Is it then any wonder that from year to year the farmer's fowls are growing less vigorous, less productive as egg layers, and finally, is it any wonder they do not pay?

With such a method, and the scant attention the farmer's flock receive, is it not more of a wonder they keep up as long as they do?

The poultry fancier's method is quite different. Every chick in a brood that shows unusual or rapid development and vigor are the ones he marks and *saves* for the next year's breeding stock.

The farmer's plan runs down the flock. The fancier's method builds it up.

One of the finest flocks of Light Brahmas I ever saw was in South Carolina, and no new blood had been introduced in 15 years. The stock was of standard size, and the plumage markings as excellent as that on exhibition specimens could be. Enquiry elicited the fact that the stamina, size and egg production of this flock had actually been improved, and by simply marking and saving the two or three in each brood, that outgrew the others each year. This is a good illustration of what can be accomplished by careful intelligent selection.

The second consideration is the methods of feeding. The idea that cheap or damaged foods are suitable to give to poultry is a great mistake, and one that will cause endless trouble if followed.

It will always pay to feed the best of grain to poultry. The more varied the diet can be made the better. The morning feed should be of mixed food—so called from the fact that it is composed of different ingredients mixed with scalding water.

The ingredients can be, and should be varied from day to day. Corn meal, or what is known in the Baltimore market as hominy chop, should be the basis of the morning meal. One morning use three quarts of corn meal and one of wheat bran, mix with boiling water. There is a nack in mixing the food. Use only water enough to mix it so it will be of a crumbly nature—free from stickiness. Another morning add ground oats at the rate of two quarts to the quantities already specified. Then another day hominy chops should replace the corn meal. Vegetables, such as turnips, beets, rutabagas, mangles, small potatoes, etc., may be boiled until they are thoroughly done, then mashed well and thickend by adding the ingredients I have named. The grain food at night may be corn, oats, wheat, huckwheat or cracked corn. The grain feeding should be changed from day to day. This plan will keep the hens always eager for their food. During the middle of the day in winter, a light feed of screenings, a little millet seed, or even wheat may be scattered among litter in their scratching shed. An ounce of raw green bone cut should be allowed each hen every other day—or still better half an ounce a day. Occasionally boiled oats, fed warm, can take the place of the morning or evening meal. This method of feeding should bring a liberal supply of eggs during the winter.

To fatten for market, corn meal alone, scalded, that is mixed with boiling water, boiled corn and whole corn should be provided. Green food of some kind should always be on hand for the flock. Never feed more than the hens will partake of with keen relish. Remove what they leave if you have been unwise enough to throw them too liberal a quantity. The farmer should aim to keep good stock. It will not pay to keep scrubs. They will only yield scrub results. What few good qualties they may possess they have inherited from some remote pure-bred ancestors. The idea that pure bred poultry is delicate is a mistake. Every poultry show as well as the agricultural fairs afford ample evidence of this error of judgment. The size of the poultry specimens are a wonder to the farmer. They do not understand why they can not raise such Plymouth Rocks and other breeds as they see at the fairs. The reasons I have already stated — the farmer's methods of housing, feeding, and selecting for breeding are all wrong.

Indifferent methods yield indifferent results in all pursuits. It is all well enough for the farmer to call poultry men, who give their flocks strictly business attention, poultry cranks.

It would be much more to their own interest, however, if they paid their own flocks enough attention to be recognized as poultry cranks themselves.

Farmers have superior advantages for raising poultry that far surpasses many poultrymen, who are making the occupation exceedingly successful and profitable. Why then should not the farmer give more time and attention to the poultry industry, instead of allowing it to be the worst neglected industry on the farm.

The land that is so rough that it cannot well be cultivated is specially suitable for a poultry run—why not then turn it to profit with the hens?

The multitude of insects destroyed by the ducks not only lesson the depredations, on the farm crops, but increase the eggs yield, thus serving a doubly beneficial purpose.

On some farms the poultry are actually considered a nuisance. Perhaps if their side could be heard from they might express a similar opinion about the farmer that owns them. If the poultry does not pay they are not to blame. Give them a chance to prove what they can do with proper care and feeding.

I have seen fowls on a farm so wild that when the preacher made his annual visit, to remain for dinner, that all hands and a shot gun were required to secure a chicken.

Eggs on some farms, during at least five months of the year, are seldom seen. The hens have been poorly cared for during the late summer and fall, and were in consequence in no condition to withstand the rigors of winter. The scant feed allowed them in cold weather was barely sufficient to keep life in them kept as they were in cold, draughty, so called bouses.

Farmers who keep poultry and do not get a liberal supply of eggs in winter are not treating the hens properly.

With grain so cheap, every farmer should be wise enough to know how to turn it into eggs, and the eggs into money.

There is one thing certain, if the poultry flocks on the farms are not profitable, the blame is not with them. I have proved by personal experience, carefully keeping an account, that a profit of from $2 to $2.50 per hen can be made in a year, even when one has to buy all they eat at retail prices, and sell the poultry products at prevailing market rates. Why then cannot the farmer do still better, when he can raise all the feed they require? So he can by adopting business methods, giving good care, properly housing the flocks and following the method of feeding recommended. Now a word or so about the pure breeds and I am through. Every breed of poultry possesses distinctive traits. Mistakes are made when this is not fully understood. The methods, for instance, which will secure the best results with the spanish breeds, would not answer as well for the Asiatics. The first named are naturally sprightly, energetic, and ambitious foragers; the Asiatic breeds are naturally of an indolent nature, and one must know how to manage them to secure good results.

Without doubt the best breed for the farmer, and one that is more extensively bred than any other today, is the Plymouth Rocks. The general purpose qualtities of the Plymouth Rocks make them the ideal breed for the farm. When well bred, the hens are excellent layers, reliable sitters, and very desirable mothers. If the chicks are properly fed and cared for, they are soon in good condition, and no extra preparation to get them ready for the market. The chicks rarely ever show the lanky condition of some other breeds.

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DO YOU suffer from Hoarseness, Tickling in the Throat, or Chronic Cough? Honey-Tolu will cure it.

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DO YOU have a cough or cold at this time? If so, get Honey-Tolu; if not, get Honey-Tolu anyhow, and have it in the house ready for emergencies; one dose in the middle of the night is worth a whole bottle in the store the next morning.

Number 1232 Chancery.

Order Nisi.

Joseph W. Price, Mortgagee,
versus
Samuel A. Merritt and Laura S. Merritt.

In the Circuit Court for Kent County, in Equity.

ORDERED, this 22d day of January, 1897, that the sale of the Real Estate of Samuel A. Merritt and Laura S. Merritt, his wife, made and reported by JOSEPH W. PRICE, Mortgagee, under power in the mortgage from Sam'l A. Merritt and Laura S. Merritt, his wife, dated the 29th day of September, 1887, and recorded among the Land Records of Kent county, aforesaid, in Liber S. B., No. 9, folio 574, &c., be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 25th day of March next;—Provided, a copy of this order be inserted in some newspaper prnnted and published in Kent county, once in each of three successive weeks before the 25th day of February next.

The report states the amount of sales to be $6,715.96.

SAMUEL G. FISHER, CLERK.

True copy, Test:
SAMUEL G. FISHER, CLERK.

Jan. 23, 1897—4t.

No. 1,224, Chancery.

Order Nisi.

The Chester Loan Association of Kent County
versus
WILLIAM S. Maslin and wife.

In the Circuit Court for Kent County, in Equity.

ORDERED, this 20th day of Jan. 1897, that the sale of the property of Wm. S. Maslin and wife, made and reported by MARION DEK. SMITH, Attorney, uner the power in the mortgage from the said William S. Maslin and wife to the said The Chester Loan Association of Kent county, a body corporate, dated the 10th day of November, 1893, and recorded among the Land Records of Kent county, in Liber S. G. F., No. 2, Folio 101, &c., be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 25th day of March, next;—Provided a copy of this order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in Kent County, once in each of three successive weeks before the 25th day of February next.

The report states the amount of sales to be $630.00.

SAMUEL G. FISHER, CLERK.

True copy, Test:
SAMUEL G. FISHER, CLERK.

January 23, 1897—4t.

Order Nisi.

In the matter of the sale of the Leasehold Estate of William F. Blackway, deceased.

In the Orphans' Court for Kent County.

ORDERED, this 29th day of December, 1896, by the Orphans' Court for Kent County, that the Sale of the Leasehold Estate of William T. Blackway, deceased, made and reported by JOHN T. BLACKWAY, Executor of the said deceased, in pursuance of the laws of Maryland vesting the Orphans' Court of said State with the power to order the sale of Leasehold Estates, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause be shown to the contrary on or before the 1st day of March next;—Provided a copy of this order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in said Kent County once a week for three successive weeks before the 18th day of January next, 1897.

The report states the amount of sales to be $400.00.

SAMUEL BURGESS,
FRANKLIN H. HARPER,
Judges of Orphans' Court.

True copy, Test:
JAMES T. DIXON, Register of Wills.

Jan. 2, 1897—4t.

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TWO POUNDS FOR 25 CENTS.

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He is selling off his Winter Stock of Goods to make room for Spring Goods, which will be sold **20 to 30** per cent. Less Than Ever Before.

Shoes !			Boots !	Shoes !		
$1.60 Shoes for	$1.39	for Ladies		2.00 Shoes for	$1.77	for Men.
1.50 "	1.23	"		1.50 "	1.23	"
1.25 "	99	"		1.10 "	99	"
1.00 "	81	"		2.60 Boots for	$2.19.	
85 "	76	"		2.00 "	1.69.	
3.00 "	2.39	for Men.		1.50 "	1.19.	
2.50 "	2.13	"		1.25 "	99.	
2.25 "	1.98	"				

All kinds of Children's Shoes to be sold at same rates.

Men's Best 50 cent Undershirts.....39 cents.
" 25 " " .....19 "
" 50 " Drawers.....39 "
" 40 " " .....31 "
" 35 " " .....29 "
Ladies' Best 50 cent Undershirts.....39 cents.
" 50 " Pants.....39 "
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" 25 " Pants.....19 "

GLOVES, all reduced at same rate of other things.

Sugar, very best.....4⅝c. Loose Coffee.....14¼c.
2 Bars Best Washing Soap..4¾c. Best, Pure Java Coffee.....24c.
Enterprise Coffee.....14½c. Ginger Snaps, best.....4⅝c.
Arbuckle's Coffee.....14½c. Soda Crackers, best.....8½c.

and in fact everything at Botton Prices. Friends, call soon or you will be left.

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1 Pound Coffee. 1 Pound Sugar.
1 Can Tomatoes. 1 Can Corn.
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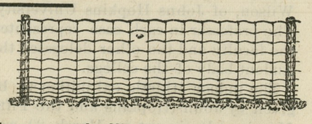

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