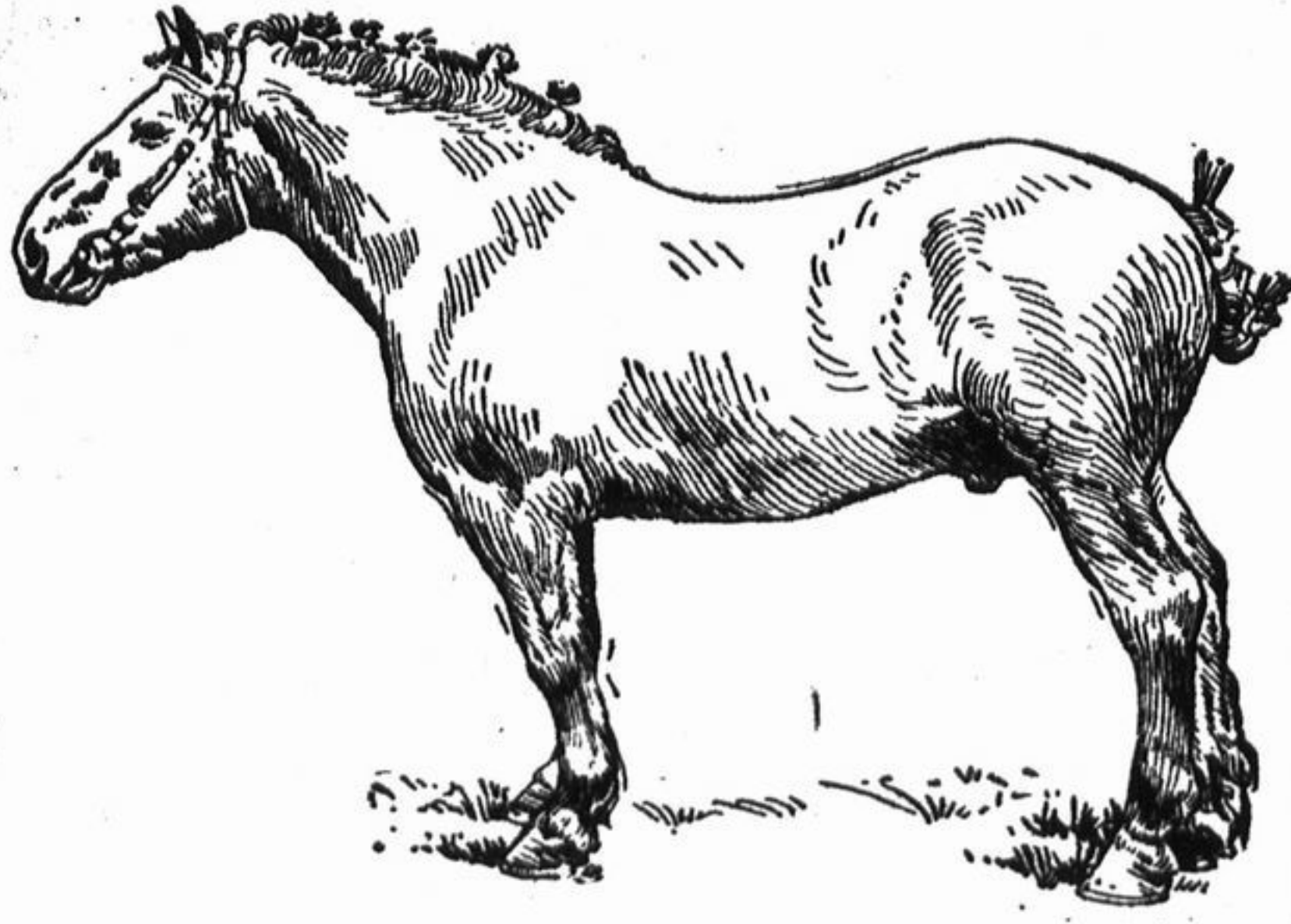


**COMBINATION OF EXCELLENT QUALITIES OF
CLYDE, SHIRE AND PERCHERON HORSES**

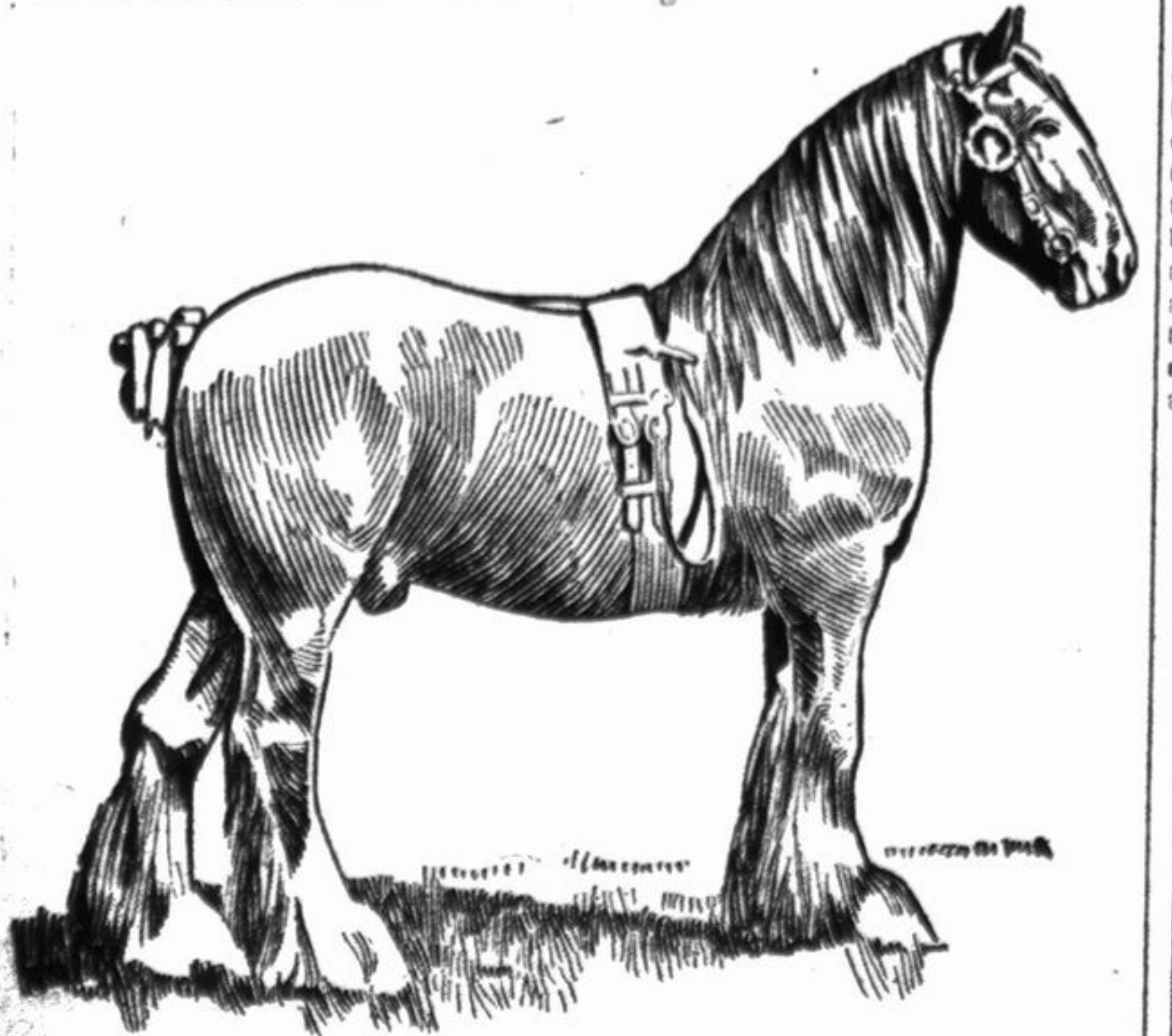
Ideal Type of All Three Great Breeds Is Nearly the Same—All Breeders Seek to Achieve Improvement Over Original Animals of District.



Percheron Stallion "Hoche."

It is, as a rule, well to stick to one breed of horses and to breed that one which has the greatest number of good stallions in one's district. Under Dean Curtiss, however, at the Iowa college, Ames, Iowa, an effort is being made to combine the best that is in the Shire and Clyde horses, and the resources of the college fully justify the experiment and also the kind of horses that are being produced. Many of our most successful show horses have resulted from a cross of Clyde and Percheron, Clyde and Shire or Shire and Percheron in varying degree. The ideal type of all three great breeds is nearly the same; all seek improvement over the original horse of their districts, and when a judge enters the ring, although he is forced to make allowance for differences in each breed, yet he has pretty much the same standard in his mind for all. The ideal begins with deep feet, yet not boxy, but with wide hoof heads and a broad elastic heel and frog. The set of the pasterns must be oblique to give plenty of spring and save concussion, plenty of breadth in canon bone and tendon with quality, big muscular forearms, with the muscle coming down evenly, not in bunches, both for strength and to denote muscular tendency throughout. Head and neck strong without coarseness, but denoting strong vitality. The draft horse's shoulder may be straighter than the carriage horse's, but it should be oblique enough for the horse to wear himself well and travel easily, which will not be the case with an upright shoulder, or if the legs are not truly set on the body the latter point is often overlooked. A shortish back and a good girth and barrel, with plenty of spread underneath coming from length of shoulders and quarters and big muscular thighs and stifles are needed and the hock should be long and deep and clean, with a proper

alignment to the stifles and hip bone. It will be found in seeking these points that every breed has serious and, in fact, disqualifying differences, and Dean Curtiss is merely doing what has been frequently done with other breeds when he tries to take a short cut by combining gray Shires with Clydes and uniting the excellencies of both. That it will take time and an intensification of the desired horse by inbreeding is nothing against the experiment. A great deal has been done in both Shire and Clyde to improve them, but some sire has been sacrificed to get perfection of hoof and pastern in the one breed, and the Clyde was never a heavy barreled horse, the Scotsman preferring a quick, active, grain-fed horse to one which consumed more hay, an article he is not apt to be overburdened with. The great back ribs and barrel of the Shire will be well carried on Clyde legs, the head will be improved, while there is an upstandingness and presence about the great Shire horses that are impressive. The Shire horse is a consistent puller. He will pull without result for a long time without becoming discouraged, while the Clyde horse gets into action much quicker and at the second or third step is in the full swing of his walk, so that a good deal will be gained by a combination of mental qualities expressed in action. I realize the immense debt we owe to foreign importations, but can never rest satisfied until we have developed either new breeds or adapted old ones entirely to our conditions, both general and local, as has been done in the case of the American trotter, saddle horse and Poland China hog. To make no effort to do this is a negation of the genius of the American agriculturist to meet a variety of soil and climatic conditions by breeding animals suited to their environment.



Royal Duke, Champlain Shire Stallion.

**NITROGEN DECIDES
FERTILITY OF SOIL**

In the Body of Plant or Animal It is One of Most Important Elements.

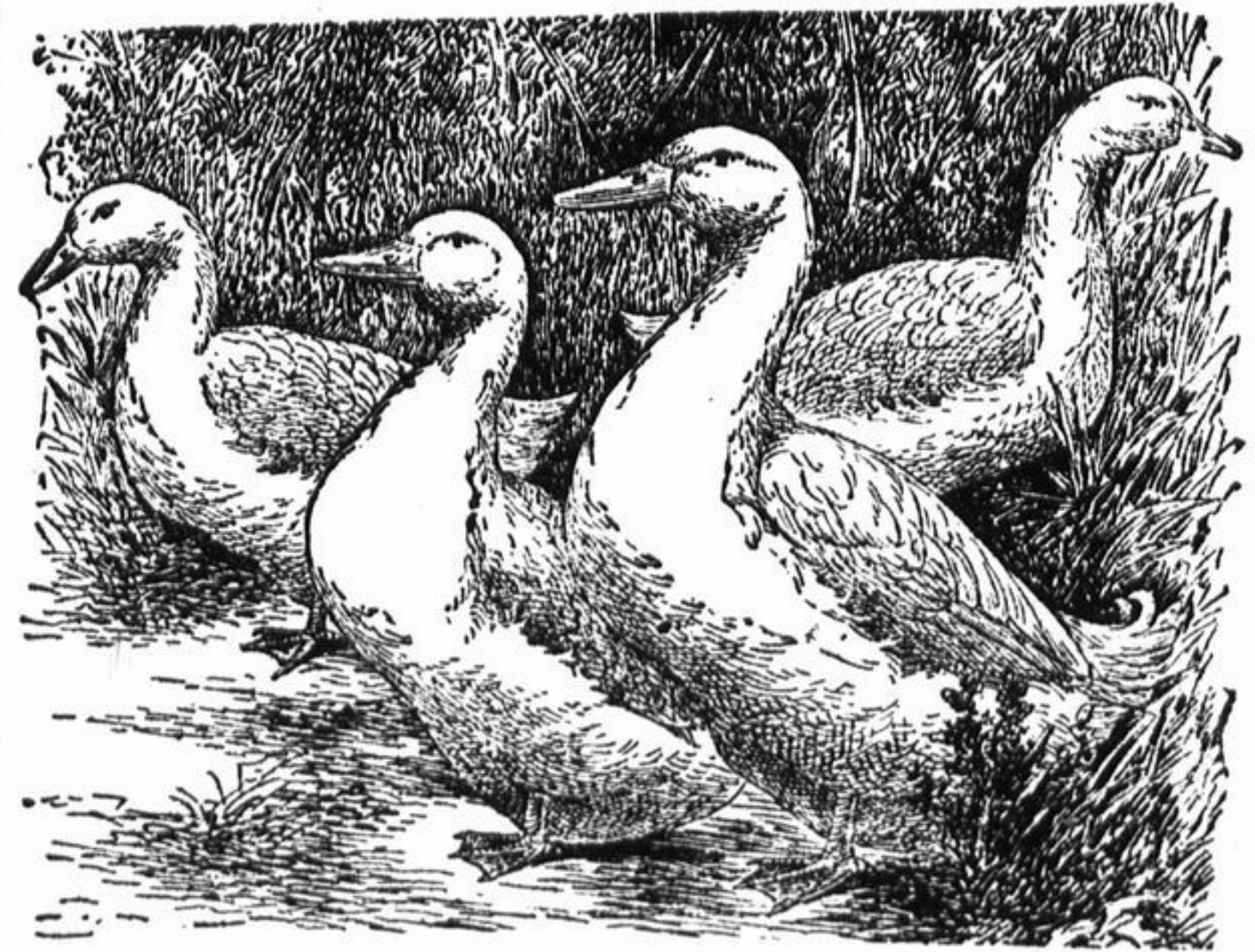
(By C. C. WENTZLER.)
To most people soil is either rich or poor. If a soil is productive, it is regarded as rich; on the other hand if only limited and inferior crops can be raised, the soil is regarded as proportionately worthless. Few people excepting those who have made more or less of a study of the soil are aware that, practically, one element decides the fertility of the soil. This is nitrogen. Nitrogen is one of the most important elements in nature. It has been known for centuries that we can breathe the atmosphere to hold the oxygen.

gen in check, it would be absolutely impossible to strike a match. A spark would cause an explosion that could be heard as far as the sun while every living thing would be instantly destroyed. In the body of plant or animal, it is one of the most important elements. In the soil it is the principle element which decides its fertility. Soils are rich or poor according to the amount of nitrogen they contain, especially with regard to the other elements which make up the soil. It is from the soil that most plants get their nitrogen and it is from these plants that we get flesh, butter and eggs, in the shape of protein.

Profits in Onions.
The man who reads of \$1,000 to \$2,000 profits per acre in onions or in any other crop loses his head to the extent of planting a half-acre as a first venture, not knowing whether his soil and climate are adapted to the crop or what chances of sale or storage he has, does not use proper discretion.

**WHITE PEKIN DUCK IS MOST POPULAR
FOR ALL FARM AND PRACTICAL PURPOSES**

Fowl Was Imported From China in Early Seventies and Has Steadily Grown in Favor Since Its Introduction—Must Be Handled With Much Care.



Group of White Pekin Ducks.

(By GEORGE E. HOWARD.)
Of all ducks for farm and practical purposes none stands higher in esteem than the White Pekin. It is valuable for raising on a large scale and is the most easily raised of all. It is a very timid bird and must be handled quite carefully. It was imported from China in the early '70s, and has steadily grown in popularity since its introduction into this country. The Pekin duck has a distinct type of its own, and differs from all others in the shape and carriage of its body. It is some it is credited with having a shape much like an Indian canoe, owing to the full growth of feathers under the rump and the singular turned up carriage of the tail. The legs are set far back, which causes the bird to walk in an upright position. In size the ducks are very large, some reaching as high as 20 pounds to the pair, and they are considered among the best of table fowls. They are non-sitters, hardy, easily raised and mature early.

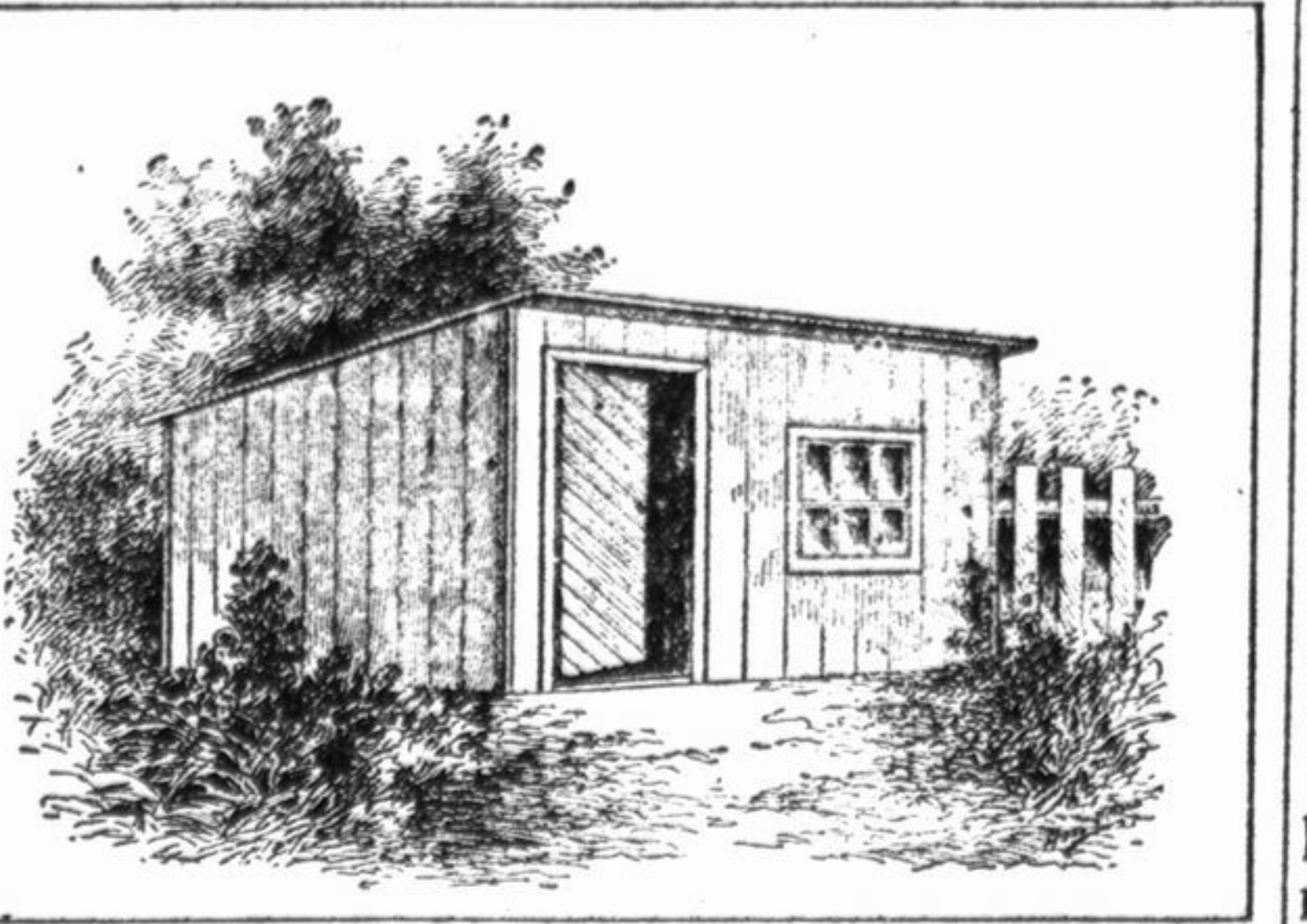
The standard-bred Pekin has a long, finely formed head, a bill of medium size, of an orange yellow color, that is perfectly free from any mark or color other than yellow. The color of the bill is very important for exhibition birds, and not infrequently one of the best drakes in a show room is disqualified for having a faint tracing of black in the bill. The eyes are of a deep leaden-blue color. The neck of a Pekin should be neatly curved; in the drake it should be large and rather long, while that of the duck is of medium length. The back is long and broad; breast is round, full, and very prominent. The body is long and deep, and the standard describes the carriage of the body as elevated in front, sloping downward toward the rear. The wings are short, carried closely and smoothly against the body. The birds cannot sustain flight, a two-foot fencing being ample to restrain them in an enclosure. The tail is erect, more so than in any other duck. The curled feathers in the tail of the drake are hard and stiff. The thighs are short and large; shanks short and strong, and in color are a reddish orange; toes straight, connected by a web, and reddish orange in color. The plumage is downy, and of a faint creamy

white throughout. Recently it has been noticed that preference in the showroom is being given to birds of white plumage. The breeders are selecting as their show birds those that have the snow-white plumage instead of the creamy white, as given in the standard.

The standard weight of the adult drake is eight pounds; adult duck, seven pounds; young drake, seven pounds, and young duck, six pounds.

Houses for ducks are simple affairs. They are built plain and comfortable, and have no furnishings whatever. A duck is differently constituted from a hen, and must be cared for under different conditions. The hen needs warmer houses and drier surroundings than does the duck. A duck does not mind the cold if she can keep her feet warm. Cold feet will affect a duck as a frozen comb does a hen, retarding laying and inducing ailments. The feathers of a duck are almost impenetrable and will withstand almost any degree of cold. Again, a duck can not stand the amount of confinement in a house that a hen can; she is more restless in disposition and is given to exercise in a greater degree than is a hen. Indigestion is not so prevalent with ducks as with chickens; the duck's ceaseless motion aids the digestive organs and keeps her generally in good health.

In Fig. 9 is shown a simple house that may be built at small expense. It is plain and has a shed roof. Such a house should be built of rough boards, twelve inches by one inch, and joints covered by three-inch by one-inch strips. The roof should be made water-tight and covered with roofing paper, shingles, or tin. The outside should be well drained around the bottom, that it may not be damp. Some advocate board floors, raised from six to eight inches from the ground, and covered from four to six inches with dry earth, straw or leaves. The writer favors the using of board floors in all houses for chickens, but thinks it not essential for ducks. If the house is well drained on the outside and the earth floor is covered with hay straw, or leaves, it will be perfectly satisfactory. There must not be dampness in the house, as the birds will not do so well; while they are given to water on the outside they must have comfortable quarters in which to "warm up" or "dry out."



House for Breeding Ducks.

**VALUE OF OATS AS
FEED FOR POULTRY**

Lies in Great Proportion of Mineral Matter Contained—Grit Is Needed.

Oats should have the greatest value of any common grain but for its large fiber content and the toughness of the hull. There is often great difference in the quality of oats. No grain varies so much in weight per bushel. Poor oats, light oats, because of the large per cent of hull compared with the kernel, are almost worthless as food. The feeding value of oat hulls is

about the same as oat straw, and for fowls is not only indigestible, but a great tax upon the system. As a poultry food the great value of oats lies in the large proportion of mineral matter contained. Fowls fed oats freely should be kept active and liberally supplied with grit. Oats are not liked very well and we have found it most practical to feed it as a light meal, when the price has made it economical to feed it at all. Oats should be soaked twenty-four hours before feeding. However, dry oats, in small quantities, with other grains, are all right, but soaked oats are the best.

Cheap Feed.
Raise a whole lot of fodder corn this season and then put up a silo. That's the way to insure a cheap feed supply for next winter.

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