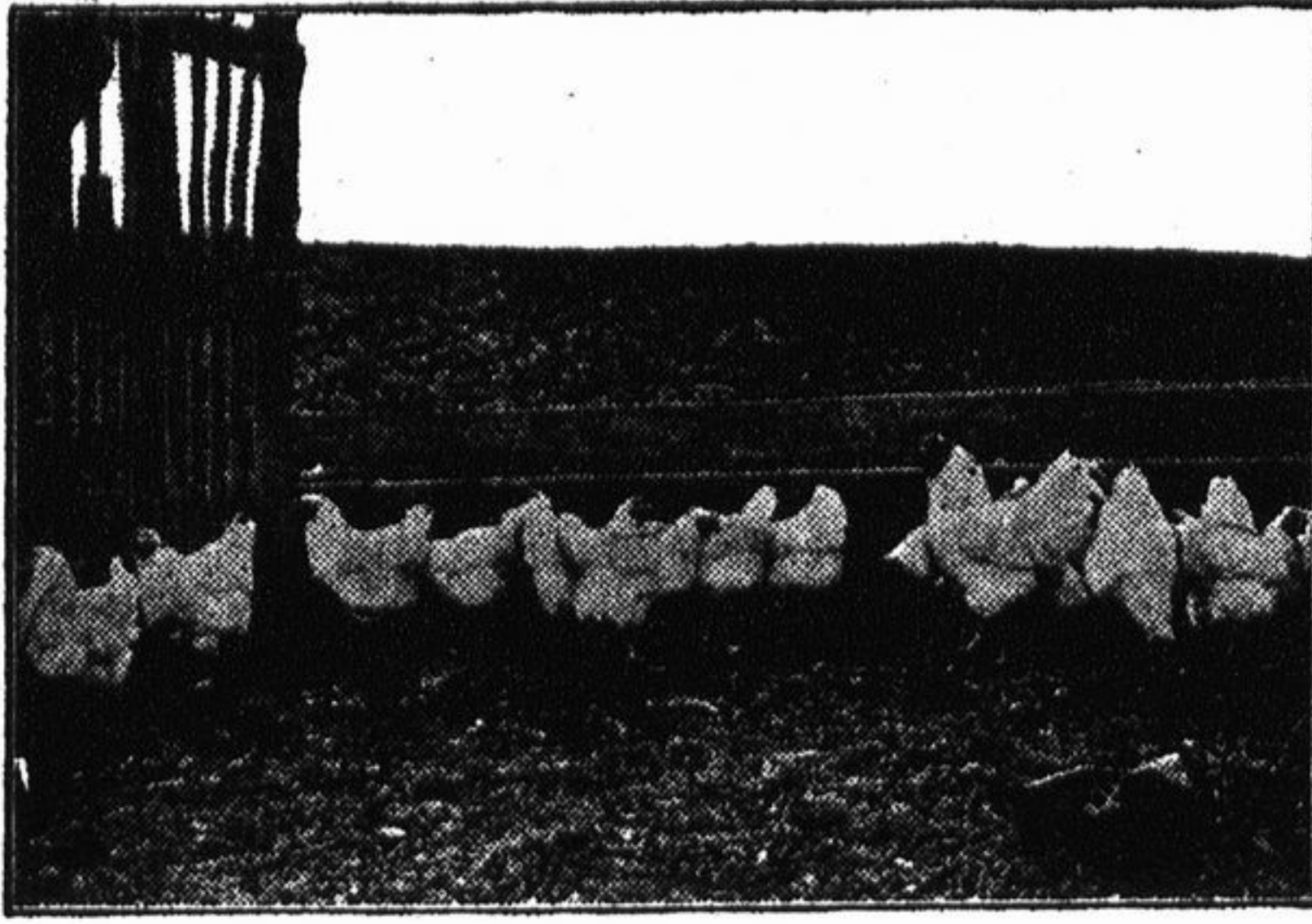


PRACTICAL NOTES OF THE POULTRY YARD



A "String" of Wyandotte Hens.

Poultry raisers living in towns and cities can get more for their eggs by selling them to private customers. A hundred post cards or a little advertising in the local newspapers, stating that you will supply eggs the year round at a stated price, will bring plenty of customers.

Roup, one of the most troublesome diseases among chickens, is almost always caused by damp quarters. Keep the quarters dry and warm, and the yards clean and roup will not trouble you.

Some people think it is "cute" to let the puppy run through the flock and set the hens to flying. Maybe it is, but the egg production will always fall off after such a performance.

Worms and bugs in the field and garden have now gone into their winter quarters, where the hens can't reach them, and to take their places meat, meal and cut bone must be supplied. If you would keep the hens strong and healthy.

Are the winter quarters for your laying hens to be the old dirty, lousy, smelly house that has been used without cleaning or disinfecting? You need not expect many eggs from such a place, no matter how good your hens are.

Keep ground charcoal on hand and throw a handful into the drinking pans once or twice a week.

A few drops of tincture of iron put into the drinking water is also a good thing for the hens, and some people believe that it prevents many minor diseases. Even if it does not it will do no harm.

Chickens have no sense of affection for their owners, but they will repay kindness of warm, dry quarters and good food and clean water by laying more eggs. The hen is all business. A hoppersful of bran, placed where the hens can get it at all times, is an excellent addition to the food in winter.

While it is desirable, it is not always necessary to start in the chicken business with a flock of pure breeds. Buy the best hens you can afford, and then spend as much more as you can afford for a pure bred cock.

If you have some birds in your flock that you think will line up well with the winners at the poultry show, and you are in the business of selling eggs for setting, do not hesitate to exhibit them, but it will be well to have some expert poultryman judge them first. He may save you some disappointments, and then he may find birds that are more likely to be prize winners than the ones you have selected yourself.

There is many a farm where the poultry is considered an unimportant offshoot of the business, but which if cultivated as it should be would produce more money than all the crops raised.

If the fowls have to break through a coating of ice to get water these frosty mornings they will not take as

much as they need. The water should be slightly warmed on all cold days.

Do not allow the laying hens to become too fat as they not only become lazy but are apt to become egg-bound.

Laying hens need a bulky ration such as cut steamed clover or alfalfa meal. They should also have plenty of vegetables.

We would rather allow our hens to roost in the tree tops as long as they can keep dry, than in a damp stuffy poultry house, even in the coldest weather, as they will suffer less.

It is not a good plan to wait until spring to buy your breeding stock. If you want a well-bred rooster for instance, look around among the breeders and pick out one that is fit to show at the poultry exhibition. If you wait until he goes to the show and wins a prize, you will pay twice or three times as much.

Field corn parched crisp, in fact nearly to a charcoal, is always relished by the hens and is a valuable addition to their winter food.

Of course it is unpleasant to leave a warm fire and go out and shovel the snow from the path to the poultry house, to make things comfortable for the hens these stormy days.

Some people imagine that if they give their chickens skim milk, water is not necessary. This is a mistake, as milk turns into solid food almost as soon as it reaches a bird's digestive apparatus, and water must always be given.

If the poultry house is perfectly dry, and by that we mean the ground under and above it, the chickens will not suffer from the cold.

At the high prices of grain the man who has to buy all of his feed must figure very closely and make the most of every pound of it in feeding his poultry, else he will come out at the little end of the horn in the spring.

There is nothing better than ground charcoal to correct slight bowel trouble in chickens.

A perforated dust can is just as necessary in the poultry house as the sprayer if the fowls are to be kept free from insects.

It is not stretching the truth to say that if the farmers marketed their poultry in the best possible condition their receipts would be increased one third. Neither is it stretching the truth to say that less than 10 per cent of all the poultry marketed is in perfect condition when it reaches the consumer.

If you are selling eggs for hatching, a visit to the best breeding farm you can easily reach, will pay you well. Observe closely the methods followed there, and then improve on them all you can.

Always ship eggs in baskets or cartons made for the purpose and never in dirty old boxes, packed in sawdust or bran.

The pullets do not need a nest egg as a pattern, but one or two dummies placed in the nest will show them where they ought to lay.

MATERIALS TO MAKE SHELLS OUTFIT FOR CANDLING EGGS

Articles Containing Lime Must Be Given in Liberal Quantities—Do Not Overlook Grit Box.

There is no possible objection to feeding egg shells to hens, provided they are broken in small bits so that the hens may not readily recognize them, or they may get in the habit of eating eggs. Oyster shells and clam shells pounded up fine must also be fed and in liberal quantities, for all of them are needed to provide the hen with material to make shells. Do not confuse the grit box with the box containing the shell-making material.

Mix the ingredients if desired, but see that there is enough of sharp bits of stone, broken flower pots and crockery, fine cinders and the like in the mixture so that the hens may obtain sufficient to grind the food they consume. Then bear in mind the box of dust; make this of fine road dust in which is mixed a little lime and considerable insect powder. Have several such dust boxes if the flock is of considerable size, and set them in the sunny part of the yard or house. If the dust boxes are liberally supplied the hens will give one material help in keeping out the insects.

Use Medium Size Eggs. Eggs for setting should be of medium size and run an average in regard to color. An unusually small or unusually large egg should be discarded. A uniform lot as to shape, size and color will bring the best result.

Ordinary Pasteboard Box and Small Lamp Can Be Arranged Without Much Trouble or Expense.

A simple outfit for candling eggs can be made out of a small hand lamp and an ordinary pasteboard box sufficiently large to be placed over the lamp, after the ends have been removed, without risk of fire. In order to supply air to the inclosed lamp, notches should be cut in the edge on which the box rests. A round hole is then cut in the box at the level of the lamp flame and the candling done by holding each egg against this hole while the rest of the room is in darkness. The light from the lamp reveals the contents of the egg, and those that show any defect can be rejected.

Preserve Poultry Manure. Farmers pay little, if any, attention to the preservation of their poultry manure. When rightly preserved, poultry manure is a concentrated fertilizer, and its fertilizing constituents will rank with many of the commercial fertilizers on the market that sell at \$20 a ton.

The Dust Bath. A good dust bath should be convenient and in addition a good insect powder should be used freely at the end of the first week and again about three days before the hatch is done, dusting it freely into the feathers and around through the nesting material,

Orchard Information

TAKES NERVE TO THIN FRUIT

Practice Has Become Quite Popular With Some Orchardists—Expense of Time Is Small Item.

(By W. H. M'CURDY.) One of the most noted peach growers in this country tells how his neighbors wondered when they saw him picking off the major portion of his first peach crop.

They shook their heads and wondered at the absurd proceeding of the man who had peculiar views about peach growing. But that season when his peaches proved a bumper crop they changed their minds. Since that time the thinning of peaches has been popular with the more progressive neighbors.

The thinning of peaches or any fruit must be conducted with judgment. It is not by any means advisable to thin every tree regardless of how much fruit it carries. Some trees set so little fruit that all can be ripened without overtaxing the tree or without producing undersized fruit.

Some charge up the cost of thinning as an extra expense on the orchard. But anyone who has gathered fruit knows that fruit gathering is a slow task, especially with fruit that has to be handled as carefully as does the peach.

The picking of the small green peaches at thinning time removes the necessity of picking off many of these same peaches later on.

When they are thinned they are simply pinched off and allowed to fall on the ground, while later if allowed to ripen they must be put carefully in baskets.

The expense of time in pinching off a small fruit is only a fraction of that required in gathering the same peach when it is ripe enough to market.

Of course, there is an offset in the fact that some of the young peaches would be switched off by the wind later, but in the main it may be stated that no more labor is required to thin peaches and gather the remainder when ripe than to gather the harvest that results without thinning.

PRUNING FOR PEAR BLIGHT

Cut Out and Burn Every Particle of Diseased Wood—Do the Work While Trees Are Dormant.

To control pear blight cut out and burn every particle of blighted wood while the trees are dormant. Do the work thoroughly. A few branches overlooked may cause all the trouble again next year. The work may be done any time during winter or spring up to the time growth begins, but the best time is in fall while the foliage is still on the trees and the contrast strongest between blighted and healthy branches.

Make a weekly inspection of each



A Young Pear Tree Grown Where Pruning and Spraying is Practiced.

tree throughout the growing season and cut all blighted wood. Cut well below the infected area. Wipe the pruning knife or tool used after each branch is cut with a cloth saturated with some good disinfectant to prevent spreading the blight. Burn all wood removed and continue the work persistently.

Handling an Apple Crop. In order to handle the apple crop perfectly the grower should be provided with picking ladders, picking baskets, a grading table, a barrel press and barrels for the apples.

Prevent Injury by Mice. Where young orchards are kept perfectly clean by cultivation, there is seldom much injury sustained from mice during the winter.

Novel Things in Neckwear



THE new collars give one the choice of baring the throat, leaving it more or less veiled, or covering it completely. But almost without exception they are high at the back, many of them very high, and the neck is lost to view. In the greater number the throat is open, there are flaring revers at the side and a turnover portion at the back. Within these lines the variety of ways in which the collars are cut is really bewildering. To judge by this, everyone is to wear novel things in neckwear, and every style is to be suited.

Besides the turnover collars, with revers at the sides and vestees at the front, there are smart styles with standing plaits across the back. These are cut squarely off at the sides, leaving the throat uncovered, but are finished with a long vestee at the front. These, like other standing effects, are supported by fine wires. They are very high, reaching not much below the top of the ears.

Then there are the graduated ruffles of fine lace which are favorites on gowns of lace and net and on afternoon gowns of taffeta or faille or crepe de chine. They are not so high at the back and gradually grow narrower at the sides and front, finally disappearing at the top fastening of the bodice. But they also require wiring with the finest of silk-covered wire, to give them the sprightly pose required.

One of the new collars of sheer batiste finished with fine embroidery is shown in the picture given here. It is a good example of a type of collar which is featured among the new dress accessories for spring. Equally strong as a novelty, the new very high, standing collars (high at the front as well as the back), attached or unattached to the blouse, are commanding much attention and may prove the favorites. Just at the moment the sheer collar, high at the back and turned over, open at the throat, is liked finished by a band of narrow black velvet ribbon which ties over it around the throat and appears to support it, although fine wires really do the work.

There is a lot of wear in the collars of embroidered batiste; they provide an inexpensive and dainty means of freshening up the dress.

On the Subject of Boudoir Caps



THE plainest of boudoir caps, such as that one pictured here, will serve to introduce a coterie of others far more elaborately made. The subject of boudoir caps is inexhaustible; they are as varied, almost, as the faces they so prettily set off. Daintiness is the most lasting of feminine charms, and the boudoir cap is an expression of this.

Displayed in a New York shop are a half dozen or so styles, that run the scale from the simplest to the most elaborate. The first one consists of a puff of plain crepe de chine for the crown, which is gathered over a circle of wire that fits the head. Lace, about three inches wide, plaited in narrow side plaitings, is sewed inside the edge of the cap about the front, extending from one temple to the other. A second length of the plaited lace is sewed in, extending from ear to ear. The lace is then turned back off the face and tacked to the crown, forming a coronet of lace about the face.

Where this plaiting leaves off, a third length is sewed in the cap and is left hanging over its neck. A rosette of narrow ribbon is sewed to each side. The next cap is made of all-over shadow lace with the puffed crown shirred over a circle of wire. A frill of very narrow lace extends about the front of the cap. Across the back there is a scant frill of wider lace that is wired with fine wire, to curve outward from the ears and neck.

This smart little affair is trimmed with a twist of narrow satin ribbon and occasional clusters of the smallest chiffon roses set about the face. It is finished with a rosette of the ribbon at each side. The third cap was made of fine dotted swiss and shaped like a baby's cap. A frill of cluny lace, very scant, fell about the face, and an insertion of the same was set in about the crown. Between the insertion and the frill a narrow band of ribbon extended about the cap, ending in long loops and ends at the left side.

The fanciest and most novel of caps in this gay array had a puffed crown of colored silk set in a brim of Irish lace. The lace was wired to stand out in four points, one at the front, one at the back, and one at each side. It had no trimmings, the richness of the lace making this unnecessary. Many simple caps were shown made of flowered voile and marquisette. They have puffed crowns and short capes of the material and were trimmed with lace and little ribbon roses in several colors. One of the prettiest of all was made of sheer openwork swiss embroidery for the puffed crown, and a double ruffle of lace about the face. Satin ribbon two inches wide was twisted about the crown and tied in a bow at the front.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

THE EMBARGO ON WHEAT

The United States Wheat Production Admits of 100 Million Bushels for Export.

The talk in the press some little time back of placing an embargo on wheat, brought forcibly to the minds of the people of the United States a condition that may at some time in the near future face them. 100 million bushels of an export of wheat means a splendid revenue to the country as well as to the farmer, and if this were assured year after year, there would be reason for considerable congratulation. But last year's magnificent and abundant crop, which was estimated at 891 million bushels, cannot be expected every year. With a home consumption of 775 million bushels, and a production in many years of little more than this, the fact is apparent that at an early date the United States will have to import wheat. It will be then that the people of the United States will be looking to other markets for a supply. And it is then that the value of Western Canada lands will be viewed with considerable favor. The great area of wheat lands in Canada will then be called upon to provide the greatest portion of the old world's supply, and also, in the opinion of the writer, that of the United States as well. At present there are only about 12 million acres of these lands producing wheat. There are five times that many acres that can be brought under successful cultivation. Apart altogether from the value of these lands as wheat producers there is an increased value to them from the fact that the soil is especially adapted to the growing of many other kinds of grain as well as all manner of cultivated grasses, while the native grasses are a wonderful asset in themselves. The climate is especially favorable to the raising of live stock, such as horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. All these bring into the limelight the adaptability of the soil, the climate and all other necessary conditions, to the carrying on of dairy farming, in a most profitable way.

There is no question that high prices for all that the farmer can grow or raise will continue for some years, and this is the great opportune time to take advantage of what Western Canada offers. Lands may be had as a free grant. These are mostly low-ways at the present time, but sooner or later will be well served by railways that are projected into these districts. Land may also be secured by purchase at reasonable price, and on easy terms from holders of same. In many cases farms partly improved may be rented. A Winnipeg paper said recently: "Canada wants American immigrants." They make good Canadian citizens." And then speaking of the erroneous impression that has gained some publicity in a portion of the United States press, says: "It cannot be too forcibly impressed upon the American mind that in coming to Canada they place themselves under the freest democracy the world knows. No citizen of this country, whether native or naturalized, can be compelled to military service. The only compulsion is the compulsion of conscience and patriotic duty. That is the motive that has prompted thousands of Canadians to offer their lives. They are fighting as free men."—Advertisement.

GOOD FOR NATION'S HEALTH

Beneficial Results From Early Entry of Spring Vegetables into the Markets of the Country.

One of the marvels of modern life is the early date when spring fruits and vegetables appear in the markets. Some years ago they almost always went north in a wilted condition. With modern facilities these products of southern latitudes appear in northern towns in marvellously fresh condition.

For the great majority of people prematurely early food products are an impossible luxury. But the growing wealth of the country is signified by the number of people who today feel that they can afford to buy these early garden products. For people of means it is a healthful way of spending money, which otherwise might go into highly seasoned cooking and stimulants.

Also the cost of these early products has not increased as much as one would expect. They are raised in so much larger quantities that competition keeps prices somewhere within reason. Regular markets have been established and transportation costs are greatly reduced through volume of traffic.—South Bend News-Times.

That Cured Him. You should have seen the way Watson moaned over his petty ailments. He was one of those chaps who were always bewailing their ill state of health, when all that is really the matter with them is the need of a little lecturing.

"Oh, my chest, doctor!" he wailed to his physician one evening. "My lungs feel as compressed. Some people tell me to inhale sulphur fumes. Others recommend a seaside holiday. What would you advise me to do?" "Try fresh air," said the doctor shortly. "Five dollars, please."