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## PROFITABLE POINTERS PERTAINING TO POULTRY

By W. J. Blakelston, Stratford

Three years ago, we commenced keeping poultry. Two years ago, I sent in a report of our first year's experience at the business. That year, with a flock of 21 hens, we cleared \$21. The second year, with a flock averaging 30 hens, there was a net gain of only \$12. During the year just ended we made a profit of \$24 with a flock of 35 hens. It will be readily seen from the foregoing results that poultry keeping is not an exceedingly profitable occupation in the city, judging it from a pecuniary standpoint. Nevertheless, we feel quite jubilant we came out right side up.

We are repeatedly told by expert poultrymen that good, well-bred hens, if properly attended to, will give their owners a clear profit of \$1 a year. I have no doubt that any careful, wide-awake farmer, can easily clear one dollar per head on his hens, because he gets everything at first cost and has plenty of room for his flock, in the bargain. On the other hand, the urban poultry keeper has to pay top-notch prices for everything, whether he buys it direct from the farmer, or middleman. The latter also, as a rule, has very little room for his fowl. It is well-known that shade, with a large runway and cool fresh water in summer, swell the profits immeasurably. On the farm the hens can easily supply themselves with a variety of food, and in doing so get plenty of exercise to keep them in robust health. Not many city hens have the benefit of a grass plot with plenty of shade trees. In fact the environments on a farm are most excellent for successful poultry keeping. Strange to relate, however, comparatively few farmers make poultry raising a really profitable branch of agriculture. Why? Simply because they have a very imperfect conception of how to feed and care for poultry. I suppose there are thousands of Ontario farmers who do not take an agricultural paper of any kind, although these publications can be had for a mere song. Personally, I think the Farmers' Advocate the best farm journal published and I have examined quite a number. I received several valuable hints on poultry raising from one copy of that Journal that I happened to pick up one day in a farm house where I was visiting. The advice I got that time was worth a year's subscription to the paper.

Last summer I spent a great part of the holiday buying hay in Huron and Bruce and came in contact with many farmers, but found very few of them paying much attention to poultry. Their hen-houses as a rule, were unsanitary—small, stuffy, dirty, cold, dark, gloomy buildings, that would effectually stop any self-respecting hen from laying. One farm in particular, where I had my dinner one day, was building a cement hen house, to keep out the skunks and minks, so he said, but he was keeping out something else that would do more good than harm—namely, sunlight. His hen house was far more fitted for roots than for poultry. I gave him a few pointers on roosts, nests, etc., but was too late to suggest any other improvements. Just think of it! He built the south side of that house with a solid wall of cement with the exception of a little window at the top, suggestive of a jail cell. Had he been a subscriber to the Farmers' Advocate, he would have saved himself a good deal of unnecessary work, and had a better hen house, and better results in the bargain. A hen house should be roomy, well-lighted, clean, dry, and free from drafts. It is not necessary to be frost-proof, but in my opinion should have a board floor, unless the site is an extremely dry one. I tried an earth floor one season, and found it very unsatisfactory in the fall and spring. The floor should be covered with a deep litter of chaff. I use shavings, as straw is too dear nowadays. A big box of fresh ashes should be accessible to the hens at all times, to enable them to keep free from lice. If a few barrels of road dust were gathered during July and August, and stored away in a dry place, near a furnace, one could furnish his hens with the best insect powder ever produced.

During the winter, it is absolutely necessary to provide the flock with plenty of grit, gravel, oyster shells, charcoal, to make egg, egg-shells, and to grind up the food in the gizzard. How many farmers in South Grey buy oyster shells? Hands up, those who do! I would also emphasize the necessity for a variety of food. How would a man like it if

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his wife served up nothing but potatoes for meals, three times a day? Yet many a man serves his hens in that manner, feeding them with the same kind of grain every day during the winter. Such unvarying monotony invariably results in sickly, listless, unremunerative hens. We feed a mixture of the following grains: corn, wheat, barley, buckwheat, oats. I am often surprised that more farmers do not sow an acre, at least, of buckwheat, as this cereal is considered one of the most valuable foods for hens when mixed with other grains.

Our method of feeding is as follows: Morning, mixed grain scattered in litter; noon, a mash, consisting of shorts, green cut clover, kitchen scraps, with occasionally a spoonful of condition powder; night, mixed grain—a liberal supply, so that hens go to roost with a full crop.

The hens have access most of the time, to grit, oyster shells, charcoal, cut bone and turnips. In the winter time we give them warm, fresh water. During the summer, we raised 22 chickens from three settings. Thirty chickens were hatched out but rats got away with eight of them. I may say that rats give us more trouble than anything else. I have killed eleven rats this winter, and a near neighbor shot five one evening lately.

Subjoined is a detailed statement of receipts and payments for the past year.

### RECEIPTS.

April, 537 eggs, worth.....	\$8.06
May 461 " " " " " "	6.91
June 380 " " " " " "	5.10
July 394 " " " " " "	6.24
Aug. 282 " " " " " "	4.70
Sept. 303 " " " " " "	5.05
Oct. 147 " " " " " "	2.45
Nov. 52 " " " " " "	85
Dec. 11 " " " " " "	25
Jan. 29 " " " " " "	87
Feb. 151 " " " " " "	4.58
Mar. 608 " " " " " "	14.00
	\$ 70.74

### EXPENSES.

21 bus. wheat.....	\$18.70
1000 lbs. mixed feed.....	18.75
84 lbs. corn.....	1.25
200 lbs. shorts.....	2.58
12 lbs. cut clover.....	45
5 lbs. chick feed.....	15
2 pkgs. Royal Purple.....	1.00
1 bag turnips.....	25
Eggs for setting.....	63
29 lbs. cut bone.....	70
Insect powder.....	63
Lettuce seed.....	10
Herbageum.....	25
25 lbs. grit.....	25
50 lbs. oyster shell.....	60
Poultry wire.....	1.45
	46.32
Net gain.....	24.42
	\$ 70.74

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If a small fishbone is lodged in the throat, it can be instantly removed if one will swallow a bite of dry bread without chewing it.

A cork which has become swelled may be reduced in size by putting it on the floor and rolling it backward and forward with the foot.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson II.—Second Quarter, For April 14, 1912.

### THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Mark ii, 23 to iii, 6—Memory Verses, 27, 28—Golden Text, Mark ii, 27—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

The record of today's lesson, two Sabbath day incidents, the disciples plucking corn and a withered hand restored in the synagogue, is found in Matt. xii and Luke vi, as well as in Mark, so that it must concern Him not only as the Jewish King rejected, but also as the perfect servant, and as the Son of Man, to whom all things will yet be subdued. To understand Him and His words and works we must consider Him as Nathaniel spoke of Him, "the Son of God, the King of Israel" (John i. 49), as "the King of the Jews" whom the wise men sought (Matt. ii, 2), and as the "Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, who will yet sit upon the throne of David and whose kingdom shall know no end" (Isa. ix, 6, 7; Luke i, 32, 33). The late Dr. Weston in his "Genesis of the New Testament" says that the Jewish Sabbath was the one peculiar and distinctive ordinance of the nation. Other nations practiced circumcision and had temples, offered sacrifices and performed religious rites, but the Sabbath was the Jewish national flag. In it they claimed a peculiar relation to God as their Creator, Redeemer and Rest, and, if by this man's treatment of their Sabbath they are to be deprived of their distinction from other nations, what is the use of being God's people? Considering this, it is not so surprising that the immediate occasion of the determination by the Jewish rulers to put Christ to death, as stated in all the gospels, was His relation to the Sabbath. He claimed to be greater than Solomon or the temple or the Sabbath (Matt. xii, 6, 8, 42), but they would not so receive Him. They honored Him with their lips, but their heart was far from Him (Isa. xxix, 13; Ezek. xxxiii, 31; Matt. xv, 7, 8). They had a form of worship without any power. Jehovah, whom they professed to worship, was in their midst, and they knew Him not.

Matthew says that as the disciples passed through the cornfields they were hungry, and Luke says that they rubbed the ears of corn in their hands and did eat. Our Lord Himself was an hungered on other occasions, as recorded in Matt. iv, 2; xxi, 18. Concerning Israel it is written that He suffered them to hunger (Deut. viii, 3), but it was to prove them and teach them. The wicked are ever watching the righteous and seeking to slay them (Ps. xxxvii, 32), and here they are finding fault and condemning the disciples, and the Lord, too, because they knew Him not, nor the Scriptures, which they professed to reverence. He referred them to their own Scriptures, saying, "Have ye never read what David did when he had need and was an hungered? (Verse 25.) There is no word of condemnation here for David and his followers. He came not to condemn, but to show mercy, hence His quotation from the prophets in Matthew's record, "I will have mercy and not sacrifice" (Matt. xii, 7; Hos. vi, 6). The rest of the verse in Hosea says that the knowledge of God is better than burnt offering. The primary idea in sacrifice is that God gives to us, not that we give to Him, for in the first sacrifice the Lord gave to Adam and Eve redemption clothing which He Himself provided, a foreshadowing of Christ loving the church and giving Himself for it, purchasing it with His own blood. We cannot give anything to God nor offer Him acceptable service until we have received mercy from Him as the One who saves sinners. Before ever sin entered this world God set apart one day in seven as a time when man might be free from all work and give himself up wholly to becoming acquainted with God, for there is nothing that can compare with knowing God (Jer. ix, 23, 24). The Lord of the Sabbath gave to man in His own image a day on which He might specially bless him by the revelation of himself as the source of all, being and blessing and life and love and peace. The man in the synagogue with the withered hand was strongly suggestive of the condition of the nation and of their inability to do anything for God until they would accept His mercy. In the record, in Matt. xii, 11, 12. He uses the illustration of the necessity of rescuing a sheep from a pit, even on the Sabbath day, but He speaks of the owner of the sheep doing this, saying, "What man shall have one sheep," not see a sheep. He loved these wayward sheep. He came to give them life. He was as ready to heal them as He was to restore that withered hand, but they would not let Him, and the hardness (or blindness—margin) of their hearts was a grief to Him. Note the cry from His heart concerning them, "We would not." "We will not." "If thou hadst known" (Matt. xxiii, 37; xxii, 3; John v. 40; Luke xix, 41, 42). Instead of having anything like a penitent spirit, a conviction of sin, their proud hearts so rebelled against Him and His teaching that they went away and took counsel how they might kill Him. For His love they gave Him hatred, they knew Him not they would not have such a one as their Messiah, but the time will come when they shall say, "Our God."

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P.M. A.M.	P.M. P.M.
3.15 6.25 Lv. Walkerton Ar. 12.40 10.05	
3.28 6.38 " Maple Hill " 12.25 9.50	
3.37 7.47 " Hanover " 12.17 9.42	
3.45 6.55 " Allan Park " 12.08 9.33	
	A.M.
4.00 7.10 " Durham " 11.54 9.19	
4.11 7.21 " McWilliams " 11.44 9.09	
4.14 7.24 " Glen " 11.41 9.06	
4.24 7.34 " Priceville " 11.31 8.56	
4.40 7.50 " Saungen J. " 11.18 8.43	
5.15 7.50 " Toronto " 11.15 7.55	

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