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## The White Wyandotte King Tells Interesting Story

By the Hon. J. S. Martin, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, as Told to Charles C. Nixon of Toronto in Farm and Farmside.

I left off teaching high school nearly twenty years ago, when my hobby, White Wyandottes, developed into a real business, which now earns thousands of dollars for us every year.

I now have ten men busy on my farm, and seven stenographers in the office.

I now have 25,000 customers in the United States alone, and have a big business in every civilized country in the world, and several thousand customers here in my native Dominion of Canada. There are between 7,000 and 8,000 White Wyandottes on the farm now.

Men who ought to know tell me that in the last twenty years I have built up perhaps the most profitable and largest fancy-poultry business



HON. JOHN W. MARTIN.

in the world. In addition, I run a mixed general farm, over which my Wyandottes have unlimited range. Dairy cows, poultry, and hogs are my prosperity insurance. I have 200 acres of land which we call the Regal Poultry and General Farm. It lies on Silver Lake, skirting the village of Port Dover, Ontario, Canada.

This farm and business are the realization of the ambition of my life. My dreams have come true even better than I had planned. When I was teaching in the high school, I used to build air castles, and plan and hope; but I never really thought my dreams would come so true as they have. I have capacity for this work because I love it; and it is capacity for work that the successful poultryman needs, for to go to the top with poultry you must have more kinds of equipment and ability than is required in most other lines. The programme that has made it possible for the business to succeed is this:

I first had to have the poultry, and then constantly to breed it better, while telling the world about it via the poultry shows and the advertising columns and catalogues.

Love of Chickens. Love of the chicken business was no doubt bred in me. I have been told how my great-grandmother used to take me with her to the poultry-rye when she went to feed, helping me to toddle by her side with a scarf around my chest, under my arms; and she often expressed the hope that I would love to feed the hens when she was gone.

Being raised on a farm and always a fancier means something in the development of the poultry breeder. Following your natural bent helps any man. All my life I have stuck to the thing I liked best. I think it pays anyone to do that. Thirty years ago I recall having my first purebred poultry—some Light Brahmas. In 1885 my father bought for me a trio of Barred Rocks, and I raised this breed for seventeen years, just as a hobby on the home farm. But I made no business of selling.

Some time after taking up the Barred Rocks, I obtained the White-Faced Black Spanish and kept them for two years, adding to them the White Leghorns, which I kept for five years. White Cochins I kept during 1891-1892; and about this time I had Brown Leghorns also.

My White Leghorns were of the large type that laid big eggs. I developed this stock all through one hen that produced the best eggs, from which I was able to rear about forty pullets the first year. After disposing of all the White Leghorns, I tried the Partridge Cochins and the Langshans, all the time keeping Barred Plymouth Rocks. Late in the nineties, before I finally decided upon White Wyandottes, as best adapted to my purposes, I kept some Golden Wyandottes and some White Minorcas. It was the fine laying of the Golden Wyandottes that led me to take up the white variety.

Started in 1901. I had started keeping White Wyandottes during the year of the Pan-American Exposition, 1901. At the Pan-American a beautiful lot of White Wyandottes were exhibited. And among the winners were some exceptionally fine specimens in type, color, and condition. I was one of the many admirers of this popular white fowl at this great show, and perhaps no one observed and studied these White Wyandottes any more closely than I did. Looking back on that occasion, I can see wherein it was the most momentous one in my career as a poultry fancier; for it was there and then that I decided to make this breed my sole specialty. Within two years the results were so

gratifying that the keeping of White Wyandottes became my main occupation.

Shortly before this decision I had quit high-school teaching and was in the piano business with my two brothers. The White Wyandottes took me ahead so fast that I sold out my interests in the piano business to devote all of my time to poultry and the farm.

When I began breeding White Wyandottes I obtained the very choicest stock from several of the leading strains that it was possible for me to get. I was compelled to do this because I could not find any one strain having all the qualifications that I wanted. It pays to get only the best. One strain would excel in shape, another in color, another in head points; but they all excelled in utility qualities. I decided that it would be unwise to use a strain that was not strong in utility qualities, no matter how strong the show quality. These strains I gradually combined into a new one, and I called it the "Regal" strain—the success of which, along both fancy and utility lines, has become history.

I was very fortunate in obtaining my foundation stock to get several hens almost ideal in shape and color, at least in those days. These hens I bred to a quick-maturing cockerel of an excellent heavy-laying strain. The pullets from this mating I bred to the grand old cock bird, Regal I, a first-prize Ontario winner. This bird proved to be a wonderful breeder, and he stamped his excellence on the whole flock. He was a wonderfully vigorous bird, standing very wide, full-breasted, and broad in every section. He had a fiery-red eye and extra good head points.

#### Cause of His Success.

It is to the fine breeding qualities of Regal I that I feel a great share of my success is due. He was placed in the breeding pen in December, and the eggs were very fertile. From this mating a number of early chicks were hatched, and when the Dominion Exhibition at Toronto came on the latter end of August the cockerels and the pullets were full grown, and the pullets laying. The cockerel that headed this pen was without a rival in a class of thirty. His plumage had a dazzling whiteness that made other birds look yellow. I named him Regal II. At this show I was awarded the diploma and medal for best display, and since that time the name of Regal has become a familiar name to breeders of White Wyandottes.

I have throughout my work clung to my ideal of a stylish, attractive, cobby bird with plenty of size, but not overdone in any way. Many judges and breeders have told me they can pick out birds of Regal breeding no matter where they see them. They are the sensible type, combining the useful and the beautiful. I have studiously avoided all fads—fads for the short body and the small bird, going all for color and size and to disregard shape, which fad was entirely wrong, as shape should be the outstanding characteristic of a good Wyandotte. Some years ago, finding that there was a demand for bred-to-lay stock, I decided to make use of the trap nest to get records of my best layers, and to begin systematic work along this line.

In my second year's work I succeeded in getting a wonderful record from an exhibition pullet. She was hatched in February and began laying early in the fall. In her first year's laying she made a splendid record of 241 eggs. This female I named Dorcas, and decided to make use of her to build up a flock of heavy layers. She had many other qualities besides being a good layer. She had all-round good ex-

hibition qualities, splendid color, good shape, neat head points, and plenty of size.

The following season I mated her to a fine, vigorous cockerel bred from a female with a record of 205 eggs. This cockerel also had fine exhibition qualities, and was good enough to win in keen competition. In addition to this he gave wonderful fertility, eggs from his pen running from 90 per cent. to 95 per cent. fertile. Thus was my Dorcas line developed.

I demand of the females in my Dorcas breeding pens, first, vigor and stamina; second, a good egg record; third, exhibition qualities. The male birds must have a fine, sturdy, vigorous appearance, with a record of fertility back of them, and bred from females with an egg record of 200 eggs or better. They must have neat heads, good eye color, stay white color, good bone, and as good Wyandotte type as possible.

#### Clean Sweep at Fairs.

You know of my winnings at the New York State Fair over the past seventeen years, when I have swept everything year after year. This is the greatest of all the early American shows, and is famous for having the finest exhibition poultry building in the United States. The exhibits are large and competition very keen. To win at this show you must get your chicks out in January and February. It is a great test for vigor, stamina, and winter egg production.

You will notice from my catalogues that my motto has always been "A square deal to everyone," because I do not want a single dollar of any man's money without giving him full value in return. I make my catalogues of a practical, helpful nature, and in them give away all my secrets on how to breed, feed, and condition, and how to exhibit. Years ago I established the policy of keeping my winners at the big exhibitions, mating up a goodly number of pens and selling eggs from all these pens. One of my customers by purchasing a setting of eggs hatched the first prize cock at Madison Square Garden, a bird worth at least \$500.

I have found that this policy has increased my business from year to year, and my customers, knowing that I gave them a square deal, come back year after year whenever they need new blood.

Thus have I built a profitable business out of the thing I have always liked best to do.

#### YOUTHFUL GARMENT



The slightly circular sounce of seal fur makes a distinctive trimming for this coat of black corded silk lined with red crepe de chine. There is a flare to the cuffs as well and a smart upstanding collar of the fur which tends to keep the lines youthful.

#### HOWE ISLAND BAZAAR.

The Farmers Busy Getting in Their Stocks.

Howe Island, Dec. 3.—The bazaar in Gananoque last week, was well patronized by the younger set from here. They report an excellent time at their evening performances. The light fall of snow is very beneficial to the residents enabling them to get up wood, draw coal and get out to market conveniently. The surprise party held at J. Beaubien's last week was well attended. A very enjoyable evening was spent in dancing and games.

Several cattle buyers have been here during the past week and have purchased many head of cattle. The mail carrier has started delivering the mail only three times a week. Misses Frances and Mabel Garrah, who have been visiting in Gananoque, have returned home. Miss Lina Goodfriend is in Kingston. Miss B. Melville spent the week-end in Kingston.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Goodfriend spent Sunday at P. Quinn's. Mr. and Mrs. J. Walker, and Gertrude, spent Sunday in Gananoque with the latter's parents Mr. and Mrs. McAlpine. P. Lachance visited in Brockville on Friday. Vincent Goodfriend took a party to Kingston last Saturday night to the show.

## SPECIAL FOR SATURDAY

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Were At Poultry Fairs. Bell Rock, Dec. 3.—Several from here attended the poultry fairs at Napanee and Westport. Harold Grant, Odessa, spent a day recently at his father's, Sidney Grants. Mrs. Jane Walroth, Verona, visited Mrs. B. F. Revell for a few days last week. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Meeks spent Tuesday in the city. Gordon Moir left on Monday, for Harrowsmith to attend the agriculture course. Mr. and Mrs. D. Yorke and Mr. and Mrs. C. Yorke spent Sunday at Sydenham.

Carl Revell and Gladys were in Kingston on Thursday. Mrs. Porro is spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. William A. Martin is busy training her pupils for a Christmas concert. E. I. Luven, Moscow, called in the village one day last week.

An army airplane at New York, looping the loop so low over upper Broadway that persons in the higher apartment houses could look downward on its spurs, sent hundreds of pedestrians scurrying for cover, and deluged police stations with complaints.

Before putting a pie in the oven hold it under the cold water faucet at an angle, letting the water trickle gently over the top and turning the plate until the entire surface is wet.

### Speculation vs Investment

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The securities offered by The National City Company are of a strictly investment character. From our offering lists investors can readily make a choice of sound securities to meet any investment requirement.

A copy of the December issue of our monthly booklet "Investment Securities," containing our current recommendations, will be sent you upon request.

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