

THE QUAIL'S SUCCESSOR IN AMERICA.

BREEDING MONGOLIAN PHEASANTS, AND HOW IT IS DONE.

The pheasant of the Mongolian kind will in a few short years succeed the quail as the popular American game bird. The pheasant has not only its oothsome qualities to recommend it, but its beauty, in waving plumage of ravishing hues, and therefore will prove a prize that every sportsman will endeavor to secure when the season is once open for its slaughter. It is unduly attracted the attention of our sporting gentlemen for many years in consequence of its successful introduction on the Pacific Slope, and now many Eastern States are introducing the Mongolian bird into their domains. In Ohio alone over 200 birds were liberated this year, and in several Southern and Eastern States the bird has been introduced for breeding purposes.

The male bird has the cheeks naked and the brightest scarlet, minutely speckled with black; the crown of the head bronze green; on each side of the neck a tuft of dark golden green feathers capable of being erected at

'forsaking all others cleaves unto her.' Hence, to breed these birds successfully it is essential that a cock be provided for each hen.

The Mongolian pheasant is a prairie bird and is seldom found in or about the timber. He likes the tall grass, ferns, wheat stubbles and low bushes, such as the wild rose and the buckbrush. After the young birds reach full growth they do not congregate in large flocks, as do the prairie chickens, but are found alone, in pairs, or in small flocks of five or six. They feed on grain, insects and green vegetables, such as red clover, cabbage, etc. These birds are great favorites with sportsmen. The magnificent plumage of the cock almost rivals that of the peafowl in beauty. His prevailing colors are gold and bronze, with touches of black. He also has a clear white ring about the neck. The head and upper half of the neck have a bluish green of changeable shade, similar to that of the mallard duck.

done to test her staying qualities. The eggs should then be placed under the hen at night time, after removing the hens' eggs.

Food and water should be placed in the runway so the hen can subsist during incubation.

The eggs should be examined every day, and for this purpose the lid or roof of the box should be lifted while the hen is out in the runway, so that none become broken or soiled. Should any of the eggs become soiled from broken eggs or otherwise, they should be cleaned by taking a rag wet with tepid water and wiping them, but do not place the eggs in water.

It takes from twenty-two to twenty-four days for the eggs to hatch.

After the eggs have been under the hen twenty days, they should be sprinkled with lukewarm water twice a day. This is necessary in order to aid the young birds to leave the shell.

The runway and box should fit close to the ground to prevent the young birds from leaving, as they will surely leave the hen as soon as they are out of the shell, unless this precaution is heeded. The hen and young birds should be kept closely in the box for twenty-four hours after they are hatched, and should not be allowed to have either food or drink. At the end of twenty-four hours both hen and young birds may be let out into the runway. Give the hen all the corn she will eat. This will keep her from eating the food of her young.

The food for the young birds for the first week should be of custard,

THE FARM GARDEN



Sand in the Food.

Sand is no substitute for gravel, and the mixing of sand in the poultry food is useless. When coarse grit is swallowed by the fowl it is voided before it becomes as fine as sand. Grit provides the mechanical appliances for grinding the food in the gizzard. It really cuts the food, hence the sharper the edges the more it is preferred by poultry. When grit becomes worn until round and smooth it is passed on as useless. In using grit, therefore, endeavor to secure that which is hard and sharp. Sand is of no value whatever as grit.

Nut-bearing Trees.

The chestnut, black walnut, butternut, shellbark, hickory and Japan walnut may all be grown in your vicinity. There are no varieties offered of the butternut and black walnut and Japan walnut, and yet some improvement on the ordinary form can be had by planting only nuts from trees bearing choice fruits. Of the chestnuts there are many varieties, some of which had originated from our native chestnuts, and others from the European and Japanese forms. Seedlings from our best native sorts have generally proven most profitable in cultivation, though the nuts may not be as large as the grafted kinds. Among the best of the foreign kinds, and perhaps all named sorts, is the Paragon chestnut. There are several varieties of the shellbark hickory, but they are propagated with so much uncertainty that they are very difficult to obtain. Among the best is Hale's paper-shell hickory, which has been propagated in a small way. The chestnut undoubtedly promises better returns in cultivation than any other of our cultivated nuts.—Farm News.

Potatoes Rotting in Cellar.

There is a great deal of rotting among potatoes, and yours rot probably all the worse because kept in a cellar where the temperature is sure to be too warm, says the Boston Cultivator to a correspondent in Pawlet, Vt. The bulk of the crop where many potatoes are grown should be stored in pits, and some lime sprinkled over them as they are put in. The lime dries the moisture and prevents the spread of rot should it begin. We think that rot in potatoes is due to a deficiency of carbon in the tuber owing either to disease of the vine and leaves or their destruction by the potato beetle. The sap goes from root to leaf, where, if the leaf be whole and healthy, it is filled with carbon from the carbonic acid gas which the leaf has absorbed from the air, and this is what makes the starch of the tuber. If the sap is not charged with carbon by the leaves, it makes the potato watery and waxy. It is then easily the victim of the spores which in any potato crop are nowadays produced in abundance and which cause rot. There is no year when some potatoes will not rot. But lime spread over them corrects the deficiencies of the potato so far as it can reach its juices. It is possibly this as much as its drying effects which checks the spread of rot.

Poor Food Makes Poor Manure.

There are a few points of prime importance in the production of manures, and the experience of scientific investigators is free to all who care to learn. We might expect that the quality of the manure will depend upon the character of the feed. Poor food makes poor manure and vice versa. There is no magic in nature, she is a very strict accountant, and just to give for value received. But it often will happen that the feed given to stock does not cost either in proportion to its feeding value nor in proportion to the value of manure produced. A relatively poor feed in these respects may be high in price, while that feed which is rich may be bought low. Few would believe that a ton of good clover hay is a more valuable feed for some stock and produces more valuable manure than a ton of corn. And yet the experimenters so teach.

The elements of prime importance in manure are nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, and if the feed contains these constituents in good measure the excrements will contain them to almost the same extent. For it is quite well settled that from 65 to 90 per cent. of these constituents are recovered in the excrements. Hence, if we feed stuff that is rich in these elements the manures resulting will also be rich. Readers of the Epitomist doubtless know that the following common foods contain these elements in large measure and in the order mentioned: Cotton cake, linseed meal, peas, beans, bran, oats, clover hay, and these feeds will give the richest manures. It is not claimed that these feed stuffs are better than corn for fattening purposes, but first that they yield the richest manures and second that they supply the elements especially necessary for all growing stock. Hence, it is good policy sometimes to sell corn and buy bran. There are seasons of the year when bran is very low in car lots, as

low as timothy hay, while the bran is almost twice as valuable for feed, and manure as the hay. Sometimes one can sell timothy hay and clover hay to advantage. A little clear knowledge and thought are as important to the farmer as to the banker. Of securities whose safety is undoubted it needs but a little in the life and income of the paper to determine which the banker will buy. And why should not a farmer buy and sell with as much intelligence as a banker?—The Epitomist.

Out-door Rearing of Swine.

There are great advantages in raising swine in open lots or fields over that of in pens or other close confinement. Pure air and the exercise that can here be taken, help to make pure blood, which in the course of nature builds up healthy bodies. However, pigs thus reared with a free run and plenty of exercise would not be so likely to show so well at the fairs, and would likely be passed over by both judges and people, simply because it has become the prevailing idea that only the great, gross, helpless pig is the model of improvement. Of course such pigs are well adapted to fill lard cans, but not so likely the larder with good, helthy pork or bacon.

Pigs which are reared in open pastures are most likely to be well developed, any way, much more so than those reared in close confinement; they have good appetites, promoted by fresh air, and exercise, hence they will eat a great variety of food, and better digest it than when confined in pens. Also a great saving is made by it, for they will consume all the refused fruits, roots, and all kinds of vegetables, and these serve to stimulate their appetites and make them grow. By extending the root patch, and planting the fodder-corn thinner, so that some corn will form on it, and by having a little clover lot from which to cut soiling feed, the number of pigs may be proportionally increased. And a very great advantage where it can be had, is a clover field for the pigs to run on, both as a matter of health and economy, as they will keep in good condition, and grow rapidly thereon, with but little other food.

Where they can be had, there should be three pastures or ranges for hogs, one for the dry sows and store hogs, one for the sows which are suckling pigs, and one for the young pigs when weaned. With such arrangements the most economic management may be had. Dry sows and shoats or store pigs need but little, if any other food than the pasture affords—especially if of clover—while the sow's suckling pigs require pasture and some feeding, and the pigs when three or four weeks old also need extra food. There should also be a pen into which the pigs could slip, that they may be fed to themselves. The extra or third pasture mentioned, if connected with the one in which the suckling sows run, is the place to feed the suckling pigs, and if older pigs run in here, a pen should be built to feed them in; then when weaning time comes they will be accustomed to the place, and it will be an easy matter to shut them into this pasture for extra feeding.

Altogether for the improvement in the condition and health of swine, the production of better and more wholesome pork, it is certainly of the first importance to keep them as much as possible out on the broad, airy pastures. It does not take many generations of confinement and lack of succulent food, with excessive fatness as is produced from corn feeding, to break down and destroy the vital energy of any animal, and especially so of swine, as is attested where confinement and high feeding has been the rule.—J. I. Baird.

Poultry Notes.

Put the growth on the chicks before freezing weather comes, for then it will take more feed and the chicks will stop growing.

The duck is what we call a "water fowl," and yet Mr. Rankin, the noted poultryman of the east, raised ducks with only enough water for drinking purposes.

Do not feed heavy one day and light the next, but give the poultry just as much as they need and no more; and give it to them at regular times each day.

Keep as many fowls on the farm as you can properly care for. There is no danger of the market becoming overstocked and having to sell poultry and eggs below the cost of raising.

To keep fowls free from vermin and disease needs constant attention and a good deal of dirty and disagreeable work. But you cannot expect to succeed unless you give them this attention.

Floorless houses, well sanded, permits the hen to "kill time," and to secure exercise by scratching, and if the foundations are well built with stone no refuge is afforded for rats and insects.

Warm, substantial henhouses that do not have to be artificially heated mean a saving in feed and an increase in eggs. Houses that are neither wind nor weather proof are a source of continual loss. Fowls lose their natural hardiness and vigor when wintered in artificially heated houses. Build them as warm as boards, lath, plaster and paper can make them, and if possible located in a sheltered spot.

NEW UNIFORMS FOR THE ARMY.

Uncle Sam's Men to Be Clad in the Prettiest Uniforms in the World.

The United States Army is to change its style of dress uniform. General Miles and his staff have been considering the matter for some time, and the suggestions which the General has de-



OLD AND NEW CAVALRY UNIFORMS.

vised on will in all probability be adopted at the present sitting of Congress.

The cavalry will be put in hussar uniforms of black fur busby, tight tunic braided across the breast, riding trousers and Hessian boots. They will excel even the smartest of the English, French, German or Austrian cavalry, and will make that branch of the United States Army one of the prettiest dressed in the world. The helmet will be entirely discarded.

For the artillery and infantry will be adopted a busby similar to those worn by our cavalry in the Revolution, and by the city troops to-day. The change in the artillery and infantry uniforms will be slight.

The picture on the left shows how Uncle Sam's cavalry now looks. The one on the right portrays how he will look in his new clothes.

Largest Mule in the World.

The largest mule in the world arrived in Chicago on Saturday, and is staying at the stockyards for a short time. The animal is not destined to be slaughtered, for it is bound for London, where it is to become the star attraction in a menagerie, and it will doubtless be placarded as "an average American mule. The mule is nineteen hands 2 1/2 inches high, and weighs 1830 pounds. It is nine years old.

The discoverer of the animal is F. P. Brown, a stockyards dealer, who found it on its native heath in Southwestern Missouri. He believed that his find was not in its proper environment, and succeeded in disposing of it to an English animal tamer.—Chicago Dispatch.

A Peculiarity of Blind Fishes.

The great majority of fishes can change their colors to adapt themselves to their surroundings. Some fishes can make extraordinary changes; there are many that can make themselves so like the rocks near which they may be, or the bottom in which they lie partly imbedded, that they are practically indistinguishable. It is a striking peculiarity of the blind fish that it does not change its colors with its surroundings, but remains always the same, and the uniform color which it thus preserves is always darker than the normal color of the other fishes of the same kind in the same waters.—New York Sun.

An express driver in Chicago, who was locked up over night for driving his horse and delivery wagon in a funeral procession against the protestations of the mourners, pleaded in the morning that his horse once belonged to an undertaker, and he could not overcome the brute influence of old associations. He was discharged without fine.

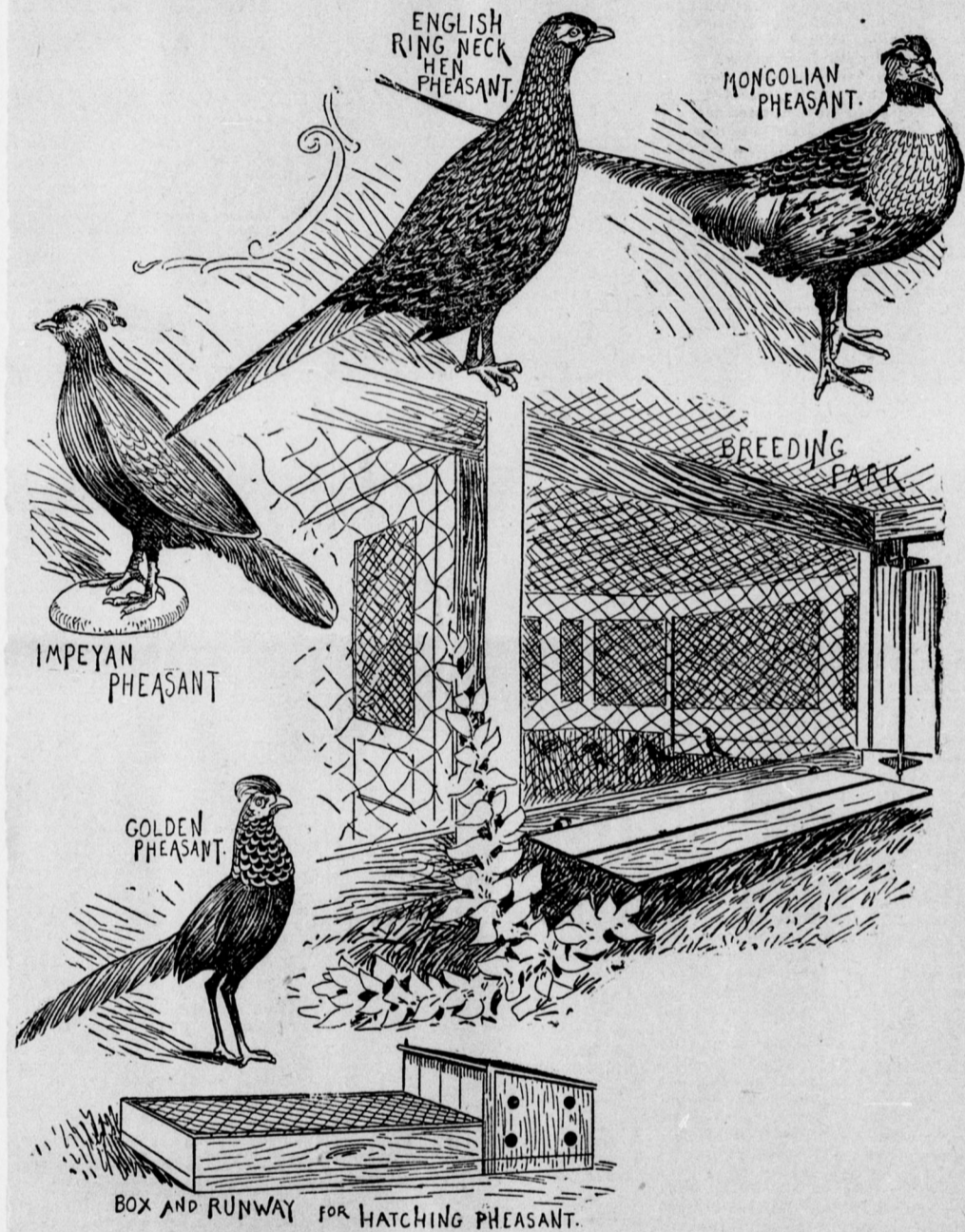
The Most Interesting Monkey in Existence.

You see here a young lady protegee of Professor James Harvard's, psychologist and authority on thought transference. The young lady's name is Sally and she is the side partner of Joe, who is not less accomplished than Sally as an educated chimpanzee and all around cultured Bostonian. Sally is about the most human monkey in the world. She has very pronounced



SALLY, BOSTON'S EDUCATED MONKEY.

likes and dislikes. She abhors tobacco, but has a soft spot in her heart for perfumes, jewelry and other things dear to femininity. She sleeps in a real bed with real bed clothing and likes to be tucked in snug, and she dresses herself unaided with all the care of a debutante.



pleasure, and very conspicuous in the spring season; upper part of the neck dark green, glossed with purple and violet blue; lower part of the neck, breast and flanks deep reddish orange, showing in some positions beautiful reflections of light purple; each feather bordered and terminated with pansy purple; center of the belly and thighs lackish brown; center of the back and scapular feathers black or brownish black, surrounded with a yellowish white band and bordered with deep reddish orange; lower part of the back and upper tail covert green, intermingled with brownish orange and upright red; tail feathers brown reddish brown; bill pale yellow; legs and toes grayish black. The male has cheeks covered with small loosely set feathers, and the whole of its plumage yellowish brown, mingled with different shades of gray, brown and black.

In a recent article in Recreation, a sporting magazine, G. M. Miller, of Eugene, Oregon, tells of the Mongolian pheasant which was introduced into that State about twenty years ago from China and which has attracted the attention of hunters throughout the United States. Mr. Miller says of this interesting bird:

"It was introduced into Oregon by Judge O. N. Deming and has multiplied until, in the prairie sections of Western Oregon, it outnumbers any other game bird. The reason of the great increase probably lies in the fact that it hatches two broods, of sixteen to twenty, each season. When the chicks are about three weeks old the hen turns the family over to the care of the cock, she laying again. The cock is not a Mormon, in any sense of the word. He selects one hen, and

"The pheasant gives out a stronger scent than the blue grouse or the prairie chicken, and lies better to the dog. During the open season, September 1st to December 1st, an hour's drive in any direction from Eugene will bring one into the shooting grounds. The law limits a shooter to twenty birds each day, but this number is often killed in a few hours.

"With suitable inclosure and a reasonable amount of patience these birds can be successfully propagated anywhere if the climate be not too severe. They cannot be tamed or domesticated. After months of captivity they are as wild as when first taken. They are 'game' first, last and all the time.

"The flesh of the Mongolian pheasant is almost as white as that of the domestic chicken and has a pronounced 'gamey' flavor, much appreciated by all lovers of wild meat."

Following are instructions, given by a writer in the St. Louis Star, for propagating pheasants:

A box should first be constructed. The runway, which is covered with wire netting, is detachable from the box at the end, wherein the hen is set, and where the hen and young birds are protected from storm and cold. Both the runway and the box are placed on the ground.

To construct a nest take a square piece of sod about the size of the box and in the centre cut out a round space about the size of a common hen's nest.

Very little dry leaves or straw should be placed in the bottom of the nest.

Disinfect the hen with insect powder before placing her upon the nest.

The hen should be placed upon the nest with some common eggs for at least two days before placing the pheasant eggs under her. This is

made of milk and eggs, and should be given fresh at least five times a day. Care should be taken not to feed too much at a time, so as to keep the coop clean, for if the place becomes foul it will tend to breed disease, and the young birds may die from diarrhea.

The food for the young birds for the second week should consist of custard and milk curd. The custard should be given three times a day, and milk curd, which should be mixed with equal parts of ground hemp and canary seed, should be given twice a day. A common coffee mill will answer the purpose for grinding the seeds.

Some young lettuce and young onion tops, chopped fine, should be added to both the custard and milk curd.

The young birds should be given plenty of green food by placing lettuce or young clover in the coops.

An Ancient Toll Abolished.

Windsor bridge across the Thames has just been freed from its two-penny toll through the greed of the corporation. This had an undoubted right to collect tolls from prescription as they had been taken since the reign of Henry VI. It asked Parliament in 1734, and again in 1819, for power to charge additional tolls, and obtained it for a limited number of years. The privilege expired about ten years ago, but the corporation continued to collect the money till a litigious Briton refused to pay, thus bringing the matter to the attention of the courts.

In Mexico City "first-class American butter, made by an expert," is advertised at fifty and fifty-six cents a pound, at wholesale and retail, respectively.