

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 toothsome 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 has readily 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 occiput 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,

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Milk Shrinkage.

Do not let the cows drink too much in the milk, for it will take half the winter to get them back to a full flow and the chances are they will not be profitable until they are again fresh.

Frozen Combs.

When the comb becomes frozen or frosted there will be no end to the hen so afflicted until the injured member heals, which may require one or two months. Combs usually become frozen at night, when the birds are on the roosts, and it happens more frequently when there is a small flow of air from a crack or nail-hole than when the birds are exposed to a large volume of air. The prevention is to provide warm houses at night and wind-breaks of some kind during the day. Should a comb become frozen, anoint it with ichthyol once a day.—Farm News.

Quality of Corn Fodder.

There is much difference in original character of corn fodder as well as in that made in curing. Only that which has matured far enough to tassel should be put up for winter feed, and if it has been planted thinly enough to furnish some stubbins not only the grain will help, but the quality of the stalk will be improved. Farmers have often noticed that the husked stalks were eaten by cows in preference to the thin, watery and tasteless stalks of corn sown for fodder. The cow knows what is best for her. No corn for fodder should ever be sown. It should be drilled not so closely as to prevent all earing. At its best fodder corn is full of water when harvested, and unless the farmer is willing to do a good deal of lifting for nothing he should make the fodder as nutritious as it can be grown.

Feeding Fowls in Winter.

One of the reasons why hens do not lay in cold weather is because they then get their food with too little exercise. During the summer the fowls are obliged mostly to care for themselves. They get a great variety of food, eating slowly and taking much exercise while they are filling up. In the winter they have only one or two kinds of food, usually grain, and this is put in a mass before them so they can fill themselves at once. Then the fowls stand idly by while the food digests. This would be just what is wanted if the fowls were to be fattened. In fact, the hens thus fed do fatten and thus become unfit to lay. If any eggs are formed they are apt to be with thin shells, the result of fattening and lack of exercise. Give the hens only small grain, oats or wheat, or better still, a mixture of both. Oats only are not heavy enough food for fowls in cold weather. The chaff of oats fills their crops so that they cannot get enough nutrition. Then if this grain is buried in a mass of cut straw, and the hens are obliged to scratch for a living, as they do in summer, instead of being moping and dull, their lively prating will be heard all through the day, their combs will become red, and if kept warmly enough they will lay as regularly as they did in the summer season.—Boston Cultivator.

Meal and Skim Milk.

The Iowa station has been making experiments in adding different kinds of meal to skim milk in fattening calves and have apparently had excellent success. The meals used were oil meal with a cost of 2.8 cents per pound of growth; another oatmeal costing 2.1, and with cornmeal and ten per cent. flaxseed costing 2.2 per pound of growth. They do not seem to have tried flaxseed alone. From the account I have in the Rural New Yorker, no statement is made of the age at which the calves are put on the skim milk and meal. This is a vital point in counting the cost, and especially in adapting the young calf to the new feed.

If meal of any kind is fed to the calf before it is a month old, great care must be taken to see that it does not upset the young thing's stomach and bring on scours. Pure flaxseed is the only one of the standard meals that the authorities have been willing to recommend for the right young calf. After they are two months old and are in good, thrifty condition, other meals may be added, but the question of cost in raising a calf depends principally upon how much full milk it has drunk.

For this reason the prime point is how to get the young thing off of full milk and well started on skim milk and meal. In this article from the Rural great stress is laid upon the virtue of oatmeal, and the Rural goes so far as to recommend it for raising dairy calves. With ordinary oatmeal, with the hulls included, I found it very irritating to young calves. There is too much starch and too little oil in it. What we want is something to take the place of the butter fat removed from the milk, and so far as I can see, flaxseed meal is the best substitute. This meets the theoretical requirements, and has proved the best in practice according to the testimony of those who appear to be the best able to settle the question. I fear there is a want of careful data in the Iowa experiments.—Home and Farm.

Power of the Waves.

A dynamometer invented by an English engineer measures the power of the waves of the ocean. Experiments made with the apparatus during a storm have shown a pressure exceeding 7500 pounds per square inch.

A Remarkable Stone.

One of the most curious stones in the world is found in England. It is a natural barometer, and actually foretells probable changes in the weather. It turns black shortly before an approaching rain, while in fine weather it is mottled with spots of white.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

SHOT BY HER SON.

Ride of Twenty-Six Miles to Save a Woman's Life.

While Mrs. Eric Solberg and her 8-year-old son were alone at their home a few days ago, at Marengo Falls, the latter picked up a shotgun and aimed it at his mother. As she started toward him to take away the weapon it was discharged, the contents entering her side. When Solberg returned home an hour later he found his wife lying on the floor trying to stanch the flow of blood from a gaping wound, and his son crouched in a corner, almost paralyzed from fright. Solberg drove with his wife in a sleigh to Ashland, a distance of 26 miles, and she was admitted to the hospital, where it is said her injury may prove fatal.

The following Pennsylvania pensions were granted last week: Marcus Martin, Elizabeth, \$10; David Herron, Pittsburgh, \$8; James Dunn, Erie, \$8 to \$12; Samuel J. Moore, New Brighton, \$16 to \$24; Albert W. Tucker, Titusville, \$8 to \$12; Isaiah C. Hampey, Ogdenburg, Tioga, \$24 to \$30; Alvin D. Ayers, Canton, Bradford, \$17 to \$24; Simon S. Fleagle, Manns Choice, Bedford, \$18 to \$17; minor of Thomas G. Ryerson, Pittsburgh, \$16; Violet Wolf, McKeesport, \$8; Mahala Wharton, Mapleton Depot, Huntingdon, \$8; Bernard Keenan, New Haven, \$6; Hugh Leonard, Pittsburgh, \$8; George Leech, Pittsburgh, \$6; Thomas Martin, Altoona, \$8; William A. Barton, Hazleton, \$8; Charles L. Aschom, Johnstown, \$8; Allan A. Craig, Corry, \$7; Henry Clark, Pittsburgh, \$8; John McCullough, Monaca, \$8; Lewis Ward, Centerville, \$6; John W. Platt, Corrydon, \$17; James Smith, Lincolnville, \$24; Anna B. Murphy, Beaver Falls, \$8; Mary R. Tiffany, Corry, \$12.

The tramps and vagrants who are now crowding the jail at Chambersburg have cost the county so much money that there is no money in the treasury to go ahead with improvements. This was told Judge Stewart by the County Commissioners in an action brought to compel them to build a new bridge at Kennedy street in this place. The Commissioners say the treasury is about empty, and that they have borrowed several thousand dollars to pay the tramp bills, and have raised the tax rate one mill.

A quick cure was performed on Thomas O'Rourke, tramp, at the New Castle city home, by Dr. John Foster. O'Rourke was suffering from what appeared to be a very bad leg. Poor Doctor Dickey thought he was shaming and took the doctor to see him. "I guess we can save him by taking the leg off," said the doctor. "No, you don't," said the tramp, as he got up and walked away. He has not been seen since.

Harry Fryer, an oil well pumper, and two months ago found a boiler house at a well on which he was employed near Petersville last Monday by his wife, with a bullet hole in his breast. His revolver, with one chamber empty, was found near him, and it is thought that he had laid the weapon on a bench, which had been accidentally overturned, discharging the revolver. He leaves two small children.

The statement of State Treasurer Haywood for the month ending December 31, shows a balance in the general fund of \$3,445,320.85. This is exclusive of money appropriated to the sinking fund. The statement shows a deposit of \$215,000 in the Chestnut Street National bank of Philadelphia, now in the hands of the national banking authorities.

John Cassidy, a Potter county contractor, who escaped from jail at Ansted, about two months ago, was captured in Bradford Monday. When pursued Cassidy took refuge on the roof of a hotel and would not give up until a policeman succeeded in covering him with a revolver. He is accused of passing worthless checks to the amount of \$1,500.

Charles Rodkey, an employee in Stokes's planing mill at Altoona, was sent to take off the gearing of a flooring machine in order to stop it last Friday. Rodkey fell against the wheel, which is about six feet in diameter, and was tossed across a high beam, where he was found by other workmen. He is in a precarious condition.

George McHale, aged 22 years, an electrical engineer at the Blast steel mill, of Sharon, fell against the main shaft of an engine which was making 300 revolutions a minute Tuesday morning. His coat caught and he was thrown violently to the end of the building, causing almost instant death.

Dr. Franklin B. Snwvel had entered suit against Thiel College for back salary amounting to \$650 at Greenville. The doctor was elected to the chair of English literature and philosophy in 1890, and held it until several months ago, when he resigned on advice of his physician.

A deal involving over \$50,000 was consummated at Dubois recently when the Dubois Street Railway and Electric Light Company's plant was purchased by E. M. Lawson, of Kittanning, for a syndicate headed by John E. Dubois, the millionaire lumberman.

Mary Kelly, of Orangeville, aged 3 years, was carrying a cat in her arms when it suddenly sprang out, knocking the little girl into a grate and causing her to receive burns that may prove fatal.

A bowlder weighing several tons rolled on the Reading Railroad tracks near Muncy, disabled the locomotive of a passenger train and threw the passengers into a panic the other day.

Samuel Johnston and Edgar Freeland, boys, were coasting at Webster recently, their sled struck a load of coal; Johnston broke his skull and may die, while the other boy broke a leg.

Having been permanently injured by falling from a hay loft of Levi Ziegler, of Lancaster County, by whom he was employed, Henry Ench has begun an action against him for damages.

The Mahoning Supply Company's store and the office of Dr. Williams at Adrian, a few miles south of Dubois, burned to the ground the other morning. The loss is over \$30,000.

David Hamilton, a well-to-do resident of Greenville, cut off all his relatives in his will and left his fortune to missions. The will will be contested.

Warden Wright, of the Western Penitentiary, proposes to form an amateur dramatic company of his talented prisoners. All the performances will be given in the prison.

Eighty men employed in the Reading Railway machine shops, at Reading, who have been working seven and a half hours a day, will hereafter work nine hours.

James Hodge, a farmer of Brookfield township, near Sharon, was gored by a bull a few days ago, and it is feared his injuries will result fatally.

Attorney General McCormick has decided that State Printer Ray is required to bind the Legislative Record and index for the session of 1897.

CONGRESS.

Senate.

Washington, Jan. 6.—In the senate the bill to protect the name and insignia of the Red Cross society was passed. Mr. Gray (Del.) explained that Miss Clara Barton, several years ago, asked that the insignia be protected from those who would use it for commercial or perhaps fraudulent purposes. It is protected in other countries. The senate committee on military affairs ordered a favorable report on the bill increasing the military force of the country to the extent of two regiments of artillery. The purpose of the bill is to afford a sufficient number of men to protect the new guns and mortars which are being put in place. It was stated in the committee that by next August there would be 151 guns and 232 mortars which would be entirely without protection.

Washington, Jan. 7.—In the senate Friday Mr. Teller attacked the Republican party because was advocating a gold standard, and he was going to do all in his power to defeat that party in 1900.

Mr. Allen offered a resolution declaring that the United States should, independently and without delay, begin and continue the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1.

Mr. Turner, of Washington, called up the immigration bill. He strongly opposed the bill. He was not in favor of an educational qualification, and insisted that the enactment of that feature of the bill into law would falsify the entire record of this country. A message from the President informed the senate that the sale of the Kansas Pacific railroad had been postponed to February 15-18.

House.

Washington, Jan. 6.—In the house Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, and Johnson, of Indiana, kept up the interest by furious attacks for and against the present civil service system. Mr. Grosvenor warned the members not to oppose the will of the people, who were opposed to keeping men permanently in office by the device of ex-President Cleveland. Grosvenor referred to the National Civil Service Reform League with Carl Shurz at their head as "foul political demagogues." Mr. Johnson preferred the present law to the abuses practiced by the spoils system.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The civil service debate continued throughout the day in the House. All efforts to fix a time for its termination failed, and it is certain now to run over into next week. The debate to-day was without marked incident.

Charles Crocker's Estate.

It was said by men who pretended to know all about it that the estate of Charles Frederick Crocker, of San Francisco, was worth \$20,000,000. The appraisers have just filed their report, placing the value of the property at \$7,022,125. The first Charles Crocker, partner of Leland Stanford, Uncle Collis Pacific Huntington and Mark Hopkins, left about \$40,000,000 at his death. In order to avoid partition suits his four children formed a company which the late Charles Frederick Crocker was to manage for the common benefit. He managed well, and the estate is supposed to have increased at least \$10,000,000 in value since the father's death. The appraisers' report shows that this estimate is \$20,000,000 too much; that the property for the four heirs is only \$20,000,000 instead of \$20,000,000. Surely values on the Pacific coast have not fallen so much!

Live bees are sometimes shipped on ice so as to keep them dormant during the journey. This is particularly the case with bumble bees, which have been taken to New Zealand, where they are useful in fertilizing the red clover which has been introduced into the colony.

The amount of coffee on hand at Rio de Janeiro a week ago is reported at 433,000 bags.

MARKETS.

PITTSBURGH.		
Grain, Flour and Feed.		
WHEAT—No. 1 red.....	90@	91
No. 2 red.....	88	89
CORN—No. 2 yellow.....	37	38
No. 2 yellow, shelled.....	31	32
Mixed ear.....	30	31
OATS—No. 1 white.....	29	30
No. 2 white.....	28	29
RYE—No. 1.....	49	50
FLOUR—Winter patent.....	4 75	5 10
Fancy straight winter.....	4 75	4 85
Rye flour.....	3 25	3 50
HAY—No. 1 timothy.....	10 00	10 50
Clover, No. 1.....	7 00	7 50
Hay, from wagon.....	10 00	10 50
FEED—No. 1 White Md., ton.....	15 50	16 00
Brown middlings.....	12 75	13 00
Bran, bulk.....	12 25	13 50
STRAW—Wheat.....	5 50	6 75
Oat.....	5 00	5 75
SEEDS—Clover 50 lbs.....	1 00	1 50
Timothy, prime.....	1 35	1 50

Dairy Products.		
BUTTER—Eggs Creamery.....	23	24
Ohio creamery.....	19	20
Fancy county roll.....	14	15
CHEESE—Ohio, new.....	9	10
New York, new.....	10	11

Fruits and Vegetables.		
BEANS—Hand-picked, per bu.....	1 05	1 10
POTATOES—White, per bu.....	70	75
CABBAGE—Home grown, bbl.....	93	1 00
ONIONS—per bu.....	65	70

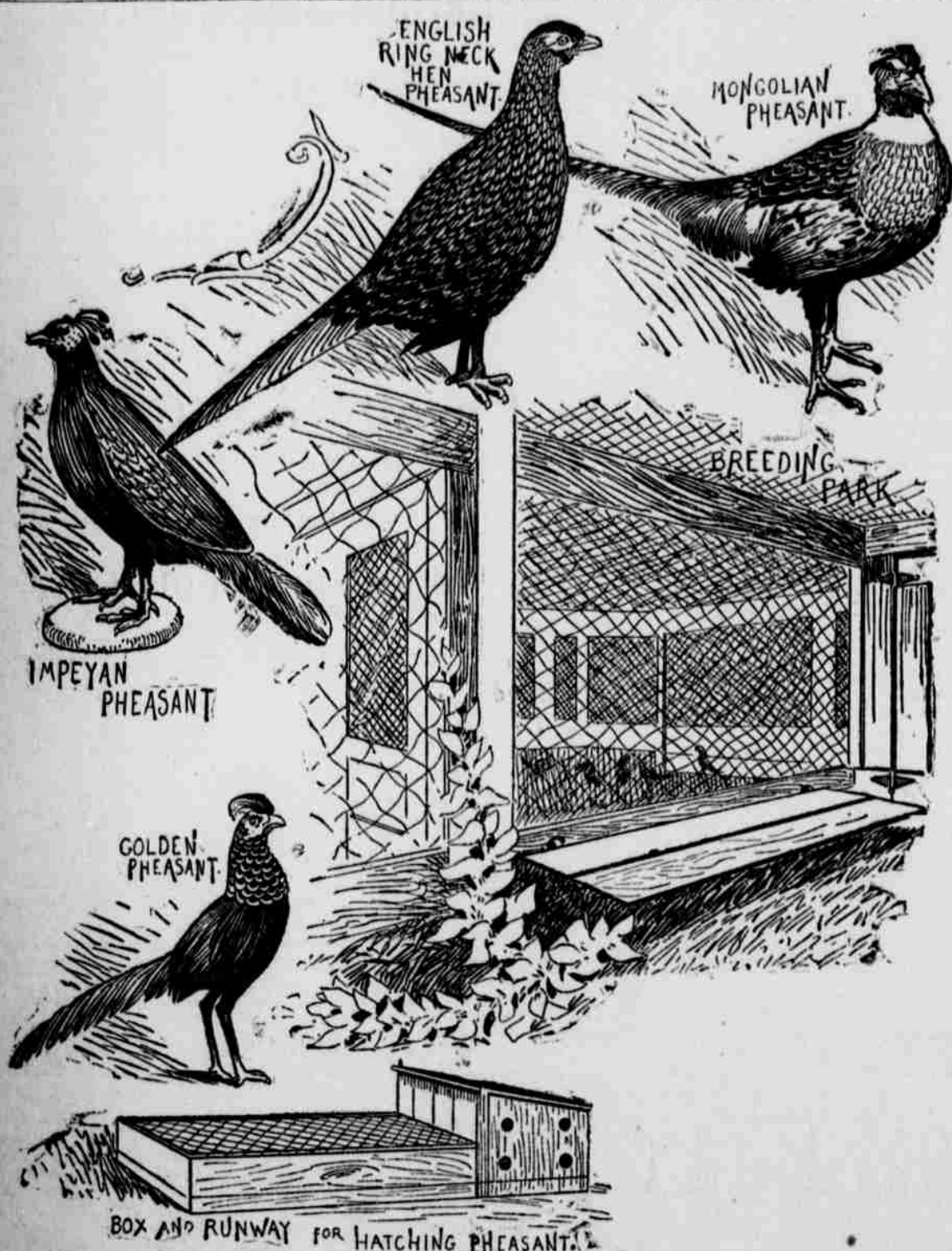
Poultry, Etc.		
CHICKENS, ♀ pair.....	35@	45
TURKEYS, ♀ lb.....	12	14
EGGS—Pa. and Ohio, fresh.....	21	22

CINCINNATI.		
FLOUR.....	\$ 4 20@	4 45
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	92	93
RYE—No. 2.....	46	47
CORN—Mixed.....	28	29
EGGS.....	24	25
BUTTER—Ohio creamery.....	14	20

PHILADELPHIA.		
FLOUR.....	\$ 4 75@	4 90
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	95	97
CORN—No. 2 mixed.....	32	33
OATS—No. 2 white.....	29	30
BUTTER—Creamery, extra.....	22	23
EGGS—Pa. firsts.....	21	

NEW YORK.		
FLOUR—Patents.....	\$ 5 10@	5 35
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	91	92
CORN—No. 2.....	28	29
OATS—White.....	24	25
BUTTER—Creamery.....	15	22
EGGS—State of Penn.....	22	26

LIVE STOCK.		
CENTRAL STOCK YARDS, EAST LIBERTY, PA.		
CATTLE.		
Prime, 1,300 to 1,400 lbs.....	\$ 4 70@	4 80
Good, 1,200 to 1,300 lbs.....	4 60	4 68
Tidy, 1,000 to 1,150 lbs.....	4 35	4 46
Fair light steers, 900 to 1,000 lbs.....	3 85	4 30
Common, 700 to 900 lbs.....	3 50	3 75
HOGS.		
Medium.....	3 75	3 80
Heavy.....	3 60	3 65
Roughs, all grades.....	2 25	3 00
SHEEP.		
Prime, 85 to 105 lbs, withers.....	\$ 4 70@	4 80
Good, 85 to 90 lbs.....	4 40	4 75
Fair, 75 to 80 lbs.....	4 00	4 40
Common.....	3 25	3 50
Culls.....	1 60	3 25
Fair to good lambs.....	4 00	4 25



pleasure, and very conspicuous in the pairing 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 pearly purple; center of the belly and thighs blackish 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 purplish red; tail feathers brown crossed by bands of black and fringed with reddish brown; bill pale yellow; legs and toes grayish black. The female has cheeks covered with small closely set feathers, and the whole of the 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 outnumbered 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 a Mormon, in any sense of the word. He allows his 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 chaff 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 egg 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-five cents a pound, at wholesale and retail, respectively.