AN IMMENSE CHICKEN FARM TO SUPPLY NEW YORK'S EGGS

LUXURIOUSLY HOUSED HENS.

NEW YORK is soon to have in its suburbs the largest chicken ranch in the world, states the Herald. At Manasquan, N. J., a company has secured a tract of three hundred acres to establish a giant hen industry, conducted on scientific methods.

The company, say its promoters, intends to control the New York market for "guaranteed" fresh laid eggs. They will, they say, deliver eggs in boxes, each box stamped with the date of laying, and delivered to customer within twenty-four hours after the eggs are laid.

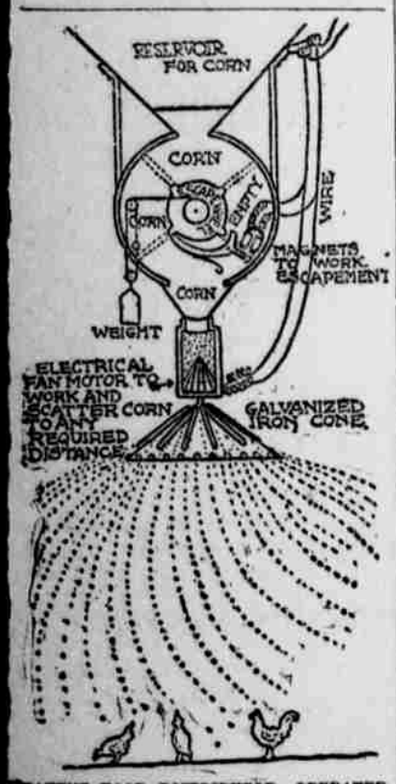
The city of New York last year paid $20,000,000 for eggs, most of them more or less stale, the consumption being 100,000,000 dozen. The first year's output of the enormous new chicken ranch now being laid will be thirty million eggs. This will be the product of a laying "herd" of from one hundred and fifty thousand to two hundred thousand chickens. The establishment is being planned to rapidly increase to double that amount.

These flocks will be herded under the system invented by Mr. J. R. Benson, an authority on everything pertaining to the hen and its product. Mr. Benson is the general manager of this gigantic concern, which will be the biggest in the world.

In a recent lecture Professor A. A. Brigham, of the Rhode Island College of Agriculture, at the Poultry Experiment Station, Kingston, said:

"To make an industry of the chicken and its product is not a question of the market, which can always be had. It is not the expense of keeping, which is always low. It is not a question of profit, which, if properly conducted, is large. It is the question how to reach and conduct on a business scale large herds of hens, the chicken business of to-day being merely a home industry. Something, therefore, must be done to make hen raising a national business on a business scale."

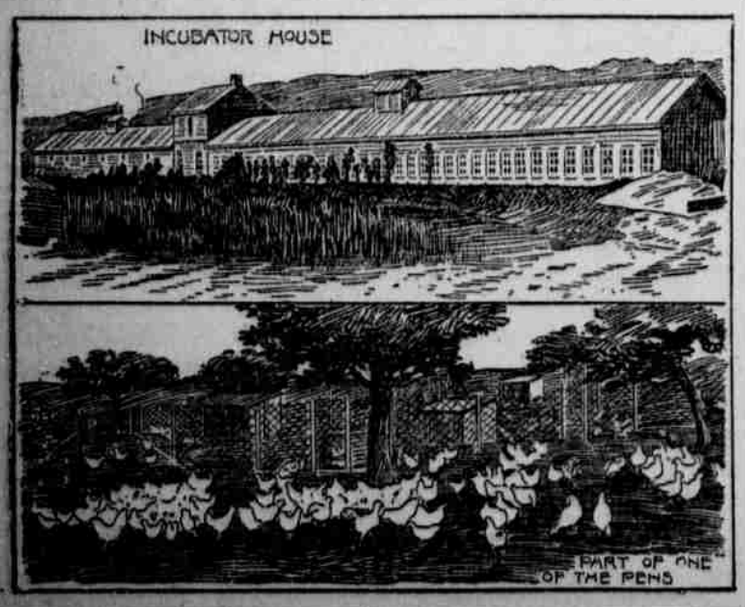
This will be accomplished, says Mr. Benson, at the Manasquan egg farm. Under his system any number of chickens can be herded. Instead of allowing them to run at large and mingle freely, as of old, picking their food from all kinds of refuse, they are to be divided into colonies of not above



PATENT FOOD DISTRIBUTOR, OPERATED BY PRESSING A BUTTON.

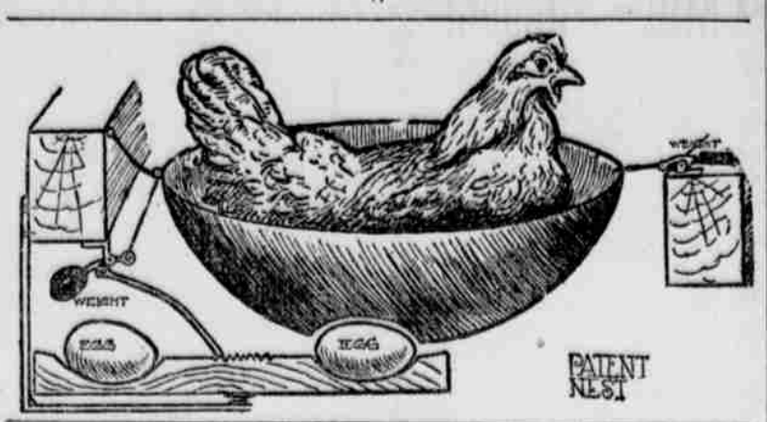
y hens. Each colony will have n reservation, kept in hygienic ness and order, and separate solated at all times from the rs.

is makes feeding of each fowl ssible to insure the greatest product iveness, with, as experience has proved, an average yearly yield of two hundred eggs from each hen. The second advantage of the segregation of the fowls is that should a chicken by any chance become sick or breed vermin, the trouble cannot spread beyond



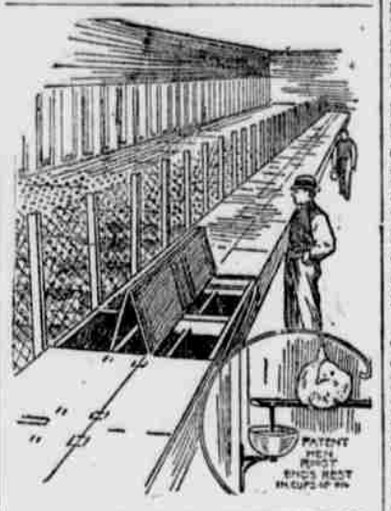
that one reservation before it is detected; hence there can be none of the epidemics which have sometimes played havoc with the fancy stock fowl on chicken farms. Moreover, the new system permits the immediate identification of any hen failing in productiveness, and her prompt replacement by one able to keep up to the high average.

The system includes the extensive use of several patents, which bring the business of chicken ranching and egg producing to a new perfection. One of these is an automatic nest. Without this it would be impossible, where



more than one hen is kept, to guarantee that an egg would be free from the taint of incubation. When hens lay in the same nest and from one to a half dozen sit on the nest while laying, the process of hatching has actually begun before the eggs are gathered for the market. This is the main cause why so many eggs spoil.

The new system is the only one which prevents eggs from undergoing some degree of incubation, because the egg is taken from the nest immediately after it is laid. The invention consists of a nest with a hole in the bot-



INTERIOR OF LATEST IMPROVED BROODING HOUSE FOR CHICKENS.

tom suspended immediately over a revolving disc, which receives the egg as soon as it is laid and moves it away from the nest when released by the rising of the hen. The disc is then ready to receive the next egg, and in this way no egg is incubated for an instant.

The second invention saves the expense of numerous attendants and the lives of the smaller hens. One of the greatest troubles and trials of poultry farms has been that of feeding. Unless time were taken to scatter the food far and wide the larger fowls beat away the smaller from it, and the result was that the smaller were imperfectly nourished, impairing their laying capacity. As small hens may be as prolific as larger ones, and as overfeeding produces fat and diminishes the laying, the importance of fair and even distribution of food to laying hens is plain. To make this cheap and easy, an electric food scatterer has been invented. The attendant places the feed in it and upon pressure of a button at a central station the food is scattered simultaneously in all sections evenly over the surface of the reservation.

The third improvement is to destroy the vermin, the enemy of fowl. Most vermin pass from fowl to fowl at night, when the fowls are roosting, and crawl up the walls of the chicken house and out upon the perch. These assaults are rendered vain by a perch which is set in a cup, in which the vermin are caught and destroyed before they can reach the fowls.

The eggs will be collected from the nest disc several times a day. Packing and shipping will go on continually. A few hours will bring them to New York in the cars of the company and delivered by their own trains each morning. The fresh laid eggs will be packed and shipped in paper boxes containing from one-half dozen to three dozen. Each box will be secured by a sealed label stamped with the date of laying.

The extent of this ranch is to be very great. Nothing like it exists anywhere. The largest chicken farm today is at Sydney, Ohio. This plant has the capacity of raising one hundred thousand broilers per year, but it does not sell the egg product. To accomplish this it has a flock of less than fifteen thousand hens. Cudahy, the great packer, has a chicken farm of eighteen thousand head near Milwaukee, and this is considered one of the largest in the country. One New Jersey concern is said to be the largest chicken and egg purchaser in this country, but never have its flocks exceeded eighteen thousand.

"Few people know that the insignificant little hen is one of the greatest profit makers and wealth producers. The revenue from keeping fowls for eggs if the herds can be properly handled, watched and controlled is greater than in any other industry," said J. R. Benson.

"Becoming convinced years ago that there was big profit and room for great improvement in poultry raising, I started experiments and study, not in methods of breeding, but to devise proper methods of herding. I found that it is possible on a small area to keep an unlimited number of small herds. This system caused the greatest production. Two hundred eggs per year per fowl was not a high average, and each hen could be made to pay a profit of at least $2.50 per year. I started with fifteen hens, then increased this to ten families of fifteen each. The result was the same if not better."

Mr. C. H. Wyckoff, of Groton, N. Y., one of the successful small poultry raisers, keeps about six hundred head of laying fowls, in small colonies, solely for eggs for the market. His total egg yield was 117,600 eggs for the year ending October 1, 1899. His receipts were $4.08 per year for each of the six hundred hens. He figures $1.08 per year per hen for keep and expenses, showing a net profit of $1800 per year for this colonized flock of six hundred. And this is the profit, says Mr. Benson, on an investment of less than $600.

Mr. Benson estimates that this mammoth egg ranch will cost, equipped and stocked with 150,000 hens ready for a daily lay of 80,000 to 100,000 eggs, about $266,000. The yearly expense of running this plant will be, including feed, delivery system, etc., about $210,000. The yearly income is figured at $510,000 for eggs and $75,000 for non-producing fowls sold as broilers, etc., or a total of $585,000. If

this large gain is borne out in practice, as these gentlemen confidently believe, the docile little hen will become a bigger money maker and profit bringer than even the biggest of money making inventions and investments.

Cecil Rhodes and the Ladies.

It is said by those who know Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the South African magnate, that he has, in common with Lord Kitchener, a strong aversion to the opposite sex. While on a visit to London before the commencement of the war he dined at the house of a very wealthy lady of title, and later, when he was discussing the affair with his secretary, the latter asked: "And whom did you take to dinner?" "Oh, I don't know. Some Lady Somebody," was the reply. "But what did you call her?" "Didn't call her anything—never spoke to her."—Argonaut.

Ruined Iceland Farmers.

About 800 Icelanders emigrated from Liverpool to Quebec a few days ago, en route for Manitoba and the northwest. The recent order in council rendering compulsory the slaughter of foreign sheep and cattle at the port of arrival in Great Britain has ruined the prospects of many Icelandic farmers, whose sheep require British pasturage before they are fit for killing. This has induced many of the islanders to leave for Canada with their families.—London Chronicle.

His Purpose.

No man proposes to remain single. When he proposes he expects to get married.—Philadelphia Record.

THE YOUNGEST OFFICEHOLDER.

Superintendent of Squirrels Now, But May Be President.

Francis M. Marriott, Jr., aged six years, is the little lad who has been commissioned by Governor Nash as "superintendent and general attendant of the squirrels in the State House yard, Columbus, Ohio," and has received his elegantly engraved commission signed by the State's Chief Executive.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Marriott and their son were with the Governor last summer on a vacation trip through the St. Lawrence and Saginaw River valleys. On this trip Master Francis became very much attached to the Governor, and the Chief Executive found a warm place in his heart for little Francis.

Since the Governor has taken his seat Francis has called on him regularly when he came to Columbus. The little fellow has a love for pets of all kinds, and has been greatly interested in the large number of squirrels in the State House yard.

Little Francis is enthusiastic over his commission. He talks of it thus:

"I like Governor Nash because he has given me all the squirrels I want. I am going to feed them every time I go to Columbus. Papa has promised to get me a nice uniform like Dewey

FRANCIS M. MARRIOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SQUIRRELS.

wears, and when I feed my squirrels I am going to wear it. I am going to feed them hickory nuts and peanuts, and I don't know if they like sweet cake or not, but I will give them some if they want it."

Francis has been widely congratulated over his appointment, and receives a very heavy mail every day. He is very well known, and thinks that he will have to get a private secretary to take care of the work that has come to him through his new office.

Mamma Got Tired.

"Mamma, does money make the man?"

"I am sorry to say it does sometimes, Tommy."

"Money will make a man go anywhere, won't it?"

"I suppose so."

"If it was down in Cuba would money make a man go to raising mangoes?"

"Don't bother me."

"Do monkeys eat mangoes, mamma?"

"I presume so. I wish you wouldn't talk so much."

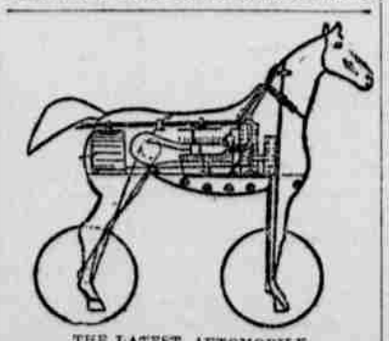
"Then if money makes the man go to raising mangoes, and monkeys eat mangoes, don't the monkeys make the mango go——"

Whack! Whack!

"Ouch!"—Chicago Tribune.

Now It's an Automobile Horse.

Objection having been made to the automobile on the ground that it has nothing in front of it to "steady" it, and therefore does not look right, an ingenious man has invented and patented an automobile horse. This horse is not to be placed in front of an automobile carriage, but is to be "hitched up" to any carriage. He has the work of locomotion "in his midst," and will draw the carriage after him just as the



THE LATEST AUTOMOBILE.

ordinary unpatented horse would. The motor mechanism in the horse consists of two electric motors, supported upon cross bars, and driving through chains and belts, the shafts of the driving wheels mounted on the horse's hind legs. The steering is effected by reins held by the driver, the neck of the horse for this purpose being intersected and mounted upon ball bearings, and the reins attached to a crosshead mounted on a vertical spindle. This spindle goes down into the horse's forelegs, and by it the legs can be twisted in any direction. The automobile horse can be ridden as well as driven to harness. When he is used as a saddle horse he can be steered by turning the crosshead with one hand. The animal is warranted sound and kind.

THE REALM OF FASHION.

New York City.—In no garments do the tucks of the season appear to greater advantage than the dainty gowns designed for little girls. The very stylish little May Manton model here illustrated is singularly effective in white Persian lawn, organdy or dimity, but is well suited to all summer goods and such lightweight wool stuffs as men's suitings, cashmere and the like.

GIRL'S GUIMPE DRESS.

The skirt is straight, the fulness laid in fine tucks, which run down a few inches below the waist. The waist is also straight and simple, and is also tucked at the neck.

The sleeves are short and puffed, gathered into a needlework band. Over the shoulders are bretelles of needlework, and finishing them and the low neck and covering the narrow waistband are bands of heading, through which velvet ribbon is run.

To make this dress for a girl of six years of age three and a quarter yards of material thirty-two inches wide, or two and a quarter yards, forty-two inches wide, will be required, with one and a quarter yards of embroidered edging, two and a quarter yards of heading, and four yards of velvet ribbon.

POINTED YOKE WAIST. FANCY WAIST.

Two Dressy Waists.

The simple but dressy May Manton waist of black dotted net shown on the left of the large engraving is stylishly combined with embroidered chiffon applique and trimmed with insertion to match, through which turquoise blue ribon is run. The waist is mounted on glove fitting linings of blue taffeta that with the full fronts close invisibly in centre front. The yoke is permanently attached to the right front and closes over on the left, meeting the shoulder, arm's eye and under arm seams. The full fronts blouse softly, and the back is gathered and drawn smoothly over the lining. The fancy stock collar that points high behind the ears is comfortably shaped to the neck by tiny darts taken up in the foundation. Over this the lace is smoothly drawn, and the closing is made invisibly in centre back. The close fitting sleeve linings are two-seamed, and over these the mosquetaire sleeves are arranged. The design is adapted to many combinations of material and coloring, spangled net over Liberty satin trimmed with jet bands being a pleasing suggestion for a dressy black waist.

To make this waist in the medium size will take three and one-eighth yards of material twenty inches wide, or two yards, thirty-two inches wide, three-quarters of a yard of all over lace or embroidered chiffon for yoke and collar, and four and one-half yards of band trimming.

The second design shown has the merit of being equally well adapted to entire costumes and to the convenient odd waist. It is well suited to silk and fine wool goods, and, indeed, to any material that requires to be lined and fitted.

The glove fitted lining consists of the usual pieces, and opens at the centre front. Over it is arranged the yoke and plastron that closes invisibly at the left shoulder, and the waist proper, which is fitted with the underarm gores only and is drawn down at the waist line in back and pouches slightly at the front. The high standing collar fits smoothly and terminates in points at the back. The bertha is seamed to the waist, and outlines the lower edge of yoke. The two seamed sleeves fit smoothly and are finished with points over the hands. Down each front and across the top of each sleeve is stitched a group of three tucks, the tucked sleeve being placed over a smooth lining.

To cut this waist in the medium size three and one-half yards of material twenty-one inches wide, two and a quarter yards thirty-two inches wide or one and a quarter yards fifty inches wide will be required, with one and a quarter yards of lining thirty-six inches wide. To trim as illustrated seven-eighths of a yard of inserted tucking, sixteen inches wire, will be needed for yoke, plastron and collar, one-half yard panne velvet for the bertha, and three and three-quarter yards ribbon or chiffon quilling for decoration.

The New Lingerie.

The special point in the new lingerie is the fit. The set of a gown depends largely upon the accurate shape of the lingerie over which it is worn, especially now in this much bepleated era of fashion. Skirts, both long and short, are cut to fit the hips, quite smoothly, and, although fancifulness is indulged in sometimes to an almost exaggerated degree, the flare and the fluff are all confined to the lower part of the skirt.

The New Veils.

The new veils are very clear and have quite small spots, not too closely set. Fine white and flesh pink tulle is strewed with small black spots, and the all-white veilings are exceedingly thin and the spots small. They are still tied beneath the chin, the old fashion of wearing them only to the lips not having found many admirers. On toques the veil is cut only to the required length and not turned in at all, so as to be barely noticeable over the brim.

For the Small Boy.

An attractive suit for boys, reproduced from Modes, is here represented made of dark blue diagonal serge.

It consists of short trousers, double-breasted coat and vest. The coat is shaped by shoulder and under-arm seams, the fronts being faced and reversed at the top to form lapels that meet the collar in notches. Pockets are inserted in the fronts in regulation coat style.

The vest is shaped with shoulder and under-arm seams, closing in double-breasted style. The back may be adjusted by means of straps that buckle in the centre.

The knee trousers are shaped with inside and outside leg seams, and close in front with a fly; inside bands at the top being provided with button holes to attache to buttons on the shirt waist.

Jaunty suits can be made of serge, tweed, cheviot or diagonal, care being taken in making that the garments are well pressed and finished neatly with machine-stitching.

To make a suit for a boy eight years old will require one and five-eighths yards of fifty-four-inch material.

BOY'S DOUBLE-BREASTED SUIT.