



THE STANDARD BIRD.
Greatest Profit in Pure Breeds of Fowls.
GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL

The Bureau of Animal Industry has just prepared a short bulletin embodying a number of useful hints to poultry raisers. In submitting the text to Secretary Wilson, Chief Melvin of the Bureau stated that the article was prepared with the special end in view of furthering the purpose of his Bureau to give the raisers of poultry, especially the general farmer, the best information possible in a very concise form. The article is written by G. Arthur Bell, Assistant Animal Husbandman of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Selection of a Variety.
Pure breeds are desirable, says Mr. Bell, as with these one has a flock of

should be placed against the end of the house opposite the door or under the roof platform, and should be darkened. It is well to have several small boxes for shell, grit, beef scraps, etc., against the walls about 16 to 18 inches above the floor. If cement or wood floors are used, a dust bath should be provided for the fowls.

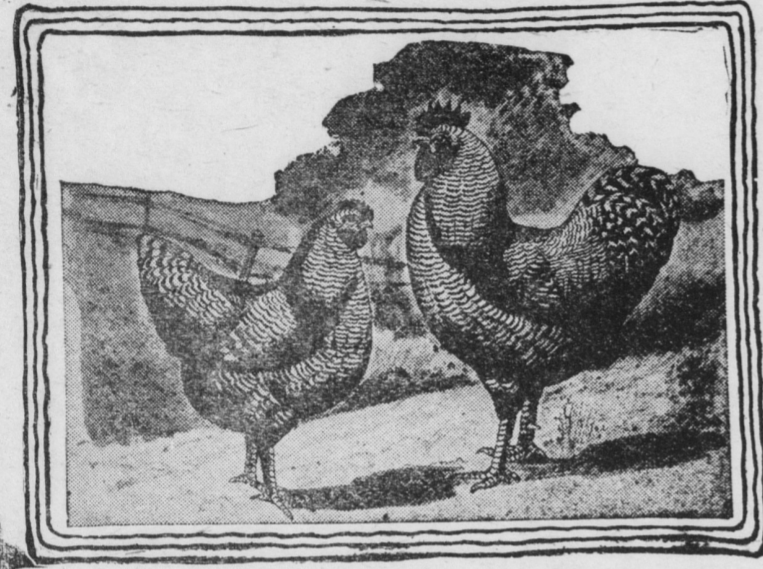
The Feeding of Hens.
In order to obtain eggs, it is necessary to have healthy, vigorous stock properly fed. To do their best, hens should be fed grain, animal, and green food. They should be fed enough to keep them in good condition but not overfat, and should be induced to take

The Great American Hen.

Rightfully comes she by the title, for according to statistics the American hen yields more money annually than any other one farm product. With eggs as low as a cent a piece—a very cheap and nutritious food—a well bred hen laying about two hundred eggs a year has a value of \$2. An estimate is made that \$1 a year will keep her in comfortable if not luxurious quarters. The trouble is that millions of barnyard scrubs do not yield a hundred eggs a year.

According to Government authorities the earnings from the egg and poultry industry amounts to about \$280,000,000. Cotton, the king of crops with a value reaching up to \$250,000,000, is thus dethroned by the magnificent earnings of the fowl.

During 1905 the total value of all the gold, silver, wool and sheep produced in the United States was \$272,000,000. The wheat crop, considered the most valuable of all agricultural products had a value in the same period of \$229,000,000. The great American hog, consumed at home and abroad, was valued at about \$186,529,035. The sugar production of the country was only \$20,000,000. The combined value of the oat and potato crops was only \$160,000,000. The industrious little gallus domesticus produces enough eggs to require a train of refrigerator cars 900 miles long filled with 43,000,000 crates, each of which holds 360 eggs. The value of the egg as a food product is equal to that of any food stuff of its size.



PLYMOUTH ROCKS—A PAIR OF PRIZE WINNERS.

fowls which will produce carcasses and eggs of a much more uniform shape, color, and size than will mongrels, all of which aids in finding a ready sale. If one already has a flock of mongrel fowls and cannot afford to buy pure breeds, he should choose a purebred male bird of the breed preferred and mate him with a few of the best mongrel females. This system, if carefully followed for a few years, will give a high-grade flock that will be practically as good as purebreds, so far as market conditions for dressed fowls and eggs are concerned.

Choice of variety will depend largely on the purpose for which the fowls are kept—whether eggs alone, both eggs and meat, or meat alone is the chief object; whether white-shelled or brown shelled eggs are desired; and whether sitters or nonsitters are wanted.

Egg Breeds.—Nonsitters and producers of white-shelled eggs—Leghorns and Minorcas.

General purpose breeds.—Sitters and producers of brown-shelled eggs—Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Orpingtons, and Rhode Island Reds.

Meat Breeds.—Sitters and producers of brown-shelled eggs—Light Brahmas, Cochins, and Langshans.

plenty of exercise. No set rules can be given for feeding, as conditions vary, and there are different methods of feeding different breeds.

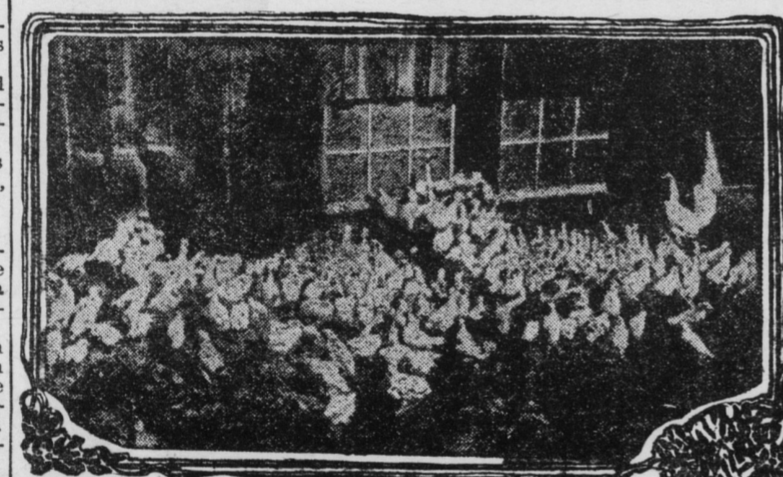
A good system to follow for winter feeding is mash once a day and grain scattered in the litter twice a day. The mash may be fed dry or slightly moistened. When the former, it is usually put into a trough or hopper hung against the wall and the fowls allowed access to it at all times.

The mash fed at the Maine Experiment Station is as follows, in the proportions indicated:

- 200 pounds wheat bran.
- 100 pounds corn meal.
- 100 pounds wheat middlings.
- 100 pounds linseed meal.
- 100 pounds gluten meal.
- 100 pounds beef scrap.

Winter Egg-Laying Contest.

A novel egg-laying competition at the Lady Warwick's Ladies' Agricultural College is reported by Consul Daniels at Sheffield, England. The conclusions reached are that breed does not govern so much as the laying strain or families of a breed highly developed as egg producers. The pen of four Buff Orpingtons led from October 16 to November 16 by producing 49 eggs, and again November 16 to December 16 with 120 eggs. One thing the present competition shows is the little help it is to birds to be what show enthusiasts call "beautifully marked," for as often as not it is the ordinary looking competitors, birds a show judge would laugh at, that have the biggest total of eggs to their credit. In the winter laying competition what stands a bird in good stead is not that its father was the winner of a medal, but that its mother and grandmother were wonderful layers, and that its



GROUP OF YOUNG WHITE LEGHORNS.

Another mash may be mixed as follows, in the proportions indicated:

- 100 pounds corn meal.
- 100 pounds ground oats.
- 100 pounds wheat bran.

Young chickens should be fed a little at a time and often. If they are given ground food alone, there is a great danger of overfeeding. Very good results may be obtained by the feeding entirely of cracked grains from the time the chickens are hatched until they reach maturity. There are on the market many prepared chick feeds, consisting of different mixtures of suitable cracked grains. After the chickens are five or six weeks old, the prepared chick feed may be dropped and cracked corn, cracked wheat, hulled oats, etc., fed to them instead.

If the chickens can not get grass, provide green feed such as lettuce and

male parents also come of a good laying strain.

Ducks don't need water to thrive.
There are many farms in this country, where thousands of these fowls are raised each year for market, and where there is not even a puddle for them to founder in. One of these establishments is said to furnish 20,000 ducks a year.

Not the Laying Kind.
A few days ago a rather bashful young woman went into a Southern grocery store with some chickens to sell. She inquired the price of fowls, and at the same time put hers on the counter. The clerk didn't notice that the chickens' feet were tied, and asked her if they would lay there. She bit her handkerchief, turned her head, and said, "No, sir, they are roosters."



SINGLE COMB BUFF LEGHORNS.
Cock was Awarded First Prize, St. Louis Exposition.

The fowls to pass in and out of the building.

Interior Arrangement.
The roost platform should be placed in the rear of the house and extending its whole length. The platform should be about 3 feet wide and 3 feet from the floor, with the perches arranged about 8 or 10 inches higher. The nest

cabbage which are very good for this purpose. Some kind of meat, such as green cut bone or meat scraps, is valuable as a food and it is well to keep in a box where the chickens can help themselves at all times. Water should be provided from the start, placed in such a dish that the chickens can not get into it and get wet.

The Pennsylvania Railroad is contemplating cutting a tunnel through the Allegheny Mountains, and the Southern Pacific will eventually tunnel the Sierra Nevada range.

Tall persons usually live longer than short ones, while those born in the spring have sounder constitutions than those born during the other seasons.

LONGWORTH GUESSED WRONG.

Missed the Opportunity to Get Famous Horse Named After Him.

When a man becomes famous all the incidents of his past life are laid bare. There is a great story going around of how Nick Longworth came near to attaining to fame some years ago, in connection with horses.

"The story runs," according to a prominent horseman, "that some years ago H. M. Ziegler, of Cincinnati, the noted owner of thoroughbreds, and an intimate friend of Mr. Longworth, took the latter down to his Kentucky thoroughbred farm to show him his collection of fine yearlings."

"All of these yearlings were as yet unnamed."

"Longworth," said Ziegler, as they strolled about the stalls, "you'd better let me name one of these yearlings after you. They're a swell bunch, and almost all of them are well-nigh bound to do something big in the world."

"I don't mind," was Longworth's

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WHITE COCHIN COCK.
First Prize Bird at New York Show in 1904.

reply. "But I'd like to be sure of bestowing my cherished name on a real good one. I'd hate to have a bad one running in my name. My friends of a racing turn would be guying me all the time about my namesake's performances."

"Well," said Ziegler, "you're a pretty good judge of a race horse yourself. Now here are two of my cracks in these two stalls. I'll have 'em led out into my paddock by one of the stable hands, and you can look them over and take your pick of them. Whichever one you like the better I'll name after you."

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