

# War and the Poultry Industry

BY G. L. WOOD.  
**T**HE war has thrown a scare into the poultry business that is being felt in every part of the country. The sudden and steady rise in wheat has caused a flooding of the market with chickens of every description. Many breeders have retired from this branch entirely for the present. This does not refer to breeders who handle poultry to any large extent, but to small breeders. The commission men have been at a loss to dispose of the surplus stock and the prices have dropped away below the actual cost of production. Even with prices declining and with eggs selling lower than they have at this time for years, there are still some substantial benefits to come from the change.

It means the selling of thousands of hens that have no particular blood lines in their breeding and who have seldom paid their feed cost. The man who has to buy wheat for a flock that will not lay will shed few tears in getting rid of them. These will in time be replaced with birds that have been bred along modern lines and can pay their keep and a reasonable profit. The poultry business as a whole will benefit greatly

by this improved condition of breeding flocks. With experiment stations spending thousands of dollars in educating the public as to the present possibilities with a modern hen and with people in every community paying absolutely no attention whatever to the trend of the times, and still hanging on to their almost worthless stock, it will be a blessing to see these flocks wiped out entirely.

The poultry business is not going to suffer permanently from the war. It will reap its share of the benefits in due season. When times get easier and the necessities can be purchased liberally there will be a larger demand for eggs and those who have stayed by their hens will get the business. The supply being short of the demand the prices will be high, and there will be a big rush of breeders back into the business. These men will have to be supplied with setting eggs and new stock and there will be greater activity than the poultry industry has ever experienced before. It is advisable to get rid of your poor stock and non-layers but stay by your good birds and get better ones. The opportunities for profits in the poultry business in the near future were never greater.

## White Wyandotte Club of Northwest Formed

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**T**HE Northwest White Wyandotte Club has been organized with the following officers: J. A. Griffin, of Eugene, president; G. L. Wood, of Portland, vice-president; H. V. Marx, of Portland, secretary and treasurer. While the officers and members are made up entirely of Oregon breeders at present, it is planned to embrace also the states of Washington and Idaho. The present organization is in reality a temporary working force that hopes to get in touch with every breeder in these three states during 1915 and rally the White Wyandotte forces for a large permanent organization next winter.

The White Wyandotte is well established on the Coast. It ranks among the largest in number of entries at every exhibit. It carries away its share of the specials when competing with other varieties and there is probably no breed that comes nearer to standard requirements. The reputation the White Wyandotte has made in the egg-laying contests from the start has been a source of pride to every White Wyandotte breeder. It leads all heavy varieties in egg records, and is regularly sharing honors with the White Leghorns as the champion layers of all breeders irrespective of weights.

The White Wyandotte and the White Leghorn are not the only breeds that can be raised profitably, however, and there are some good features about every variety. Everyone does not know the good qualities of them all. But it is the intention of the White Wyandotte breeders that the superior qualities of their variety shall be no secret. There will be an organized publicity campaign and every breeder of this variety who wants his bird to the front and is willing to help keep her there is asked to join in the movement. The working plans will be developed later. At present we want the name of every interested White Wyandotte breeder in the three states above sent to the temporary organization headquarters, 512 Buchanan building, Portland, Or., to whom details will be sent out as formulated.

## Will Wage War Upon Predatory Animals

**A**CCORDING to the announcement of the District Forester at Portland, Or., the agricultural appropriation bill contained a provision by which \$100,000 is to be set aside toward the destruction of predatory animals.

It is estimated that over \$15,000,000 worth of stock is destroyed annually in the United States through the depredations of such animals as wolves, coyotes, wildcats, cougars and bears.

While the biological survey will have charge of the work, the Forest Service will co-operate with them in the regions of the West, where there are National forests. The service has already had some experience in hunting wild animals.

The invasion of the National forest range in years past by wolves, coyotes and cougars has been very

marked, and it has at times been found necessary to employ trained hunters to trap and kill these invaders. The rangers, too, have done excellent work in trapping and poisoning these preying animals. But the service has been handicapped for lack of funds to spend in hiring men for this purpose and furnishing them with the necessary arms and ammunition. Hence, the work done has been but a temporary relief.

Now, however, that an appropriation has been made, the work can be carried on with some hope of success, and stock owners, both inside and outside of the National forests, may look forward to the time when their sheep and cattle will be free from the attacks of these rapacious marauders.

As a result of this activity on the part of the Federal Government, the stock owners themselves have awakened to the needs of the situation. At a recent meeting of the Oregon Wool Growers' Association, a resolution was passed and a petition mailed to Washington, urging Congress to make an appropriation of \$300,000 for the extermination of predatory animals in the United States. While it is felt that the present appropriation of \$100,000 will do much good in reducing the menace, it is not sufficient to bring about a permanent relief. Therefore, Congress is urged to increase the appropriation with a view to the complete extermination of all predatory animals in every part of the United States where they have done damage to stock.

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There are many miracles in the natural world, and we do not think of them as wonderful because they are so common. One such interesting phenomenon is that observed in the case of fish life, fish being endowed with the capacity to retain the life spark even though frozen solid in ice for months at a time. The freezing and thawing process must be slow or the fish will not survive it.



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