

POULTRY RAISING NEAR PORTLAND

5—Proper Housing and Winter Care.

Written for The Journal by W. B. Hall.
Housing your flocks in the fall is a critical, but necessary condition to have the birds in proper condition for winter.

In winter because "Biddy" is more contented and fat on grain and meat.
With the Month.
When you feed your pullets talk to them and distribute your food so that each bird gets her full share.

I have got the best results by having small houses—about 12 hens to each coop—nearly the draughtless house adapted to the purpose with a little carpentering, as shown in last week's article, for the summer season. These coops are easily adapted with their wire runways to fresh grassy places, once or twice a week. They are inexpensive and convenient.

For winter, two other elements come in—protection from rain and mud and proper nests, enclosed and dry. I am fixing up my summer coops (dry, good houses) for winter by covering the outside with tar paper and lining the inside with building paper, after having first "clayed" the interior for mice and roach all the corners and the bottom edge of the roof with soft straw, made into a mat, to destroy the winter eggs. The runways will be made larger and partly covered with canvas or boards and tar paper. The nests, nearly boxes placed on stilts 4 to 5 inches high and lined with soft straw, will be placed in this space—four nests to 12 pullets. These coops and runways will be removed once a week to fresh grassy spots and the old runways spaded over and sown to grass and clover. In the rainy season grass grows quickly and is fresh and good for the laying pullets to eat.

The problem of housing poultry in this part of Oregon is complicated by there being too distinct and opposite climatic seasons here to take care of, and by the necessity of securing the results of the exorbitant price of food stuffs this side of the Rockies. The dry heat of summer needs to be counteracted by airy, clean houses and shade spots and dampened runways for the winter. The damp, chilly, rainy season requires a warm, light, clean, cheerful house, with plenty of straw litter handy to scratch in or lots of dry sandy dirt to roll about in under shelter. The laying hens must be made comfortable and contented, or they will postpone their laying till spring.

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The beginner starting with his hen and hatch has the problem simplified for winter. He has weeded out his cockerels and fattened them in coops for the table, and has only his little flock of pullets—all one breed—and a hen, to care for this winter and to study at short range. I would advise two good sized dry-goods boxes, prepared as described in article No. 4, with movable roosts, and fixed up for winter as already described—seats and all. Each coop should have six or seven pullets in and three box nests on short stilts. These are easily made. The wire runways should be made of frame five feet high and should be from eight to 12 feet long and four feet wide.

Centralia Railroad Work to Cost \$500,000
(Special to The Journal.)
Centralia, Wash., Oct. 28.—General Manager J. B. Richards, Superintendent W. C. Albee and several other Northern Pacific officials were in Centralia yesterday afternoon looking over the proposed railroad improvement for this city. The passenger and freight depot, round house, machine shops and track-ago were supposed to cost by the neighborhood of \$1,000,000, but Mr. Albee stated that the plans would call for an expenditure of nearly \$500,000. Practically all of the work will be done by skilled labor, and the expenditure of a great sum of money in wages will be an advantage to this city. The new rails have arrived and track laying will begin at once. Superintendent Albee has promised that work on the new passenger depot will begin within the next month and the weather permitting, will be pushed to a rapid completion.

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Never neglect it. Dirt and filth are just as bad for the hen as for you—lice and disease will cut out your profits if your hens have dirty houses.
A slanting roof should be made at the top of your coops, with the paper on top, to shed the rain; a few boards will do the trick.
The idea is to have your hens naturally warm, in cozy coops, and yet having fresh air to breathe. The oxygen absorbed by the dampness caused by the breath from the hens, besides being good for the hens to breathe. No ventilation should ever come from the top or through cracks in the wood; nor should the coops be artificially heated, if you want healthy pullets laying in winter.

Having your pullets well housed for the winter, you change your summer feeding to the damper, heavier weather of the late fall. Pullets do not moult, but they shed a few feathers and grow new ones in their places, hence they require more oily substances in their food to facilitate their growth; they need more whole yellow corn at night.
The best regime is fine grain in the morning, with some oats (not rolled oats). The hens have empty crops and keen appetites when they get out at sunrise. Keep them busy working for their breakfast, so that they keep warm and do not mope. Give them fresh drinking water; on freezing mornings warm the water gently. See that the grit and charcoal in their shovels supply is in their troughs—charcoal boxes will answer the purpose. In cold weather feed raw meat out up about 10 o'clock twice or thrice a week. See that every pullet gets a piece of meat.

Mid-day feed them mash. Winter mash should be made in the mornings. Wheat bran middlings, corn meal mixed in equal quantities, with sour milk or skimmed milk or buttermilk or molasses or some fat liquid, makes a good mash. Give them green stuff in the afternoon; hang a cabbage up in the runway, so that the pullets can raise their heads and pick at it. Lots of cut grass and onion tops should be fed to them daily. At night whole corn or wheat, as much as they will eat.
You never need fear over feeding your pullets if you will water them three times a day, give them grass and greens daily, with charcoal and oyster shell and grit, and exercise in the morning. Let the pullets tell you what food they like best, and in what quantities, by giving them the choice. Find out for yourself what your breed needs particularly, but remember that wheat, oats and corn and greens, with occasional barley, are staple foods with the hen. If you want her to lay feed her meat at least thrice a week and green chopped bone every day.
Vegetables that grow under the soil need to be boiled for chickens' digestion—such as potatoes and their parings, turnips, etc.

The fowl is an omnivorous eater. If she roams promiscuously she will eat everything in sight, and the egg usually will taste of what she has devoured. The modern scientific way of feeding laying hens—as mentioned above—gives a fine, tasty flavor and plenty of "meat" to the egg, which is usually at its finest.

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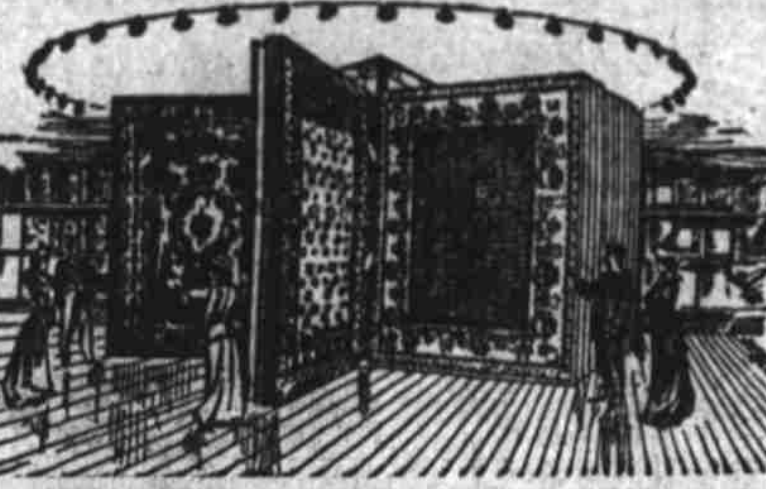
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