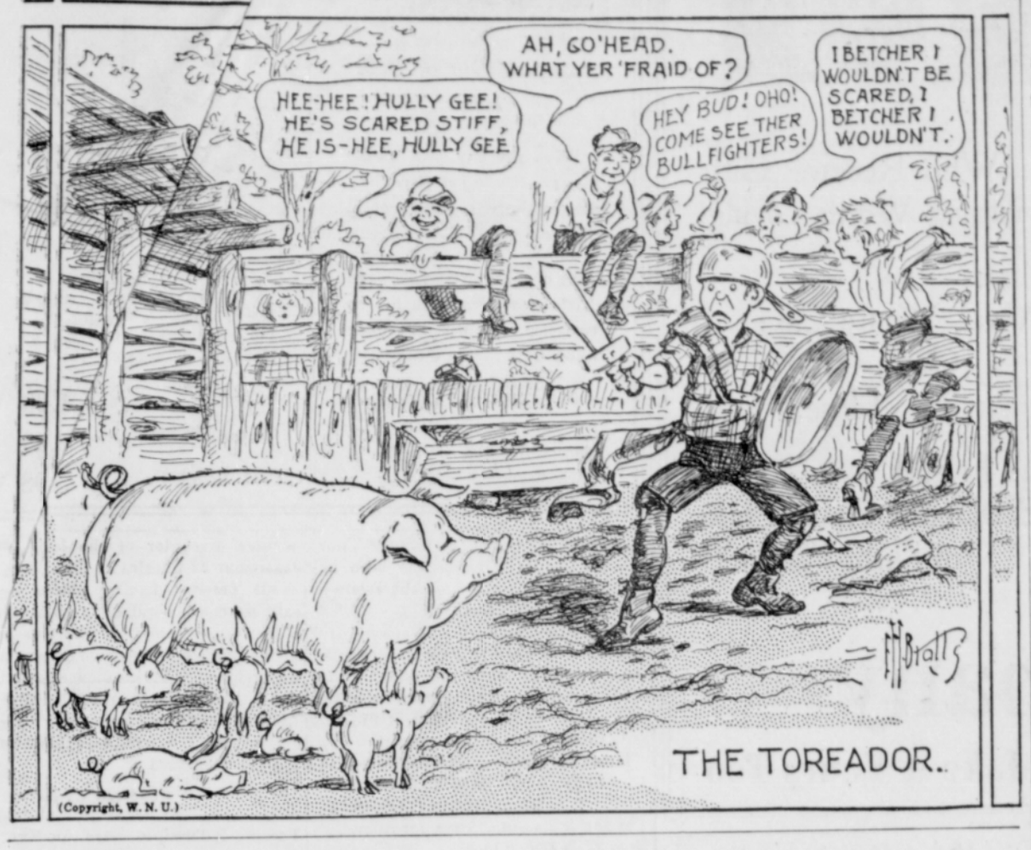
OUR COMIC SECTION

...ents in the Lives of Little Men



FINNEY OF THE FORCE — Finney Will Help the Next Effort

THE FEATHERHEADS — Felix Would Say "Help"

POULTRY

EARLIER HATCHED CHICKS FAVORED

Good Business to Have Good Laying Flock in Summer.

By hatching a part of the poultry flock between January 15 and February 15, so that the birds will mature in July, the poultryman takes a big step toward maintaining his late summer and early fall production, advises R. R. Hannas, poultry research specialist, in the New Jersey Agriculture.

Mr. Hannas points out that the price of eggs begins to climb as the summer wanes and that it is good business to have a flock of layers at this time. Ordinarily a decline in production takes place with the old fowls about July. If one-quarter to one-third of the flock is hatched between the middle of January and the middle of February the poultry keeper can offset this decrease.

The article goes on to say that brooding of chicks early in the season has been carried on successfully for a number of years. Chicks thus produced will reach a good growth and development before hot weather comes on, thereby giving them an advantage over later hatched stock.

One precaution, to prevent leg weakness, is advised. Because bad weather is likely to make it unsafe to let the chicks out on the ground and there is a lack of green food at this time, cod liver oil and sprouted oats should be supplied. The oil is given at the rate of 2 per cent either of the amount of grain or of the amount of mash fed. Experience has shown that it is easier to mix it into the grain, and that however used, it is highly effective in preventing leg weakness.

The writer concludes with the suggestion that the earlier hatching enables the general farmer to get this phase of his work out of the way before the heavy rush of spring arrives.

Crowded Conditions in Many Poultry Houses

A recent survey of a number of farms shows crowded conditions in the poultry houses. Many of these houses are almost wholly lacking in ventilation.

At night when one of these buildings is crowded with chickens the air is not fit to breathe. A human being will not remain long in such a place. If he did remain throughout the night, he would be "all in" by morning. And this is just the trouble with a lot of chickens now.

The chickens are badly crowded at night in a poorly-ventilated house. They are forced to breathe bad air. They become too warm. They are "all in" in the morning, and emerging into the cool outside air is a sudden change that many of them cannot withstand.

These crowded conditions at night and sudden changes from warm to cool air are responsible for many of our poultry ills. Giving the chickens medicine will not do any permanent good so long as the cause of the trouble remains unchanged. Either additional room should be provided or the size of the flock reduced.

Crooked Breast Bones Found in Chickens

Crooked breast bones may be caused by inbreeding and general debility, or may come from improper food and feeding, or poor management of some kind, writes Michael K. Boyer in the Farm and Ranch. There is no question about heredity being the fault, at least to a certain extent. That being the fact, it should be bred out, which might be done by the selection of only straight breast bone fowls for the breeding pen.

Lack of bone-making material in the feed of growing stock, which is the prime cause of leg weakness, has also the effect of producing crooked breast bones in young chickens.

There used to be a theory, which by many still is believed, that very early roosting of growing birds causes the soft breast bones to bend. This might be so in some instances, but does not hold good with the general run of stock.

Buying Pullets

Buying pullets by weight may be more satisfactory than buying entirely by age. April hatched pullets on insufficient rations may be of less value than May hatched pullets which have been properly fed and brooded. A May 1 pullet is much better than a May 30 pullet if the conditions have been equal. The later hatched chick has missed four fine weeks for the development of poultry meat, but the name of the month is not fully descriptive of quality.

Culling Farm Flock

There are two essentials in culling farm poultry. First, to get rid of hens that are not laying, and second, to distinguish between the hens that have been good producers and those that have not laid enough to pay for their feed. Culling should start in late May or June and continue throughout the year at regular intervals. Eliminating the hens as they become unprofitable saves feed and labor and improves the conditions for those that are laying.

DAIRY FACTS

EXPERIMENTS IN CATTLE FEEDING

Need Mineral Supplements With Poor Roughage.

When poor roughage is fed to dairy cows mineral supplements are shown to be necessary in a recent publication of the Wisconsin experiment station. Three cows fed on timothy hay, corn silage and a grain mixture were poor producers of milk. In addition they were slow to breed and when bred they tended to dry up from six weeks to two months earlier than three cows fed on alfalfa hay.

Another test on minerals showed that cows producing from 50 to 60 pounds of milk daily without direct exposure to sunlight were unable to maintain a calcium balance in their bodies even though the ration was otherwise adequate. When the cows were exposed to sunlight for six hours daily they decreased the loss of calcium from their bodies by 25 per cent.

In a comparison of soy bean hay versus alfalfa hay the cows produced approximately the same amount of butterfat and milk but the cows on soy bean hay gained only half as much body weight and wasted more of their hay. The results of this test, which does not check with tests run at some other stations, shows that soy bean hay was calculated to be worth 73 per cent as much as alfalfa hay.

In this connection it is interesting to note some experiments that were conducted in chopping alfalfa and soy bean hay. No advantage was noted in chopping alfalfa, but the cows wasted less of the soy bean hay. This caused the chopping to improve the value of soy bean hay by 23 per cent. These figures indicate that it may prove profitable to chop soy bean hay when used for feeding dairy cattle.

Modern Dairy Barn Must Have Good Ventilation

It must not be forgotten that each cow in the stable actually gives off from her breath alone about ten pounds of carbondioxide per day and over two gallons of water. Hence, it is perfectly obvious that in the modern dairy stable there must be some system whereby this used, moist, foul air may be regularly taken out of the stable and replaced by fresh air. During the winter months, the occasional opening of doors and windows will help but how often is this done during winter months, and needless to say it is never done during the night.

King and other authorities on stable ventilation have estimated that there should be a continual air flow through the stable at the rate of about 3,000 cubic feet per cow per hour. In other words, in a cow stable 36 feet by 50 feet with an 8-foot ceiling, there should be a sufficient flow of air so that one-quarter of the air would be replaced every hour or that the air be completely changed in the stable six times per day. If this were done by the opening of doors and windows, the resulting changes of temperatures, chills to the animals, etc., would obviously be courting disaster. Hence, a regular system whereby such a change of air will go on continuously and still allow the maintenance of uniform heat conditions, should be the ambition of every one installing a ventilation system.

Well Bred Calves Most Valuable Dairy Asset

Calves from low producing stock are worth little more than their value for veal, but those from high producing strains must be assigned much greater valuation, as they command excellent prices as breeding stock.

In the keeping of high producing animals there are, of course, added expenses such as increased depreciation and risk, increased labor in caring for the animals, and expenses of advertising and selling; but it will generally be found that the value of the calves produced from such stock will more than offset the added expense of raising them over and above that involved in the keeping of common stock.

Cold Hampers Cow

A high producing dairy cow cannot continue normal production if she is exposed to severe weather. It is, therefore, important if good yields are expected to hold up through the cold months, that all discomforts be eliminated. A comfortable cow will more than repay for added labor for her protection. Milk is 87 per cent water and a large part of this gets into the animal's system from the water trough.

Quarters for Cows

In addition to proper feeding, dairy cows will need good quarters if they are to produce maximum returns for their owners. Dairy cows do not have long hair or surplus fat to protect them from cold weather. They are more sensitive to cold winds, drafts and poor quarters than any other kind of farm live stock, unless it be the poultry. Warmth, comfort, ventilation and sanitation should receive consideration in fixing up the dairy barns or sheds for the winter months.

Artificial "Snow."

Once a novelty, "chemical snow" is now manufactured by the ton instead of by the ounce. It is increasingly used for refrigeration, for under certain conditions this substance is said to be 15 times as efficient as water ice. Ice cream, now shipped from New York to Cuba, weighs only one-third as much as it would if packed with ice.

Ocean's Treasures.

The ocean supplies important amounts of human food, of raw materials such as sharks' skins, oils from sea animals, furs, and materials obtainable from seaweed. If the human race were compelled to do so, it is probable that practically all our meat supplies could be obtained from the ocean, as well as a considerable part of our vegetable requirements.

Causes of Storms.

Electrical storms are generated by sudden or sharp changes in atmospheric temperature. Since the upper atmosphere is always cold, such changes are much less frequent in winter, when the temperature near the earth is also low. Hence, thunder and lightning are much more frequent in summer than in winter.

Bodily Heat Formation.

Heat is a form of molecular energy. According to the modern kinetic theory of heat, the molecules of all bodies are in a state of rapid vibration and any increase of the rapidity of this motion, from whatever cause, increases the heat of the body, while the heat is decreased if this velocity is diminished.

Lucky Individual.

The lucky ones seem to be always as if they just came into the world. . . . There is still in them something of Adam upon the first day: they reconnoiter, with shining eyes, the layout of the garden, and stare in admiration at such novel curiosities as the moon and stars.—C. E. Montague.

Fond of Animals.

Ezra, the janitor, found occasion to make himself quite busy in the office during a business session of the stockholders of the firm. After their departure he said to the manager of the business: "Boss, you mind showing me that white elephant I heard you all say you got?"

Snails in Hibernation.

Snails dig themselves into the ground in winter and remain torpid, cementing the opening to their shells. They breathe through a small hole in the "cement," too small to allow the entrance of water, but large enough to let air in.

Danger in Eloquence.

"Eloquence," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "is a gift of the gods, to be used with discretion. It causes an error of statement to be remembered beyond the power even of eloquence to correct it."—Washington Star.

The First Lottery.

The earliest known lottery was drawn at Bruges on February 24, 1446. The late state lottery in England was drawn on October 18, 1826, at Coopers hall, London, in Basinghall street.

Pedestrian Liveliness.

The automobile industry, we read, is growing by leaps and bounds, and if you want to know whose leaps and bounds, just stand on a street corner and take a good look.—New York Evening Post.

Italian Art.

The earliest period of Italian art is called the Gothic (about 1250-1400); that from 1400-1500 Early Renaissance; that from 1500 to 1600 the High Renaissance; after that the Decadence.

Color and Sound.

It is said that at least 2 per cent of human beings associate a particular color with each sound they hear and sometimes this extends to the names of days of the week.

Sugar-Coated.

"I want a little pink tablet," said the customer in the drug store. "What's your trouble?" "I want to write a letter," explained the customer.—Capper's Weekly.

His Dear Departed.

A Berlin husband advertises his matrimonial troubles in a local paper: "My pious faithful wife has departed from me. Will the honorable finder please keep?"