

POULTRY RAISING HAS BRIGHT FUTURE

By E. L. THORPE.

Up to ten years ago the person who went into the poultry and egg production on a scale involving as much as \$500 usually went broke or quit the business while his credit was good. At least that was the experience in eastern Multnomah, despite the great Portland market so close at hand. It is vastly different now, for the business of producing eggs has been pretty thoroughly learned and there are chicken farms of varying sizes all over the territory surrounding Portland for a distance of twenty miles around and everyone is a money-maker.

While the success attendant upon the business has been due in a sense to education, the reason for success is partially due to the growth of a good market and the high prices that have prevailed for the past three years. To these have been coupled the association idea and better strains for egg production.

The first real commercial egg farm in eastern Multnomah was started just twenty years ago on the Base Line road near Russellville. It was established on a large scale and had every advantage known to the business at that time. Many persons will remember the Mt. Hood poultry ranch, with its fine houses, incubators and breeding pens. Its owner raised White Wyandottes and conducted his business on a large scale—but he went broke.

The second venture of large dimensions was that of the late H. R. Winchell. His pens were located at the corner of Powell street and Cleveland avenue in Gresham on a four-acre tract. It is now another poultry farm owned and operated by Miss Lucy Adams, but she has been more successful. When Mr. Winchell was at the crest of his venture eggs were selling somewhere around 15 cents a dozen in the spring and early summer and he set out to produce 40-cent eggs during the winter months. He achieved the result he looked for, and was beginning to grasp the right idea, but he failed to make the business pay and gave it up.

A few years later three other well-known poultrymen began the experiment and made it pay after several years of hard work and many disappointments. These men are A. H. Dowsett, H. W. Cooley and A. R. Lyman. Their ultimate success stimulated the business and others began to follow them, and now there are probably a hundred poultry farms in this section all of which are successful on varying scales.

Success in the business was as-

sured when the White Leghorn became the standard. Before that time nearly everyone was sure that the heavier breeds were the best. But the little Leghorn made the business an assured success—coupled with the other facts that there was a growing market right at home and a knowledge of how to handle it and the other details of the business.

It has been said—and it is a present fact—that a person in other lines of farming never made the poultry business pay. The old barnyard flock exists mostly as a flock of scavengers and only furnishes fowls and eggs for the farmer's table. Even now it is often heard that a farmer gets no eggs for five months in a year. He takes revenge on his flock by serving the hens on his table during the fall and winter and then hatches out a new supply of chicks in the spring to repeat the operation. He doesn't understand chickens, but keeps them going on in the old way just to have his waste feed eaten and, in turn, to eat all but a few surplus eggs and the flock along with them when they have quit laying.

Egg production is a trade that anyone may learn. The novice must start at the bottom, however, and build up, for it is so easy to get swamped unless the beginner has a good salary or reserve funds to carry him along for two or three years. A person with ample capital may start in on any scale commensurate with his financial ability if he knows how to handle the flocks—and he will make money in proportion to the amount he spends as first cost even to doubling his money the second year under normal conditions and an even break of good luck.

Here in Gresham, which little town has already earned the title of "The Petaluma of Oregon," the poultry business has grown wonderfully in the past two years. Surrounding the town and inside of the corporate limits are probably a hundred poultry farms of varying sizes of from one hundred to sixteen hundred hens. About twenty-five of the poultrymen have formed a local association and practically all of its members have become members of the state association with headquarters at Corvallis. Association eggs are all shipped to Portland consigned to a wholesale house and the money for the eggs comes back promptly, the prices being better than could be had in any other method of selling—besides the pay is clean cash and not trade at a grocery store. This method of selling eggs gives the producer money with which to buy his feed and other poultry

supplies and get better prices quoted him than if it were a trade of eggs for store goods. And he probably buys most of what he needs from the same stores that formerly took his produce. It is the opinion of every association member that he makes more money on the present basis than if he should have to find his own market. Besides he is more independent. He pays a small commission, it is true, but he has a ready market and could not dispose of his products alone for what it costs him. He saves a vast amount of time and never loses a bad debt—and he never has to hunt for a customer at any time. The association does everything for the member at a minimum cost except to produce the products of the poultry yard.

Statistics are not readily available, as every poultry man is secretive. Yet he welcomes a new producer in his midst because a large number of egg producers means a better trade. As one poultryman expressed it, "It is better to have a thousand poultry farms here than to be the sole proprietor of a farm with fifty thousand hens."

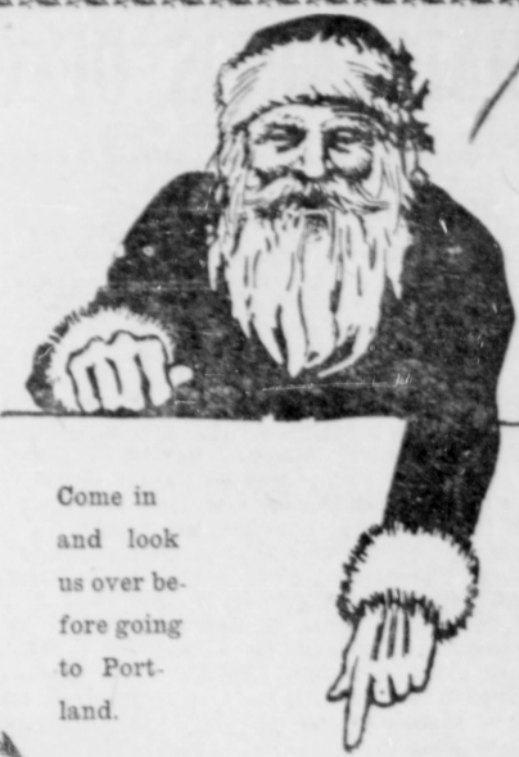
There is some divergence of strains, practically all the best laying strains being represented here. Every poultryman tries to get the best and cross strains are many, but the present tendency is to get away from all other kinds in favor of the O. A. C. stock. Within two or three years scarcely any other strain will be seen here.

Concerning profits not much is known except that all who have produced eggs have made money. Exact figures from but one poultry farm are available. And that one is not one of the best. For the past year ending October 1, the owner kept but 270 hens, yet from that number he took in the sum of \$1627. That meant an average laying yield of 142 eggs per hen which netted a fraction over \$6 for each bird, at a little over 50 cents per dozen for the whole year. It took about one-half of the revenue to maintain the flock for the same period. One person can easily take care of 1000 hens and brood a new flock for the next year. Taking the above figures he would clear about \$3000 a year. With a flock of better hens his earnings would be increased.

Of course, an equipment is necessary. Five acres of land and the necessary houses are needed for 1000 hens as a first cost which would be an investment and a person must have that much property to get into a revenue of \$3000 a year. If he knows the business he could safely invest the money all at one time and begin making money the first year. If he has no knowledge of the game he had better start with two dozen hens and build up; but in that case he must have a little bunch of money or a steady salary for at least

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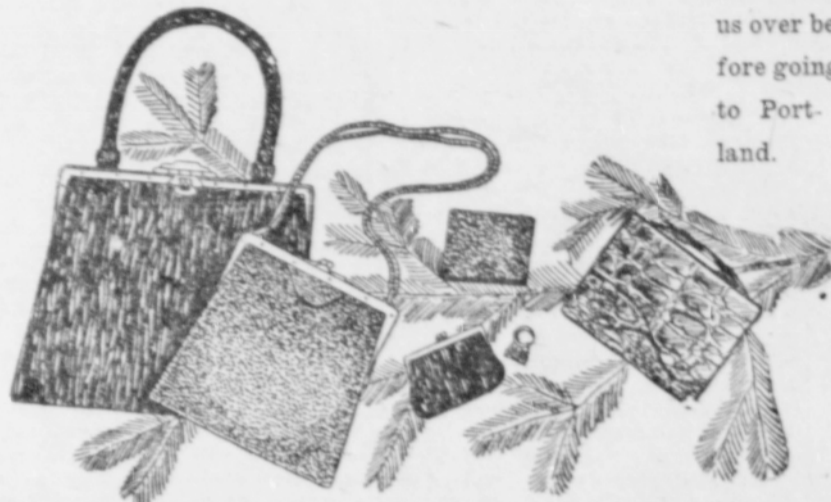
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two years. In either case he might not like the business and if he has but a little invested he could get out from under without much loss.

The poultry business has come to stay and in this vicinity is soon to be one of the leading industries. It requires a liking for the work and is a steady grind for, like cows, hens require looking after all the time. There is a whole lot to learn about the business and no one person can know it all even after years of experience. There are different phases of the business, incubating and brooding being the most important. But an egg producer need not go into the incubating division for he can buy the baby chicks and just raise his own flock. To do that and raise his pullets is enough.

YOUNG POULTRYMEN HAVE EXHIBIT AT SHOW

Three eastern Multnomah boys will exhibit eggs at the poultry show which opened Tuesday in the Portland auditorium. They are Carl Zimmerman, Gresham; Allen Siedl, Buckley school, and James Grubbs of Parkrose, who was the winner of the state championship in Division I at the State Fair last September. They are each exhibiting one dozen eggs in the club work division of the show. It was necessary for the county club members to furnish at least ten exhibits to compete for the special prize of a trio of purebred Rhode Island Reds which will be awarded the winner of the contest. Portland is to furnish eight exhibits and Multnomah three.

Carl Zimmerman thinks that hens needs educating as well as the public for they are not in the habit of laying perfect eggs and he found some difficulty in selecting a dozen perfect eggs from the 200 on hand.

While perfect size and shape is desirable for the chicken fancier, quantity is more to be desired by the average citizen just at present, with prices soaring toward the dollar mark.

The general public will be very much interested in viewing the famous White Leghorn hen who is credited with a record of 330 eggs in 365 days. This hen is owned by Dr. Tancred of Kent, Washington, and has set a world's record for production of eggs. She will be exhibited by one of the poultry feed companies but her owner only consented to this after a \$5000 insurance policy was issued on her life. She has laid just about four eggs to the average hen's one, so her value in the poultry world can be readily seen.

Then there is the man whose chief aim in life is to be named on as many committees as possible.



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CHERUBS GAMBOL IN HEAVEN'S COURT

By DR. C. E. CLINE.

Few parents there are but have one or more little ones in heaven. Often we wonder how they are cared for there, and what they do. Are they in some great nursery till they grow larger, with guardians over them, as orphans are cared for in an orphan's home here?

By no means. They are heavenly cherubs, delightfully self-sufficient. They give tone and joy to every thing in the glorified realms. They invade the inner courts of heaven and are so numerous that St. Peter and Luther fall over them, much to their amusement.

They seat themselves astride of clouds; some fall off, causing great merriment among the others. One cherub bumps his head against a cloud and howls till all paradise turns to look at what has happened. Tears start from his eyes which he rubs with his chubby fists as he sticks out one foot trying to kick another one, who hadn't a thing to do with the accident.

One is blowing a horn in another's ear as the latter is tickling another's foot with a straw.

They require no care as babies do. They carry scrolls and manuscripts for John Wesley and Bishop Foster, point out great folks for newcomers, feed birds, assist the Apostles, act as ushers, make wreaths to put on Lusanah Wesley's head for the famous children she raised.

They have no wings, and yet they soar and fly like the albatros. They are well nourished and need nothing, not even caressing. They mix in everywhere, great flights of them go riding on clouds. Away, away they go right up into the blue dome of heaven, and as you look up a tinge of sorrow comes over you. They are all going away, and what if they should never come back? Looking up at that vanishing cloud of little perfectly formed bare-legs, it seems that heaven is about to suffer a great loss. But soon the heavenly sky is filled with lovely forms coming, coming back, and soon they are again every where.

Your's, dear mother, is among them. Would you, if you could have that one return to this earthly life of sorrow and sin? "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

T. R. Howitt is recovering his strength at his home, where he has been for several weeks under treatment for small pox and following a serious operation. The quarantine was removed about two weeks ago and one nurse has been dismissed. Mr. Howitt has had a desk phone installed in his room and is now able to keep in touch with his stock farm and his wholesale meat business in Portland.

When they ceased cranking automobiles, profanity dropped off twenty-five per cent but high gasoline prices have brought the percentage back to normal.

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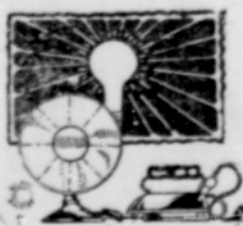
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