

SQUAB INDUSTRY PROFITABLE ONE FOR SOUTHERN OREGON

Here, on the west coast, the business of producing squabs for the market has been overlooked. Few industries in the eastern and southern states have made such rapid growth during the last five years as has the squab industry.

There are fourteen different publications devoted exclusively to the pigeon in circulation throughout the United States. Pigeon clubs and squab associations are springing up everywhere.

Pigeons are poultry and it is full time that we poultry men of the Rogue River valley realize the opportunities for us in this branch of the poultry business. In the east the demand for dressed squabs always exceeds the supply. As for the west, Seattle is crying for squabs. The squab-eating public of Portland and Tacoma pay as high as \$6 and \$7 per dozen during the winter months. The hotels scattered through Idaho and Montana pay \$5, and \$6 for cold-storage squabs shipped from the Central States. There are a few large plants in California, but even in California the market is never glutted.

The business of producing market squabs is not only fascinating, but when properly handled, with sufficient attention to details, is the most profitable branch of the poultry industry.

Approximately six months is required to develop a laying hen. Pigeons are often mated and hard at work at four months. A hen's period of usefulness is seldom more than two years. Pigeons are in their prime at two years and have been known to pay dividends when twenty years old. I might offer apologies to the hen, but that is not necessary, for the two work together. Every squab plant should be equipped with a meat grinder and enough hens to use to advantage the refuse from the slaughter pen.

This valley and all of southern Oregon is ideal as a location for the squab business. The pigeons are hardy and cheerfully adjust themselves to extreme climatic conditions. They prefer a moderate climate, with lots of sunshine and verve in the air.

Building materials are comparatively cheap here, and, since we are not compelled to combat low temperatures, a satisfactory building can be constructed at the reasonable cost of \$3 per running foot. Our experience teaches that each running foot will accommodate three pairs of breeders.

Another great advantage of this locality is that we can supply the working birds with pine needles in abundance. The birds use these needles in building their nests and seem to prefer them to anything else. The needles have a resinous odor which acts as a repellent to vermin.

Pigeons are strictly vegetarian. The greater variety of grains and the more often the change of mixtures the more acceptable it is to the birds. Wheat, sunflowers, corn, kaffir, millet, peas, beans and numerous other pigeon grains can be grown in this part of the state successfully.

The prospective squab grower should educate himself regarding food value of different grains. The department of agriculture at Washington, D. C., will send you for the asking data giving relative food values of pigeon grains. Pigeons need grains rich in protein and rich in oil. Sunflowers are rich in oil and conditions in this valley are peculiarly adapted to their culture.

Analyses of some of the principal pigeon grains and seeds, taken from reports of the United States department of agriculture:

	Carbohydrates	Protein	and fats.
Corn	16.5	83.0	
Wheat	11.8	78.5	
Rice, hulled	7.4	80.3	
Kaffir	9.9	83.0	
Millet	11.8	75.0	
Peas	24.6	64.2	
Soy beans	34.0	71.5	

There are a few squab raisers scattered over southern Oregon, but most of these are simply raising birds for home consumption or pleasure, or a combination of the two. I will not say that every one can make a success of commercial squab raising, but I do say that there is a good chance for a large number of people to do a profitable business along this line. So let's take the hint and raise more squabs and better squabs. And let's get together, for by working individually there is too much duplication and wasted energy. By working together we can get cheaper supplies and we can handle the distribution problem better.

The psychological moment has come. The market is receptive and ready to pay well for our product. The poultry men of the valley have already formed what will be known as the Southern Oregon Poultry association for the purpose of holding an annual poultry show and improving

CIVIC FEDERATION REFORM PLAYTHING FOR THE IDLE RICH

By GILSON GARDNER. WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—The National Civic Federation has been holding its annual meeting in Washington. This is the organization which has made reform a respectable and safe avocation for the idle rich. Seth Low is its president and Ralph Easley its secretary. Twenty years ago the idea of making reform respectable and safe had its birth in Chicago in the office of Lyman J. Gage, president of the First National bank of that city, and subsequently, secretary of the treasury under the McKinley administration. The idea was communicated to a young newspaperman, Ralph M. Easley, who became the organization's first secretary, and who later nationalized the movement. Mr. Gage was its first president.

No Real Reforms
The civic federation is characterized chiefly by what it does not reform. It does not reform the tax system because many of its members and largest contributors are those who benefit by the unfairness in the present system; it does not reform land ownership because many of them are the greatest landowners; it does not reform trusts, because institutions like the shoe machinery trust find representation among its officers; it does not reform unemployment and poverty because many of its largest financial backers and controllers are themselves large employers of labor and beneficiaries of the present industrial system which makes poverty and unemployment inevitable.

At its meeting here the association went on record at once in favor of big preparedness of the Navy league brand, with fat contracts in the background, and failed to mention government manufacture of munitions.

Nice Essays Read
Nice essays were read, one on preparedness by Seth Low, one on "our flag" by Maudie Wetmore, daughter of Rhode Island's sometime reactionary and very wealthy senator; a nice piece by William G. Mather was read about how kind employers make their workmen contented by so-called "welfare work," which consists in supplying drinking water, toilets and gardens, and encouraging the planting of pansies on the window sills of the lowly; another piece was contributed on "why poor people are sick," by the facile and popular Dr. Woods Hutchinson. The subject of immigration, which supplies a fresh volume of labor to employers annually, was lightly touched upon by Jeremiah Jenks.

The National Civic Federation is given a complexion of radicalism by including among its membership Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and John Mitchell, who for a number of years found more congenial occupation as a paid lecturer for this association than in stirring up strikes among the Pennsylvania miners.

Mr. Easley is a genius at securing harmless publicity for well-to-do people who otherwise would not figure in the newspapers.

The date of the first show will be February 9-12, inclusive.

Now, pigeon people, let us show our enthusiasm and promote the industry by putting the best of our birds on exhibition.

Let's make our display so large and attractive that it will be the main feature of the show.

CAROLL E. CARPENTER.

ITCHING ECZEMA IS A CONSTANT BLOOD CRY

The Blood Reaches Every Part of the Body Every Twelve Seconds.

There are approximately 75,000,000 pores in the skin of a human body. These pores connect with the blood channels by means of little canals. These canals are sometimes filled with poisons and the skin scales and blisters, gets red and raw and becomes like so much tissue fire. Nerves do not reach the source of the trouble. To make the blood pure is the only scientific method of relief. S. S. S. is the greatest blood purifier because it is a natural one. There is no mineral of any sort in it. It is purely vegetable. So great is the fame of S. S. S. that many substitutes trail along in various sections of the country. They all sooner or later die a natural death. S. S. S. builds up weak and acid blood, gives prompt relief to almost every case of eczema, winter itches and other skin maladies. You owe yourself the duty of trying a bottle of S. S. S. Take no substitutes. Write for our free book on skin diseases. Confidential letters replied to by our Medical expert. Write Swift Specific Co., Department 32, Atlanta, Ga.

William Farnum PAGE TODAY

WHY SATURATED SOIL YIELDS LESS THAN MOIST LAND

By W. W. WATSON. A farmer who has been intensively cultivating a small acreage which he can irrigate the greater part of the growing season, since a creek courses through it as long as the moisture in the hills will feed it, has observed an interesting condition arising from the fact that he can irrigate half of it much more copiously than the remaining half. He finds that the three acres he has been keeping saturated all of the time because it is convenient to do so, generally produces less than the other half, which receives less water. Without desiring to be named and quoted, he asks why this result is obtained.

I am pleased to answer his question, because it presents one of the most important phases of artificial irrigation of crops. This farmer uses too much water on the first half of his acreage. He may have reached that conclusion, based on his observations, but he doesn't know why it is so.

Soil Nutrients Needed
Growing plants immediately draw upon the water added to the soil by irrigation or rain. That is the reason for their reviving so quickly after water has been applied when the soil has become too dry. But, if the water has not remained in the soil long enough to permit it to absorb soil nutrients, the soil moisture films cannot distribute the plant food. The chemical combinations are formed quickly, but the moisture films about the soil grains are heavy because of the excessive saturation. That fact explains why the percentage of plant food is not sufficient to give the growing plant permanent vitality, although it may cause it to show abnormal top growth. The soil nutrients have not had time to be distributed freely in the solution; hence, it is a very dilute form of plant food.

The optimum point of saturation is that at which the soil is just wet enough to be cultivated easily; just wet enough to saturate the soil grains sufficiently to dissolve the nutrients on which the plant feeds, thus filling the moisture films full of plant food and enabling the plants to obtain a strong, vitalizing diet.

Continuous Saturation
The inquirer in this case evidently kept his soil on the one side of the stream saturated beyond the optimum point, thus feeding his garden plants on that tract a weak diet. Excessive degree of saturation also carries a large percentage of the soil nutrients down into the soil so far that they are out of reach of the plant roots. The reasons for an unsatisfactory product from soil maintained throughout the season in such a wet condition are apparent. The growth of root crops, including potatoes, carrots and beets, is ruined by that process. Potatoes and carrots will be small and flavorless. Beets may grow to a large size, but they will contain only a small content of saccharine substance, rendering them practically valueless commercially.

The other half of the tract in question was fortunate to escape the abuse of privilege by the irrigator. It was kept practically at the optimum point of saturation, in which condition it was easy to keep it in proper tith. In that condition, also, the released plant food was evenly distributed

WILLIAM FARNUM IN "THE WONDERFUL ADVENTURE," AT PAGE



In this, one of the most startling and intense William Fox photoplays supreme ever released, William Farnum, America's greatest actor, appears in a dual role.

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ated through the soil affected and held for use as the growing crop needed it. **For Cultural Operations** Every farmer should (and most farmers do) understand from direct examination just when his soil is in proper condition to plow or cultivate otherwise. Below the depth of the cultivation the per cent of moisture is much greater. It should be, when irrigation is properly applied. Storage of moisture in the soil is a very important feature of irrigation. It is one of the chief values of the uses of water in that manner. The cause of the heavy losses by drought last year in this valley is found in the fact that there was no moisture stored away in the ground. The growing crops had nothing to draw on, after the top soil became dry. Not enough moisture fell in the annual precipitation to saturate the lower strata of

soil from which the crops draw their vitality when the moisture produces the necessary combinations to make plant food. The tendency of soil moisture is upward when the top soil is dry. It is always busy in establishing its proper equilibrium. But, if there be no moisture there, there is no stored plant food for the crops to draw from. When the condition is reversed, the top soil being saturated all of the time, there is no tendency of moisture upward; hence, the soil nutrients in the top soil being consumed, the supply is exhausted, so far as the growing crop is concerned. It must exist, therefore, on a "milk-and-water diet."

Let me again remind the farmers of this valley that there is no storage of moisture in the lower soil strata of their fields this year—and the prospect is that there will be none, without irrigation.

A Food Fact to Remember

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GIGANTIC RAID ON PUBLIC LAND SOUGHT IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Fourteen bills seeking to reverse the conservation policy and to grant free to states lands now in federal ownership have already been introduced in the senate. They would alienate from public ownership thirty million acres of public lands. One alone (introduced by Senator Key Pittman of Nevada) contemplates the free gift to Nevada of seven million acres of public lands for the benefit of public schools. Nevada has already received 2,723,647 acres of public lands for sustaining its schools and other public institutions. In addition, the federal government appropriates \$50,000 a year for the agricultural colleges in each state. Senator Smaot wants one million acres for Utah; Senator Warren of Wyoming wants a million acres each for Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming; Senator Pittman wants another two million acres for Nevada; Senator Shafroth wants another million for Colorado from "any lands that belong to the United States within such state, whether such lands be within or without the forest reserves," and Senator Smith wants to grant to Arizona a modest five million acres for building roads, highways and bridges. The Pittman bill giving away seven million acres, is now in debate in the senate. Should it pass it would serve as a precedent for the passage of others.

Sir: My wife told a friend (?) the other night that when she (wife) sings, tears fill her eyes. "My dear," said the friend, "you really should stuff cotton in your ears!"—Orville.

"CASCARETS" BEST IF HEADACHY, BILIOUS, SICK, CONSTIPATED

Best for Liver and Bowels, Bad Breath, Bad Colds, Sour Stomach

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