

The Call of the Home

By MILES CANNON, Director of Farm Economics, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

On January 1, 1923, there were 438,000,000 chickens in the United States, valued at approximately \$400,000,000. The annual production of chicken eggs is estimated at 1,700,000,000 dozen. The average farm price of dressed poultry during the years 1913 to 1922, inclusive, was approximately 17 1/2¢ per pound, fluctuating not to exceed two cents per pound during the twelve months of the year. For the same period the lowest average farm price for eggs per dozen was 24.6¢ for the month of July, and the highest 45.4¢ for December.

The United States exports annually approximately 13,000,000 dozen eggs and imports 3,000,000 dozen and 27,000,000 pounds of dried, frozen and egg albumen. There are held in cold storage during the month of August approximately 10,000,000 cases of eggs, which by March are reduced to as low as 13,000 cases. The cold storage holdings of poultry in 1922 reached 103,000,000 pounds as against 32,000,000 pounds in 1917.

In the preceding article we were discussing the merits of this industry as related to the ordinary water users on government reclamation projects. A close investigation develops some very interesting facts. As noted by Mr. Shepard, we hear considerable noise along the lines of other agricultural industries, but little or nothing about the poultry grower. It may be illuminating therefore, to compare this line of activity with the sheep industry, with which almost everyone is familiar.

Sheep Value Stated.
According to the census of 1920 there were in the United States 35,000,000 head of sheep, valued at \$295,000,000. To this we would add the wool production, about 229,000,000 pounds, with a valuation of \$120,000,000, giving us a total valuation for the sheep industry of \$515,000,000.

000,000. The same authority gives the valuation for the chickens raised that year (1919) at \$386,240,357, and the egg production at \$661,082,803, total \$1,047,323,170. In other words, including chickens only, the poultry industry of this country is shown to be \$532,900,000 more than the sheep and wool industry combined.

Of the total source of farmers' food supplies in the United States eggs and poultry constitute less than 3%. It is safe to assume from the foregoing that the poultry industry during the next decade will assume large proportions and this line of production is well worth the consideration of progressive farmers at the present time. The problem is, how may a man of limited means get into the poultry business?

From the experiences which have been supplied the Department it would seem that poultry is being confined quite generally to the 40-acre farm and the character of the industry necessarily connects it very closely with a system of diversified production. Alfalfa hay and grain seem to be necessary and through the medium of these crops, poultry is closely related to the production of other profitable lines, such as lambs and dairy cattle.

Example Is Cited.
As an example of what industry and good management may accomplish even in these trying times we introduce the experience of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Russell of Meridian, Idaho, (Boise project) in 1917 they purchased an 80-acre tract of sagebrush land but soon after reduced it to 40 acres. Their capital consisted of \$500 down payment on the land and sufficient means to purchase a team, cow and a small amount of equipment, but not enough to build a home so they were compelled to rent a small house on an adjacent farm. During 1923 their six acres were

cropper, producing 24 tons of alfalfa, 2 tons of clover hay, 43 bushels of clover seed, 160 bushels of barley, 106 bushels of wheat, and considerable pasture. A family garden and orchard provided a large share of the actual living expenses. All of the crops raised, with the exception of the clover seed, were fed on the place to livestock and poultry.

They started the season of 1923 with 300 purebred English White Leghorn chickens. The receipts from eggs, baby chicks and cockerles amounted to somewhat more than \$1,000 net. In addition, they had 5 milk cows, 2 heifers, and a team. The cream checks, receipts from the sale of the clover seed, etc., brought the gross returns to over \$3,500 and, after deducting all expenses, taxes and overhead, the total net return was about \$2,000.

They now have a 7-room modern house with full basement, equipped with electricity, furnace, pressure water system and bath; a good water supply from a 285-ft. well; a well-built barn which provides room for

20 head of stock and storage for about 40 tons of hay; a modern poultry house with floor space of 1152 feet; and a combination garage and granary.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell attribute their success to industry and the Call of the Home.

NOTICE

Complaints of non-delivery of The Evening Herald should be telephoned to the Herald office, Phone No. 88, before 8 o'clock p. m. A special messenger boy will be dispatched with the missing copy if this is done.

Do your own proposing. If you must, girls, but for a man, it takes all the thrill out of hunting to have the bird come right up and stick its little head in the muzzle of the gun.

Liberty Picture Star Talks About Husbands

"Women Men Marry" Will Be Shown Here Starting With Today

Florence Dixon who in company with a galaxy of stars, shines brilliantly in "Women Men Marry" Edward Dillon's epoch making photo production which is to hold the place of honor on the screen of the popular Liberty theatre, says that working under Mr. Dillon in this remarkable picture has given her an entirely new slant on the masculine portion of the world.

Miss Dixon who has not as yet taken unto herself a husband thinks that marriage is a wonderful thing

and yet so dangerous that she feels she will never muster up courage to take the fatal step.

"Perhaps I am an idealist," says Miss Dixon, "and perhaps I would ask too much from the man into whose hands I would be entrusting my happiness and honor. Yet I realize how great the joy must be to know that in this world with its myriads of people there is some one who is living in unalloyed thought and deed for me. That is my idea and perhaps I would be too exacting in my demands from a mere man."

"Mr. Dillon's picture 'Women Men Marry' goes into the subject more deeply and also more delightfully than I could ever do. I wonder how he can know so much about

matrimony, for you know he is still only a lonely good looking young bachelor."

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- William's Barber Bar 2 for 25c
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