

DO HENS PAY? WHY? HOW?

TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE TRY TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.

A Contest From Which Much Valuable Information About Poultry is Expected—City Men in It as Well as Farmers—Value of the Poultry of the United States.

Nearly ten thousand persons in this country have recently entered a contest the object of which is to answer three apparently very simple little questions. The questions are: Do hens pay? If so, why? and how? The man, woman or child who can answer these three questions and demonstrate the correctness of his answers in the briefest yet complete fashion will on April 1, 1901, be entitled to something like \$500 in gold and may also obtain some of about two thousand special prizes offered by various individuals and firms that have become interested in the contest. The conditions of the contest have been arranged so that the city man who keeps hens in his back yard has an equal chance for first honors with the man who makes his living by raising poultry on a farm. In fact, under the conditions a man with three birds may compete on even terms with the man who owns 3,000 and furthermore a man who loses money on his chickens during the time he is competing may still win the cash and special prizes, providing his system of recording his methods and the results of putting them in operation is better than that of some other man whose benefits have been greater.

The contest is one of a series having to do with the various phases of the farmer's life that have been conducted by the American Agriculturist. A few years ago the proprietors of this paper undertook to collect some statistics that would give an adequate idea of the number of fowls in this country, the number of eggs produced in the course of a year and the value of both fowls and eggs. The figures obtained were rather startling, but there was no reason to doubt their accuracy, for they were the result of statistics sent in by thousands of correspondents in hundreds of different localities and were compiled with the greatest care. The figures showed 383,000,000 fowls in this country in the year 1896; the number of eggs produced, reckoned in dozens, was 1,141,000,000, and the value of it all in dollars was \$34,000,000. These figures showed an increase of about 33-1/3 per cent over 1880 and of almost 200 per cent over 1860. At the present time they figure the number of fowls at 500,000,000, which, with their product for the year 1900, represent a total value, it is estimated, of more than \$40,000,000. The figures given for the year 1896 were reached on the basis of an average valuation for chickens of 50 cents each; for turkeys, ducks and geese of \$1 each and for eggs of 12 cents a dozen. Considering the large amount of money invested in breeds of fancy strains throughout the country, which do considerable to bring up the average value of barnyard fowls, together with the relatively higher values of both poultry and eggs in producing regions adjacent to large cities, these figures are regarded as conservative.

For many years the editor of the American Agriculturist has invited correspondence on the subject of poultry raising. The best methods of raising fowls and the easiest way of making them pay, have been discussed at length in the columns of the paper, and of course there have been conflicting opinions. The Western farmers have pointed out methods to their brethren in the East, which have caused the Easterners to write humorous letters about the farmers of the West. Then the Westerners have said things about their Eastern critics, while the Southern poultry raisers have taken full advantage of each. (And in the meantime each man has raised his fowls in his own way, satisfied that that particular way was the best. The present contest has grown out of this discussion, and although April 1st was decided upon as the time for the beginning of records, more than 3,000 poultry raisers had entered their names in the contest on March 1st. Some idea of the amount of interest taken in the contest can be gathered from the fact that there are now almost 10,000 contestants, and more names are being entered every day. Among them are city and country raisers in every state in the union, in all parts of Canada, and even in Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, England and Australia. The greatest number of contestants are farmers, but among those who are striving for the prizes are many poultry specialists, who raise fine birds for amusement and with no idea of profit. In speaking of the contest and what led up to it one of the editors of the American Agriculturist said:

"Poultry is raised on every farm, on most village homesteads and on countless city lots, to say nothing of city cellars and back yards. So great is the interest in it and so vast the amount of money invested, that we regard the industry as one of the great American industries. Now we have an idea that it pays to raise poultry. But we don't know how profitable it is, and we want to know. Still less is the general knowledge of how to manage poultry on either a large or a small scale, so as to get the biggest profits with the least trouble and expense. This is a vital problem which we are going to try and solve. We expect that the inducements that we have offered will result in one grand effort on the part of those interested in poultry raising, to find out how much profit there is in the business, and how the profit may be increased. On our part we have headed the prize list with \$500 in gold, and in addition we have set aside \$2,500 for the expense of running the contest and for collating and publishing the result. Hundreds of other prizes have been contributed by individuals and firms. Some are money prizes, but for the most part they are articles of value to persons interested in poultry raising.

"The first prize will be awarded for the record that shows most clearly and accurately just how the contestant has managed fowls during one year, the product obtained and how disposed of, the cost of making and marketing such product and the resulting profit or loss. The prize is not for the biggest profit. It is for the most accurate record of methods and results. A report that shows a loss may win over a less carefully kept one that shows a profit. There is no incentive to lie, to misrep-

resent or to be careless and every reason for a contestant to be absolutely truthful.

"We are greatly pleased by the character of the contestants. We made a special effort to get city raisers as well as farmers in and have met with great success. Among the contestants are dozens who raise poultry in the most crowded localities in large cities, others who keep hens in their cellars or back yards and one man who raises his birds in an old horse car that he bought for \$5 and converted into a hen house. When all of these poultry raisers get through telling us their experiences, we will be able to give the world some valuable contributions to poultry literature."

In addition to the \$500 in gold, which the contestants are to strive for, there are these other incentives to energy on the part of the poultry raisers: 2,167 prizes of cash, birds, eggs, poultry food, books, subscriptions, etc., valued at \$3,000, and a grand sweepstakes prize of \$200 in gold. The regular prizes are \$100, \$50, \$25, \$15, \$10 and twenty prizes of \$5 each.

THE BELGIAN HARE

INDUSTRY IS BEING INTRODUCED IN THIS STATE.

Salem Will Be the Headquarters of the New Business—Prof. Early Makes the Start.

Probably a good many of the Statesman's readers are aware of the fact that there is a Belgian hare boom in California. It started in Los Angeles but has now spread to all parts of the Golden State. Some years ago the first of these animals were imported, and the industry was started in California's Southern metropolis. High prices were paid for the pure-bred stock. It was not long until a boom was on in the industry and rabbits were started by people in all grades of society. Now there are hundreds of persons engaged in the industry in and near Los Angeles, and thousands throughout the state. Every principal California newspaper has many advertisements of the breeders, and it seems that everybody wants rabbits, and those who can afford them, the pure-bred and high priced ones. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are invested already. Recently a rabbit show was held in Los Angeles which was the biggest thing of the kind ever held.

There is a prospect that the rabbit boom is going to come north, and that Salem will be the headquarters of the industry for the Northwest. Several weeks ago the Meadow Brook Belgian Hare Company, of Los Angeles, made arrangements with Prof. J. B. Early, whose farm is about six miles east of Salem, to open a branch for the Northwest. This is the greatest Belgian hare company in the world. They shipped to Mr. Early a number of the Belgians for a start, and he now has about fifty on his farm, including several litters of young ones that are natives of the Webfoot State. One of the hares that Mr. Early has is Lady Fulford, scoring 94 1/2 points, and sired by Champion Yukon. This doe was imported from England, and her sire is a famous one. She is valued at \$100 but is not for sale, though she has a litter of little ones, a few weeks old, that will be soon. Lady Fulford is a handsome animal, colored, according to the fancier's best ideas, a rufus red. Another one of the Early rabbits is Count Edinburgh, a fine buck, valued at \$50 but also not for sale.

Prof. Early has ordered the materials and will, at once, build a rabbitry after the California style. He will in a few days receive another shipment, from headquarters at Los Angeles, containing several high priced and pure bred animals. In a very short time he will be in position to offer to the people of this section fine Belgian hares at prices ranging from \$5 to \$250. There is a rabbit club formed in Portland, and no doubt the Belgian hare fad will spread to that city, and everyone who can afford it will be wanting some of the high priced animals.

On the farms of the Northwest, no doubt, the time will soon come when Belgian hares will be raised for their meat. It is said that a Belgian hare steak, in Los Angeles, is priced at 75 cents on the bills of fare of the best restaurants. A few Belgians have been raised in Oregon for this purpose. A. H. Hunt, of Marion, has for some time been supplying a part of the Portland demand for Belgian hare meat.

Since there is bound to be a boom in the rabbit business, in the Northwest, it is gratifying to know that Salem is to be the headquarters of the finest of the pure bred animals.—Daily Statesman, Salem, Or., April 25th.

PLEA FOR MEMORIAL DAY.

The following circular letter has been received by Sedgwick Post No. 10, G. A. R. of this city, and all other posts that organization of old veterans in the state, and is self-explanatory: "Headquarters Department of Oregon, Grand Army of the Republic, Portland, Oregon, April 14, 1900.

Circular letter No. 1. "To Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Oregon: At the meeting of the Council of Administration of this department, held at Grand Army Hall, Portland, Oregon, February 20, 1900, the following resolution was offered by Department Chaplain C. E. Chue and was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the Council of Administration of the Department of Oregon, G. A. R., respectfully request all civil and fraternal organizations in this State to give, unmolested, to the Grand Army of the Republic, May 30th, as Memorial Day, and that the press of the State be requested to aid in keeping sacred this day, devoted to the Nation's honored dead."

"H. V. Gates, Department Commander, Official J. E. Mayo, A. A. General."

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AT BETTER FIGURES

HOP GROWERS' ASSOCIATION DISPOSING OF INTERIOR GRADES.

A Large Per Cent of the Original Pool Still on Hand but Officers Say There Will Be a Demand for All.

(From Daily Statesman, April 25.)

There was no particular news to give out at the office of the Oregon Hop Growers' Association yesterday. The officers are daily completing sales of good-sized lots by which the Association pool is being gradually reduced.

A prominent officer of the Association yesterday said that the organization was being quite successful in disposing of the inferior grades of the pool at better figures than were offered a few days ago.

While the association still has many hops on hand, a member of the board of directors yesterday said that the pool was not larger than there would be a demand for if the hops are judiciously handled in placing them on the market. The members of the Association have this year very generally purchased their supplies almost exclusively through the executive committee of the association, an arrangement that has proven very satisfactory and has enabled the growers to purchase their supplies at wholesale rates.

In the yards, the vines are making splendid progress. The training of the vines up the poles has been completed in a majority of the yards and the overhead stretching of twine or the training of the vines on the trellis wiring has already commenced.

Lupulin, in writing of the conditions in the hop trade in England in the latest issue of the Mark Lane Express of London, says:

"A condition of practical inanition seems to prevail, which nothing but success has succeeded in moving. I do not mean that there is no business, because transactions are occurring daily to a greater or less extent, but stagnation almost amounting to death surrounds prices to such an extent that growers desirous to realize are compelled to almost give their hops away; and indeed in some cases it is not unlikely that warehousing expenses, commission, and other charges almost entirely absorb the results of sales, without any consideration being left for the cost of growing, curing, and picking. Such is the position of affairs which the English industry is obliged to face today, and the only consolation advanced to growers is that English hops are now, and have been for a considerable time, the cheapest in the world. It, as has been the case in former years, foreign imports were competing with our produce, the explanation of the position would be easy. But this is not so. The prices now realized both on the continent and in America render it impossible for their hops to be sent here with any chance of profit at the rates now current for English growths. Therefore the only answer that can be given in our queries is to be found in the weakness of English growers themselves, who are being beaten in detail in consequence of the absence of united action.

"The suggestions made as to the advisability, and indeed the actual necessity, of a movement for the pooling of hops has excited some interest both amongst the growers and the thorough traders. It is recognized by the latter that such a movement must originate with and be carried into effect by the growers, but I have reason to believe that if it assumed a practical shape it would be supported by factors, and would probably not be distasteful to merchants, as all who are concerned in the business, except the brewers, are well aware that improving the hop crop is an increasing problem which would be very acceptable just now. While I am not fully informed as to the present holdings of growers, I suppose that they are not too large to be controlled by the proposed method, always supposing that holders are free to handle their hops. But here I am confronted with possible difficulties. I am told that to a considerable extent the unsold hops are already, as it were, mortgaged to factors, advances having in many cases been made upon them and expenses incurred which would require an important amount of ready capital to discharge. If this be so, the simplicity of the pooling arrangements as originally presented to me will be seriously interfered with. But I trust that this view of the position is exaggerated, and that there remain sufficient unencumbered hops to be dealt with in a sound and strong pool, to effect the object in view.

"Present values are too low for any chance of further depreciation, and the prospect of the improvement of the market by united action as proposed, is almost beyond question. It will, of course, be necessary before the committee is empowered to act, that the whole matter should be put upon a legal basis. This will not be a difficult or a costly process. Therefore, with so many advantages before them, which have no practical set-off, I hope to find that holders will accept the proposal in its general outline, and will give me an opportunity of calling a meeting to discuss details."

THE DEEDS.—The secretary of the Mount Hope Cemetery Association now has the printed deed, and is ready to give titles to lot owners. This cemetery is on the Henry Warren farm. W. L. Simeral is the secretary of the association.

BOND FILED.—Wm. Relie yesterday filed his bond, in the probate court, as administrator of the estate of A. Sutton, deceased, and the same was approved by the county judge, and letters of administration were ordered to issue.

STATE TAXES.—State Treasurer Chas. S. Moore yesterday received remittances from Harney and Sherman counties in full settlement of the state taxes for the year 1899 as follows: Harney, \$14,702.81; Sherman, \$8,493.35.

ONE THOUSAND.—One thousand tax receipts, on account of the taxes for the year 1899, had been issued, by Sheriff F. W. Durbin, up to the hour of closing last evening.

NEW CITIZENS.—J. G. Evans, Sr., a native of Great Britain; Jacob Leis, of Switzerland, and George Spaul, a German by birth, were yesterday admitted to full citizenship, by County Judge G. P. Terrell.

Fine printing, Statesman Job Office.

IT IS PROSPERING

CAPACITY OF SALEM'S NEW CREAMERY IS INADEQUATE.

Received More Cream on Monday Than Could Be Churned Yesterday—Patronage Has Doubled.

(From Daily Statesman, April 25.)

The success that has attended the venture of Mr. T. S. Townsend, of Portland, in the creamery business at this point, is ample proof that the time was ripe for the installing of such an institution in this community. The volume of business that is now being done, though it is less than a month since the plant began operations, the results have exceeded the expectations of Mr. Townsend the promoter, and leaves but little doubt that the patronage now being enjoyed may prove of a permanent and even an expanding nature.

On Monday more cream was gathered over the several routes and received at the creamery than could yesterday be manufactured into butter. Two churnings, however, representing in the aggregate 700 pounds, the largest output for a single day since the plant started, were made during the day. What is not used for local consumption is shipped to Portland in firkins and in two-pound squares.

The number of patrons to the creamery has more than doubled during the past two weeks. There are now 147 persons supplying the institution with cream. The routes are being gradually extended and the amount of cream consequently increased. Considerable cream is received by rail. There are four patrons at Yoncalla who send their cream regularly to Salem by train. Several customers residing in the vicinity of Annville also send cream in this manner.

A skimming station has been established at Dayton, Yamhill county, and hereafter cream will be shipped from that point by river steamer.

The result of the first test of the cream will be announced about the first of next week. A steam testing machine is now en route to Salem and when it has been received, these tests can be made more promptly and satisfactorily. In the future, Mr. Townsend expects to furnish his patrons the result of tests on the 15th and 30th of each month.

GOTAMA ON MARRIAGE.

The important question of matrimony was not left untouched by Gotama. An invitation he accepted to attend a marriage feast at Jambunada offered a suitable opportunity for the deliverance of a brief homily on the married state. An excerpt from the above-quoted source will make clear his views on this subject: "The greatest happiness of which a mortal man can imagine is the bond of marriage that ties together two loving hearts. But there is a greater happiness still; it is the embrace of truth. Death will separate husband and wife, but death will never separate him who has espoused the truth.

"Therefore be married unto the truth, and live with the truth in holy wedlock. The husband who loves his wife and desires for a union that shall be everlasting must be faithful to her, so as to be like truth herself, and she will rely upon him and revere him and minister unto him. And the wife who loves her husband and desires for a union that shall be everlasting must be faithful to him, so as to be like truth itself, and he will place his trust in her, he will honor her, he will provide for her. Verily I say unto you, their wedlock will be holiness and bliss, and their children will become like unto their parents, and will bear witness to their happiness."—Westminster Review.

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FOR PRIZE ESSAYS

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION MAKES AN OFFER.

To Stimulate Efforts of Writers and Aid in Prosecuting a Scientific Inquiry to Benefit Schools.

Prof. J. H. Ackerman, Superintendent of Public Instruction, is in receipt of a letter from the National Council of Education of the National Educational Association, offering prizes for essays on School Hygiene. The National Council of Education has appointed a committee to pass upon the essays and award the prizes, the total amount appropriated for this purpose being \$120. The committee consists of A. R. Taylor, president State Normal School, Emporia, Kansas; W. T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.; George P. Brown, editor School and Home, Bloomington, Illinois; W. F. King, president Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; and Aaron Gove, superintendent city schools, Denver, Colorado. The prizes offered by the committee and the conditions, are as follows:

"For the best essay submitted on each of the following topics: the seating, the lighting, the heating, and the ventilating of school buildings, \$200.

"For the second best essay submitted on each topic, \$100.

"Each essay shall be limited to 10,000 words and shall be submitted in printed or typewritten copy without signature, but with name of author enclosed with it in sealed envelope, and addressed to the chairman of the committee at Emporia, Kansas. Three copies of each essay shall be submitted. They must be mailed not later than February 1, 1901. The essays and envelopes will be properly numbered for identification and the former forwarded to three experts to be hereafter appointed by this committee. Each expert will be ignorant of the appointment of the others, and their combined judgment shall determine the award. Should no essay on any topic found worthy of an award and publication, the committee reserve the right to withhold the same.

"The committee reserve the exclusive right for the National Educational Association to copyright the prize essays and to publish the same for general distribution.

"The committee desire that each essay shall treat each topic independently and be complete in itself, no reference being made to statements contained in another essay. Generalities and speculation are not desired, neither are detailed technical formulas and demonstrations. Each essay should present precisely and comprehensively the problem to be solved and the scientific principles involved; should discuss briefly the construction of the school building as related to the problem of sanitation in general and to the specific subject of the essay in particular; should describe in detail sufficient for the apprehension of the average teacher the conditions and mechanisms by which the best results may be obtained; should include figures and diagrams illustrating general plan and principles involved; should set forth methods and devices for detecting defects and suggest remedies for the same in buildings already constructed; should give references to a few buildings where the system has been adopted; and should be supplemented by a brief bibliography of standard authorities on the subject discussed and a short list of manufacturers of approved devices and supplies for carrying out the plans advocated by the author.

"The essay on ventilation should include full suggestions concerning the use of disinfectants.

"Should the awards on two or more essays be made to the same person, he will be permitted to revise and unify the manuscript before publication by the committee."

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