POULTRY.

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS WIN.

The National Stockman some time since offered prizes for egg production, covering a period of one year. The following report shows the result of the contest, and it also shows what can be done with good hens properly fed:

First-prize pen—owned by W. S. Stevens, Ohio. Eight White Plymouth Rock pullets; laid an average of 289 eggs each, of a value of $5.02 per hen.

Second-prize pen—owned by Wm. G. Dodson, Ohio. Eight cross-bred Leghorn pullets; laid an average of 283 each, of a value of $4.82 per hen.

Third-prize pen—owned by J. C. Redkey, Ohio. Nine White Plymouth Rock pullets; laid an average of 280 eggs each, of a value of $4.90 per hen.

Fourth-prize pen—owned by L. E. Bradbury, Ohio. Eight Single-comb Brown Leghorn pullets; laid an average of 279 eggs each, of a value of $4.64 per hen.

Fifth-prize pen—owned by Z. N. Allen, Pennsylvania. Twenty-four Single-comb Brown Leghorns; laid an average of 277 eggs each, of a value of $4.39 per hen.

Sixth-prize pen—owned by Z. N. Allen, Pennsylvania. Twelve Barred Plymouth Rocks; laid an average of 262 eggs each, of a value of $4.24 per hen.

Mr. Stevens, winner of the first prize, describes what and how he did, as follows:

"My pen consisted of eight White Plymouth Rock hens and one rooster. These hens laid 2,312 eggs in 365 days, or an average of 289 eggs per hen for the year. Estimated by the Pittsburg (Pa.) market, week by week, each hen laid during the year $5.02 worth of eggs. They were kept in a house 12x20 feet long, divided into two parts, each 10x12, one part being used for a scratching shed and the other part containing the nests and roosts. The building is seven feet high, and is a frame, weather-boarded with pine siding and ceiled with matched-pine flooring, which makes the house very warm. You will notice that this pen has plenty of room. The floor consists of Mother Earth and is covered about four inches deep, in the fall, with road dust and sand. The building runs east and west, facing south. In the south of the building are two windows, which extend from the floor to the height of the building, thus admitting plenty of sun shine and light, so necessary to the comfort and happiness of the fowls. The perches are about three feet from the floor, and under them the droppings boards. A house of this kind in which fowls are housed during the winter months, with the right kind of food and the proper care, will insure the poultryman eggs all winter. My hens were not out during last December and January, and they were as healthy, happy and contented as if they were roaming the fields during the happy summer months. They were all aglee with song and contentment and shelled out eggs every day, even during the coldest days of winter. They have free access to oyster shells and grit. I give them twice a week fresh granulated bone. Their food consists of a warm breakfast, equal parts of bran white middlings and chopped corn and oats, and into this I put for them fine beef meal. At noon I feed wheat, which is thrown into the scratching shed. This gives them exercise in obtaining their noon meal. In the evening they are fed whole corn. During the time from the first of April until the first of November I feed the same, with this change: In the morning their mash is mixed with cold water; in the evening wheat takes the place of corn. Cleanliness is a very important matter in regard to the maintenance of health for your fowls. I clean the house twice a week during the winter and in the summer every other day. I have been breeding Plymouth Rocks now for five years, and have not as yet had any disease, and I attribute it to cleanliness and proper care."

There is no telling where this Klondike craze will end. The president of the Seattle Poultry Association was one of the first in the rush and now the news comes to us that H. A. Durr, of Tacoma, president of the Puget Sound Poultry Association, will leave in the spring.

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