

FARM AND ORCHARD.

DESCRIPTION OF A POULTRY YARD IN SACRAMENTO.

The Money to be Made in Raising Fine Breeds—Cork Oak Groves—Farm Notes.

Our baseball reporter helps out the Farm and Orchard Department this week by the following description of a model Sacramento poultry yard:

"Is there anything a chicken fancier takes more delight in than to be in his poultry yard among his flock of fowls, counting them for probably the one-thousandth time, watching them scratch and peck and picking the drooping ones to-day that appeared bright and healthy yesterday? What a happy home a flock of clean, healthy, cackling chickens will make, and on the other hand, how dull and unattractive the farm seems with a lot of diseased and ill-fated fowls, roosting on the big wagon, looking scrawny and appearing as if half-starved or fed to excess. In the well-kept poultry yard, how eagerly will the flock rush from all sides when they see the gate open and the friend who cares for them, come in just to take another look at the flock he prides and values. A prominent poultry book goes far as to say that a young man who does not love choice fowls is an unsafe person for a girl to wed. Whether this is true or not, it is safe to say that the home with a few choice neat and clean, with either a few or a large number of chickens, is a pleasant one and contains a happy family.

"Poultry can be raised for profit, and there are many who make a business of it for that object, but then there are others who take more delight in keeping a lot of choice and rare breeds and showing them to their friends than if they were taking in the shekels every day and making a living out of the business.

"Probably one of the best kept poultry yards in Sacramento is that of Crawford J. Cox, whose home is on 'Nob Hill,' in the southeastern portion of the city. Mr. Cox has not entered into the business extensively, but has an assortment of chickens comprising some of the best breeds in America. A Record-Union reporter paid a visit to the place and became so interested in the matter of poultry raising that he resolved to give the public what information he had gained while passing away a couple of hours in being shown about the premises.

"The first objects of interest were the incubators, in which several hundreds of eggs were spread. Some were almost ready to hatch, while others had been in the incubator there were 104 eggs with the temperature in the hatcher at 103°. This heat is maintained during the whole of the twenty-one days required to hatch the eggs. In this incubator the eggs rest on a bed of sawdust, which is changed every twenty-four hours. In the Pacific incubator there were 105 eggs. For the first three days the temperature in the hatcher is 106°. It is then reduced 1° every three days until the temperature gets to 102°, in which condition the birds are hatched. The eggs in both incubators are turned twice a day, to avoid the settling of the yolk of the egg to one side or the other. If the egg was not turned at all during the three weeks it was in the incubator, the yolk (if any were hatched) would be deformed or dead.

"After a batch of little ones are hatched, Mr. Cox places them in a brooder of his own invention, where they are kept until able to stand the temperature of the outside air. The floor of the brooder is covered with dry bran and the proper degree of heat is maintained by regulating a large lamp under the floor. Mr. Cox had had a number of these chicks placed in his brooder and hardly any of them had died. In his main yard he has seventy-one laying hens and seven or eight roosters. The hens are of different common varieties, but are all good layers, and the daily yield of eggs averages between thirty-five and forty.

"The fancy varieties owned by Mr. Cox are kept in separate yards, the dimensions of each being 20x12 feet. The yards are neatly whitewashed and the fences are kept almost as high as the sweep floor. In yard No. 1 a trio of the Minorca breed are kept. The cock and both hens are fine looking birds. They are a small white chicken with large combs, which stand erect on the neck, but fall to one side on the hens. The cock has a large, upright egg white and quite large in proportion to the size of the fowl. Mr. Cox purchased this trio in Toledo, Ohio.

"Yard No. 2 contains a trio of White Dorkings. A peculiarity about these chickens is that they have very large feet. Both roosters and hens have red combs. They are the favorite fowls in England. They are the best layers in the Dorking family, and the egg is of medium size. It is thought that this trio is the one from the Toledo, and they also were obtained in Toledo.

"Yard No. 3 contains the White Plymouth Rocks. They are large fowls, good layers and the egg is of good size. The feathers are almost pure white. The breed promises to be one of the leading fowls of America.

"The next yard contains the Buff Cochins—handsome, large fowls. Of these, Mr. Cox has now but one pair, the other hen having died a few days ago of a disease known among poultry raisers as sour crop. The feathers of this variety of chickens are of the buff color and strikingly attractive. This breed is noted as excellent winter layers, of large, highly-favored eggs, and are unexceptionable as setters and mothers. They are not scarce, and sell for \$3 a dozen. The eggs, which are small and of a brownish-yellow color, sell for \$3 a dozen.

"The White Cochins occupy the fifth yard. They are of about the same size as the Buff Cochins, and lay a large, well-rounded, light-brown egg. They are rated as high as \$35 per trio, and the eggs are valued at \$5 per dozen. Mr. Cox obtained these chickens from Mitchell & Russell, of Bristol, Conn.

"In yard No. 6 is the White Wyandotte trio. This breed not only stand high in point of beauty, but they are most excellent layers of large-sized brown eggs. This variety, with the White Plymouth Rock, now claim the attention of the whole poultry-raising fraternity, and under the title of 'coming fowls' are described by H. H. Stoddard, as a white-plumaged bird with yellow skin, legs and bill, and generous size, with small comb and wattles. They are rated as being worth \$30 per trio.

"The last yard has but one lonely occupant—a Berkshire—who takes but little interest in the fowls about him. They appear to loathe him considerably, and while he is dozing in a corner of his pen some of the more daring of the chickens will pick at him. In short, he is a pig, and Mr. Cox's poultry-yard has now been fully described until we mention the two guinea hens which mingle among his flock. The only thing they are useful for is their screeching, and many a time they have scared off the chicken thief, who while at his work, and the cream would arouse the occupants of the farmhouse, and fled in fear.

"March is the month when the yards should undergo a thorough overhauling. The fowls should be let out on pleasant days to pick around and they are now getting ready for spring business. Hens should be set for early chickens, and the nests should be clean and inviting. Mr. Cox takes a great interest in his chickens,

AND BEFORE LONG HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE ONE OF THE RAREST-STOCKED POULTRY-YARDS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE STATE.

"Who enters here leaves pipe behind." The horse will be all the better for working him with the winter. The man that knows the right use of a horse-blanket is a first-class horseman. Too many horses eat up during the winter all they have earned during the summer. The horse-blanket saves feed and flesh—less substance is used to make animal heat. Keeping blankets in any other receptacle than an iron or tin box is tempting Providence. Some people think a farm animal is like a postage stamp—good until licked. They are sadly mistaken. The farm-horse, having only light labor and not much of that, during the winter should have less grain and more roughness than during the summer. The eyes of the people will be opened after a while and they will begin preparing for the minor horticultural and forestry industries, which are sure to find a foothold in California. The news now comes that a large number of cork oak trees will be planted this year. The cork oak grows as well in California as in any other part of the world, and there is no reason why it should not grow every bit of cork that is used in the United States. Not only would this save the country an immense amount of money by preventing importation, but would also give us large quantities of cork dust to use in the packing of grapes and for various medicinal purposes.—California Fruit Growers' Association.

"FARM NOTES. According to Herodotus, lettuce was cultivated as a vegetable 550 years before Christ. Nitrate of soda applied in small quantities will increase the yield and quality of tomatoes. It has been demonstrated that spirits of turpentine is one of the best remedies for crop in fowls. Oxen like bleached wood ashes. Apply the oxen liberally and the onion crop will respond. Sour swill is one of the sources of disease in the hog. Much of it is kept until it becomes too acid for even a hog. Dr. Lintner says that apple tree borers may be kept out of the trees by applications of a mixture of carbolic acid and soap. It never pays to feed poor hay to the cows. If the hay is very poor it will pay the dairyman to use it for bedding and buy better. For family use it is advisable to plant six or eight peach trees every year, which will take the place of those that are ceasing to bear from age. It is suggested that the best way to protect both dogs and sheep is to compel all dogs to wear muzzles, dogs not muzzled to be shot whenever found running at large. A horse with a well-fitting harness, especially a well-fitting collar, feels just like a man whose clothes do not pinch him; and will, of course, do its work easier and better. Recent tests indicate that London purple may be more dangerous to fowls when used in spraying than Paris green, because it sometimes contains more soluble arsenic. Solid manure and dry dirt will hold the liquid manure well. The solid portions should be separated from the liquid, and the mixture of solids and liquids improves the quality of both. Make the nests of sitting hens warm. A cool place for the nest is desirable for a broody hen in summer, but in winter it requires a large proportion of animal heat to warm the nest and eggs. These men who might make considerable money by raising less grain to feed the horse and grooming the animal more. Ordinarily elbow grease is cheaper than corn or oats. The present may be an exception. Seeds of beets, carrots and parsnips are slow to germinate. They may be made to swell and sprout quickly if placed in a flannel bag and moistened with warm water daily. Some gardeners mix the seeds with fine earth before placing the seeds in the bag. Field and Farm says: "We find that a pig which is fed pure flesh will not take to the water as readily as one that is cooked with potatoes they are much washed. When cooked this way it will add a little shipstuf or bran to make a better balanced ration."

"If you grow vegetables for market profit will depend upon getting them into the market early, and if you grow them only for home consumption you do not care to wait all summer before you can have a 'mess.' So the hot bed or cold frame is useful for the early starting of plants in either case.

"The Southern Cultivator says: 'Any land that will produce a crop of early potatoes. Oats require a highly ammoniated fertilizer, hence cotton seed or cotton seed meal is the best home fertilizer that can be used. But a mixture of cotton seed meal and acid phosphate—equal parts—will do on some soils in some form will give better results.'

"The plot intended for celery should be well manured now, and if soap-suds are thrown on the plot, so as to soak into the soil, it will be all the better for the growing plants when they are put out to grow. The matter is best worked up and it is also benefited by frequent applications of soap-suds. In fact, too much soap-suds and well-rotted manure cannot be applied to asparagus.

"Many orchards are seriously injured by allowing too heavy a growth of grass between the trees. In the majority of cases better health and thrift will be secured if the soil for two or three feet around each tree is kept loose and mellow, stirring frequently if necessary to secure this. At least this will be better than allowing the weeds and grass to use the plant food needed by the tree.

"The habit of dumping manure from the wagon in small piles is wasteful both of time and manure. Comparatively few men can spread manure from piles so as to cover all the ground, much less to cover it evenly. The manure is made still worse by leaving the manure piles in the several days or weeks before being spread. The soluble parts of the manure are washed into the ground, and if every particle of the visible manure is removed the spot will be richer than the space surrounding it.

"By separating the States into groups, the six New England States are credited with a forest area of 19,123,028 acres; the four Middle States, including Maryland and leaving out Missouri, with 22,800,000; the nine Western States with 30,355,768; the four Pacific States, 63,000,000; and the seven Territories with 63,084,000. It will thus be seen that of the entire 455,645,895 acres of forest included in this estimate the forest in the Southern States possesses fully one-half.

"The itching of the scalp, falling of the hair, resting in baldness, are often cured by using Hall's Hair Renewer.

"The cheapest place in Missouri to live is at the penitentiary. The daily cost of maintaining convicts at that institution is only 73 cents per capita.

"You will seldom need a doctor if you have Simmons Liver Regulator handy.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A. L. Bancroft & Co., of San Francisco, have the honor to announce that they have just published a new and interesting book, entitled 'The Journal of a Young Artist—1875-1884.' It is by the Cape Publications Company, New York. Very much has been said and written of this remarkable book, and the critics have vied with each other in their praise of its merits. The book is a masterpiece of its kind, and its author, Mary J. Serran, has perhaps best described the character of the 'Journal' in the following words: 'It is a record of a life—a book without a parallel, as Gladstone has called it. In these pages science, art, literature, social questions, and the history of the time are treated by a Machiavelli and the variety of an ardent and enthusiastic girl. On a background of solemn and somber and a few of the steps of the native land are traced pictures that reflect the life, the movement, the variety of France, Spain, Italy. With a nature that was professedly a realist, and a spirit that was essentially skeptical, with an ambition to conquer the universe, and a heart that yearned with a passionate longing for affection, she writes the record of a life that is a study of the most utter self-abnegation, 'hoping all things and fearing all things alternately, clinging to life with an eagerness that is almost morbid, and ready to die with an eagerness no less pathetic, reaching herself by turns as the superior of kings, and as less than the least of created beings.' The book is a study of the most utter self-abnegation, 'hoping all things and fearing all things alternately, clinging to life with an eagerness that is almost morbid, and ready to die with an eagerness no less pathetic, reaching herself by turns as the superior of kings, and as less than the least of created beings.' 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