

THE PRICE TO PAY FOR EGGS

SOME GOOD ADVICE GIVEN BEGINNERS IN THE PURCHASE OF BREEDING "FRUIT"

During the Western Montana Poultry show, held here some weeks ago, there was much said by the several speakers, including Judge H. H. Colliers of Tacoma and C. S. Norton of Helena, concerning the purchase of high-priced breeding stock and eggs. It was especially urged that he was a foolish man who neglected to consider the value and quality of the stock of the local fancier and that western strains were just as pure and high bred and brought forth as good results as those much advertised pens in the east—and usually both eggs and birds could be secured at one-half the price asked by the eastern owners. The scoring of Montana birds the past season was conclusive proof that they stood as high in their respective classes as those of any other state, and the past several years has developed many good breeding pens where eggs and stock can be purchased at very reasonable figures.

Discussing "The Price of a Setting of Eggs" in the American Poultry Advocate Rev. E. B. Temple makes some good suggestions, not so much concerning the buying of eggs and stock at home as what is a reasonable price to pay. He says:

The beginner in poultry work often holds up his hands in astonishment when a high price is mentioned for a setting of eggs. He used to think that \$1 was too much for 15 eggs, but when he thinks of \$5 for a single egg it is beyond him. One may well wonder at the difference in price on 15 eggs. You can follow the advertising in any of the poultry journals and you will find hatching eggs quoted at any price from \$1 per setting up to \$30 for the 15 eggs. You may well wonder at the difference. One dollar for a setting of eggs from thoroughbred stock is very cheap. If the quality is there it is a bargain. However, how about the \$30 eggs? Will they be worth the money? Will it be a profitable investment? It might be cheaper in the end to buy these than to pay the \$1 for the setting first mentioned. The \$30 eggs represent breeding that is of a very high quality. It is better to start with less chicks and start right than to have a whole yardful of chicks from some poor strain. You will have to breed year after year from the offspring of your first purchase. Now wouldn't it be cheaper in the end to buy good eggs from some good, reliable breeder and pay the price than to get inferior eggs from inferior birds?

The man who wants to begin poultry work this spring should look at this question of hatching eggs from every standpoint. Some will get a big start at once. This will mean that he will not have sufficient brooding space and accommodations with the result that he will lose about half of the chicks. His work will be in vain. He will not know how to meet the many emergencies that come up, and he will have trouble all along the line. It is better for the beginner to start with a few chicks and have them from eggs laid by well bred birds. If you are going in for egg production then get a setting or two of eggs from someone who has been breeding for this, for years past. If you want show stock then get your eggs from some of the breeders who are constant winners at the shows. It is better to pay a fair price for the eggs than to get a lot of them from stock of unknown quality. If you cannot afford to purchase more than 30 or 50 eggs get good ones and do your best with them. If you get enough to fill an incubator see to it that your machine is in good running order before intrusting the eggs to it. Get the best eggs that you can afford and let the \$1 eggs alone unless you are sure of the quality. You can get good eggs from \$2.50 to \$5 per setting that will give you the best of results. Results are what you are after so don't be put off with cheap hatching eggs if you can afford to get the better class.

Some of the results that you can expect from the better grade of eggs are as follows:

You will get fewer culs and more good specimens with the good eggs than with the cheap ones. This means that the breeder who charges a fair price for his goods has back of them years of experience and breeding and considers the eggs worth that price. Breeding for years to throw out the defects and strengthen the good points should be recognized in the

worth of the product. The hen that is able to reproduce herself in her offspring is much more valuable than one who cannot do this. Good breeding will count in this way. Your birds will conform to the breeders' standard of what his variety should be. This may mean a slight difference from the standard of perfection but every breeder has the privilege of making his own interpretation of this. The showman will sometimes tell the story of this varied interpretation. The judge may favor this or that shape and may have his own ideas about some things that some other judge would not assent in. This makes it hard to get a correct interpretation of what the standard means. Know your breeder and know what he is working for. If it is the short-bodied bird or the longer one make your choice and buy your eggs from this breeder. Your results will show what the breeder has been working for and you will be satisfied with the product.

Your future business in poultry depends upon the class of stock that you start with. If you get the cheap hatching eggs without the quality back of them you will have a hard row to hoe, for lots of people have the cheaper stock. If you get the best you can afford to get and get a fair grade of birds to start with you will have something on which to base your future business. If you buy eggs at \$3 per setting then later on you will be justified in getting as much for your hatching of eggs. If you are careful and improve the quality of your flock then you will have reasons for asking a fair price for both eggs and stock. The market is full of cheap stock, but it is better to get out of that class and get in where the quality is high and the price fair. It is unfair to a breeder to ask him to sell his eggs at as low a price as some other man when for years he has been working up a strain and has fine stock. The other man may have common birds of inferior quality. The careful breeder should get the better price because back of his eggs is a standard that is hard to get away from. Take your choice, Mr. Beginner, but make it your business to know of the quality of the eggs that you are getting.

SINGLE COMB LEGHORNS FANCY AND UTILITY BIRDS

That the Ferris strain of single-comb White Leghorns is one of the best breeds, not only for prize-winning qualities so much desired by the fancier, but also for utility purposes, is well known among all poultry breeders.

The above-named stock are bred by George W. McGee at his home, 1512 South Fifth west. During the recent poultry show the birds exhibited by Mr. McGee demonstrated their fitness for the showroom to the admiration of all persons who visited the show. Their snowy whiteness of color set off by their bright, rose-eyed, well-pointed combs, was the talk of many admiring visitors. The three cockerels won easily over many competitors, securing first, second and third prizes. The pullets also won first, second and third prizes. At the Montana state show Mr. McGee's birds also took third prize for cockerels and third-prize pen.

Mr. McGee is now ready to fill orders for settings from his first pen at \$3 per setting of 15 eggs. All other pens at \$2 per setting. The rose-comb Rhode Island Red setting of eggs, thoroughbred stock, are for sale at \$2 per setting. All persons interested in this breed of stock are invited to call at 1512 South Fifth street west.

PRINCELY TRIP.

Prince Waldemar of Prussia, eldest son of Prince Henry, the emperor's brother, will leave Geona this month for a six months' trip in the east. The trip is of an entirely personal character. The prince will make stops at Ceylon and Tsingtau, among other places, and may visit Japan, although this is not yet settled. He has studied law at Strassburg and Kiel, and passed last month his examination as a probationary barrister, entitled to practice law or assist judges without receiving emolument.

Here is a message of hope and good cheer from Mrs. C. J. Martin, Boone Mill, Va., who is the mother of eighteen children. Mrs. Martin was cured of stomach trouble and constipation by Chamberlain's Tablets after five years of suffering, and now recommends these tablets to the public. Sold by all dealers.

To prevent a hen setting a Calliformian has invented a breast plate, with two wire legs in front, to be strapped to a hen in such a position that she is obliged to remain standing.

Incubators on the Farm

Appearing in the American Poultryman is the following timely article on incubation which was written for that publication by W. R. Gilbert:

The prejudice against artificial methods of hatching and rearing which for a long time hampered the development of the poultry industry, to quite an appreciable extent, has now been largely set aside and these means of hatching and rearing have within recent years been adopted by a large number of farmers in this country. It is, in fact, found necessary, when it is desired to rear 200 or 300 chickens in a year, to employ the artificial process, owing to the difficulty of procuring enough broody hens at a season when it is desirable to carry on hatching operations, and also on account of the fact that an immense amount of time and labor would be lost in attempting to rear such a number of chickens by natural means.

The reliability and comparative cheapness of modern incubators have, moreover, done much to help on the industry, and it is now generally agreed that the artificial methods are more economical than the natural processes, with regard to initial expenditure, up-keep, running expenses, and time and labor of attendance. A small incubator can hatch 40 chickens and a single brooder can rear them, and will take as little time and attention from an attendant as a hen with 10 or a dozen chickens. A very high order of intelligence is not by any means essential to the successful operation of the hatching and rearing appliances, and the farmer's or laborer's wife, provided she is orderly in her habits and gifted with common sense, can manipulate an incubator or brooder with quite as much success as the fancier who has made a special study of artificial processes.

In many parts of the country, farmers have a fear of bringing an incubator or brooder into the place lest it may set fire to the premises, but this feeling is gradually wearing off as it is found that the machines are safe, and that fires seldom if ever have originated in the incubators or brooders. There certainly is some risk if a cheap and flimsy machine is used, but the appliances sent out by a reliable firm are practically fireproof, and I cannot recall a single instance of a fire having originated from either incubator or brooder, except where there was admittedly culpable neglect on the part of the operator.

The manipulation of an incubator is an art to be learned partly from the textbook and articles which are published on the subject, and partly from experience. Perhaps the following hints will prove helpful, especially to those who are struggling through their first season with artificial hatching and rearing. Testing the eggs is quite an important matter. When to test them depends on the color and density of the shell. Duck's eggs, being white shells, are the most easily tested and the white shelled hen's eggs are also fairly transparent, so that they can be tested on the fourth or fifth day. On the other hand, brown-shelled eggs must be left without testing until the seventh day, and even then, if the shells are thick, a powerful tester must be used. Any eggs which are seen to be infertile should be removed from the trays after the first test as they are liable to absorb heat from the eggs containing living germs, and to increase the difficulty of keeping the heat in the egg chamber regular. The second test may be made on the tenth or eleventh day, for the purpose of discovering any eggs in which the germs have died since the eggs were last tested. At the first test the fertile eggs containing living germs are those which contain a dark spot, with minute blood vessels radiating in all directions and resembling a spider. The infertile eggs are those which are perfectly clear and look like a new laid egg, and if any eggs are observed in which there is a dark spot surrounded by a red circle there are fertile eggs in which the germ has died, and they may be thrown out of the machine. The causes of germs dying at this early stage are manifold, and it may be that the eggs were stale, or that the birds which produced them were lacking in health and vitality, or that they were roughly handled before being set to hatch, or that the heat was not maintained at the specified point. In fact, the causes of embryo chicks dying within the first few days are very many and frequently unexplainable. Eggs which are plainly infertile suffer little or nothing from their time in the incubator and ought not to be thrown away as they are perfectly good for cooking, but most people prefer to feed them to the chicks, and they may be held over for this purpose until the conclusion of the hatch. Eggs are tested by holding them, one at a time, between the eye and a strong light, but a testing apparatus is sold by most dealers in poultry supplies, and it is advisable to procure one, as it makes testing easier and surer than to use the hand alone.

Eggs must be turned and cooled twice a day, morning and evening, and it is well to set aside a regular time for this work and for the turning and filling of the lamps. It is not essential that the day should be exactly divided into two equal parts and that the turning should be done at, say, 6 o'clock in the morning and again at 6 in the evening, as the purpose will be served equally well if there is nine or 10 hours between the first and second turnings and 14 or 15 hours between the second and third. The only requirement is to turn the eggs twice a day, with a considerable interval between the times of turning. It is advisable to take the egg drawer bodily from the machine and set it on an adjacent stand or table to cool and turn the eggs. Before the lamps are attended to and while the hands are clean and free from oil, the eggs should be slowly and carefully turned, without knocking them together or jarring them against the sides of the drawer. The drawer may then be left out for a period of 10 or 20 minutes,

or even longer, in accordance with the temperature of the room. In the meantime the lamps may be refilled with oil and the wicks may be trimmed and relighted at once, so that the operator may see if they are burning steadily before he or she leaves the room. The eggs need not be turned during the last two days of the hatch, and it is then advisable to keep the drawer closed, ample ventilation being, of course, provided for. As a general thing, the chicks leave the shells of their own accord, and are removed, when dry, to the brooder, care being taken that they do not get chilled in the course of removal. A good incubator, hatching good hatchable eggs, should bring forth all the chicks by the end of the twenty-first day, but there are defective machines in use in which it is impossible to keep the heat regular between 102 and 104 degrees, and these are also irregular in their results, and may bring out the chicks before the twentieth day or after the twenty-second. In this way much annoyance is caused, and it is advisable to take an early opportunity of procuring a more reliable machine.

MEXICO MIXTURE

Mexico City, Feb. 24.—Should the rebellion inaugurated by Emiliano Zapata result in the overthrow of the Madero government, there would be added to Mexico's history a chapter that is unique in this country.

Previous revolutions have received their impetus from men of high intelligence and usually of culture.

Zapata's most advanced point in the social plane was that of an itinerant merchant, a pedler. Officially his name has been written on the records of his country, prior to the Madero revolution, as that of a private in the Mexican army. There is one more entry, that recording his desertion from the army.

Those unacquainted with Zapata frequently make the mistake of styling him an illiterate. This is not true. The man can read and write, and has the rudiments of a common school education. Added to this he possesses a shrewdness, which, combined with a stubbornness, a personal magnetism and a bravery which no one denies, makes him a person truly formidable.

Zapata was born in Ayala. He is between 35 and 40 years of age. Practically no Spanish blood contributed to his personal appearance, although a long, heavy moustache and stature somewhat greater than that of an ordinary poor peasant betray the fact that he is not a pure Indian. His skin is that of the ordinary Mexican Indian, with his "Mexicanity" more than that of the North American aborigine. His enforced military service to his country came to an end in just one year. He was in jail in Ayala during the early part of the Madero revolution. One night there was a jail delivery and Zapata, at the head of a handful of men who had been his companions in the little prison, declared himself a leader in the cause of Madero.

Contriving to get word to one of the revolutionary juntas, he offered his services. He received the thanks of this body, but was told that no

more money could be expended at that time for the equipment of additional troops in the south.

Zapata said not a word, but returned to the mountains about his boyhood home and ordered his followers to join him in attacking a neighboring village guarded by a mere handful of rurales. They overthrew the guard, seized their arms and liberated the prisoners, whom Zapata had little difficulty in persuading to join his uprising. This action was repeated time and again, the only change being that each successive assault was made on a larger garrison, until Zapata's army of rebels had attained a size that made it one of the most formidable fighting forces south of Mexico City. The revolutionary junta was now glad to take advantage of the services of Zapata, and he was ordered to report to General Ambrosio Figueroa, commander-in-chief of the army of the south.

Between Figueroa and Zapata there has always been a deep-seated antagonism. Figueroa is a man of education and of some military training. Between him and Zapata there could be nothing in common. As leader of the army of the south, Figueroa was entitled to credit for the southern campaign, which so nearly resulted in the capture of Mexico City itself. As a matter of fact, a great part of the credit was really due to Zapata. The antagonism resulted in jealousy on the part of both, and so it was that an attempt made late in the day to pacify the people of Morelos by installing Figueroa as governor only made Zapata the more determined to overthrow the central government which he had fought to establish.

Steadily his forces grew as they had during the days of Madero's revolt, until on February 1 of this year he found himself at the head of forces to such numbers as to cause the federal government to send against him a large part of the government troops. By that time he had changed his propaganda to include grievances whose righting he declared could be accomplished only by the overthrow of Madero. His "Plan of Ayala," written by a school teacher upon whom he had bestowed the title of colonel, called for Emilio Vasquez Gomez to occupy the presidency. For himself he asks nothing more than the privilege of fighting.

That Zapata is a ruffian pure and simple is not altogether true. Attired always in the close-fitting trousers of the charrro costume, bolero coat and peaked sombrero, silent and distrustful, he is not a man to grace a diplomatic reception at Chapultepec, and his men, wandering in bands far from his headquarters, oftentimes have committed atrocities which place them beyond the outpost of civilization, but rarely have such barbarous acts been attributed personally to Zapata. On the contrary, there are stories of leniency and of a rough courtesy which, if true, must cause one to believe that the leader of this new rebellion is a man who has been painted in too vivid colors.

This is the season of the year when mothers feel very much concerned over the frequent colds contracted by their children, and have abundant reason for it, as every cold weakens the lungs, lowers the vitality and paves the way for the more serious diseases that so often follow. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is famous for its cures, and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all dealers.

DATE BACK TO THE PIONEER DAYS DO THE OLD BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS

New Breeds Have Come and Gone But the Barred Rock Has Remained Ever Constant, Beautiful and Durable.

The Barred Plymouth Rocks are the pioneer chickens; they are commonly called the "Old Standbys," in spite of the time-worn names and phrases—some we heard when we were boys, such as the "Old Speckled Hen," the "Dominecker Hen," "Old Dominique" and the "Old Plymouth Rock." And, after all, the "novelty" breeds and varieties have come, and many of them have gone, and in spite of the fact that the Barred Rock has a tendency to get fat, the Barred Rocks are still here and way in the lead. Go to a big poultry show or a little poultry show, and you'll find Barred Rocks the largest class. Unquestionably that signifies they are there for beauty—beautiful color—in-describable, beautiful shape, which is so characteristic to the breed; and acknowledged to be the most typical for egg production.

Follow the Barred Rocks home from the show: You will find them on the ranch, the diversified farm and the orchard home, on small lot and back yard in the city; and it is too odd to be repeated that for table use—a fry, roast or a potpie—all you can't beat a Barred Rock, and all those who are specializing in soft roasters, capons, etc., use Barred Rocks exclusively. Then, they are there for utility. I like the Barred Rocks for all this and many other features that may not be familiar to those not acquainted with this grand, old breed. Some of their most noticeable characteristics I feel I should mention here. One I will call "tractability," if you please, or adaptability, which is so valuable in this breed, that under any reasonable conditions or circumstances the Barred Rocks will thrive and make a good showing to their credit. Another valuable characteristic I will call "docility," which is related more or less to the one just mentioned. We understand by this: Teachable; easily managed; tractable; readiness to learn. In all my experience with chickens and domestic animals, I don't know where the word docile could be applied and fit better than it does the tried and true Barred Rocks. For layers, sitters, mothers, they are easily managed and usually about what their keepers give them a chance to be.

Conditions being equal, you will find this never-beaten breed more thrifty,

more hardy, freer from disease, than other breeds. Another favorable condition is that the Barred Rocks never go "off their feed." This is so valuable that their keepers can feed for results. Now, then, coming down to my own yards: I certainly agree with many of the old breeders who claim there is more in the strain than there is in the breed. Where it is so plain that the seldom-equalled Barred Rock is the most popular fowl today standing upon their merits alone, it is to our interest to have the cream of this quality, and I am thoroughly convinced that the cream of Barred Plymouth Rocks is fully represented in the Blue-Jacket strain. At two of the best shows in Montana—at Missoula and the state show at Butte—the Blue Jackets gave a good account of themselves, getting away with almost the "lion's share" of the ribbons. And especially were they strong on breeding pens, making almost a clean sweep. The Blue Jacket strain has more than 50 years' careful breeding behind them, bred by one of the oldest and best poultry judges in the middle west.

Thirty years ago, when F. H. Shellabarger began breeding this now famous strain of Barred Rocks, he had little idea that his small beginning meant so much, he little dreamed that the poultry business in general would have the following it has today. For 25 years Mr. Shellabarger has been judging poultry, and today he stands among the best judges who are always in demand. With his enviable reputation as poultry judge, and the state of perfection he has reached in producing the Blue Jacket strain of Barred Plymouth Rocks, makes him a poultryman worthy of our highest compliments. The Blue Jackets which won such great victory for me at the recent shows represent my breeding pens for this season. My winnings are up to date, and I am offering my customers eggs for hatching from the "Best in the West," and my prices are in reach of all. The Barred Rocks are justly in the lead for every purpose, and my famous Blue Jacket strain is leading the leaders.

Visitors are always welcome. My yards are located at 1016 South Sixth street west, Missoula, Montana.

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