



#### SEARCHING FOR THE REASON.

Oregon hens are so lazy that they supply less than one-fifth of the eggs consumed in Portland, and dealers are looking to the fowls of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota for supply. That city is sending to those states \$3,500 a day for hen fruit, the importations being a carload and a half a day. That would be a pile of money for Oregon farmers to put in their pockets.

The indifference of the hens to the food needs of Oregon people is more conspicuous this year than ever before. Authorities agree that there is a blame somewhere, but not all agree on the proper place to find it. Some believe it is unfavorable climatic conditions, but as the weather of the last six months has been sunny and dry, the cause of the egg shortage is probably elsewhere. J. W. Bailey, Food and Dairy Commissioner, says that the cause is the lack of care bestowed by farmers on their chickens.

A Colorado bulletin says that State pays annually to states East \$3,000,000 for poultry and poultry products, while the average net yearly profit per hen, in Colorado, when handled by an expert, is \$2—double that of states East. The average Colorado farmer loses money raising poultry. He does not know how.

To ascertain the actual conditions as to the care and feeding of poultry a circular has been sent out by Professor

James Dryden to about 2,000 farmers of Oregon, which asks certain questions relative to the poultry products. If a sufficient number of these circulars are returned with answers the staff of the college will be able to recommend methods by which the industry can be helped. These are the questions asked:

1. What is the size of your farm?
2. How many laying hens do you keep?
3. What breed do you keep?
4. How do you house the fowls?
5. Are they confined in yards?
6. Do they have free range on the farm?
7. Describe method of feeding?
8. What animal food, if any, do you feed?
9. What is the annual cost of food per fowl?
10. How many eggs are laid per fowl?
11. How many years do you keep your laying hens?
12. What has been your experience with incubators; if any?
13. Do the incubator chicks do as well as the hen-hatched chicks?
14. What was the lowest price received for your eggs and poultry in 1908? The highest?
15. Do you ship any to city markets?
16. Do you co-operate with your neighbors in shipping? Why?

17. Is the poultry looked after by the men or women?

18. What is the average death rate among the fowls and what is chief cause?

19. What is the hardest problems in poultry keeping.

20. Do you consider poultry-keeping profitable on the farm?

21. To what extent do you think farmers should engage in poultry-keeping?

22. Do you raise turkeys? How many each year?

23. What per cent of turkeys hatched do you raise?

24. What is principal cause of losses in turkeys?

25. Are you interested in a home-reading course in poultry culture?

#### CONSPIRACY OF CHICKENS.

According to a reliable authority, 1,671,758 cases of eggs were in storage among the "associated warehouses" of the country on October 1, 1908, and these eggs were valued at \$12,533,185.

And, of course, the hens of the country entered into a horrible conspiracy to fleece the householder by having their product raised out of the plebeian class and brought up to 3½ to 4 cents apiece, where only the prosperous can enjoy "ham and" for breakfast.

The hen deserves to be taught a lesson. If she won't work, she should be made to furnish a dinner to a suffering public.—Watertown Herald.

#### THREE DOLLARS PER HEN.

At the poultry institute held by the Colorado Agricultural College in Greeley, Professor W. G. Chambers exhibited a Rhode Island Red hen that had laid 200 eggs in one year.

Professor Chambers keeps from forty to fifty hens on a town lot, and has to buy all his feed. He keeps an accurate account of all expenses, and last year for feed, louse killer, straw and all incidentals, the cost was \$1 per hen.

He uses trap nests and keeps no hen that lays less than 120 eggs in twelve months. The average for this entire flock is a little over twelve dozen eggs a hen per annum.

The average price in the open market for the year for eggs has been 25 cents a dozen. This makes at market price an income of three dollars a hen for the year—two dollars a hen more than the cost of feed, where all feed has to be purchased.

Professor Chambers ascribes his success to intelligent feeding, good care and trap-nesting.

His hens are given dry feed entirely. He gives a light feed of whole wheat and corn three times a day, scattering the grain in the litter.

He keeps before his hens all the time in self-feeding hoppers a dry mash made of the following ingredients, with a little salt and cayenne pepper, thoroughly mixed in these proportions by weight: Bran, 2; alfalfa meal, 1; corn meal, shorts and linseed meal, each, 1; meat, bone and blood, 1.



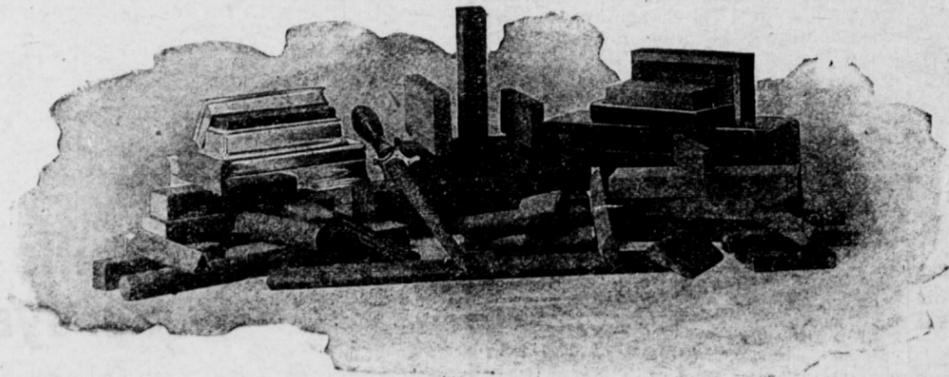
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**Not if you do not use**

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