

POULTRY DEPARTMENT.

Address all communications to Poultry Department, Box 200, DeLand, Fla.

Magnitude of Poultry Industry.
(Stated in round millions.)

	1896	1890	1880
Number of fowls,	883	286	126
Dozens of eggs,	1140	820	457
Total value,	\$343	\$275	\$118

Despite the big increase in the poultry business the last five years, and the close attention now given it, there is room for still greater expansion before it is overdone. Figures relating to the industry, just compiled by this journal as a result of an extensive inquiry, enormous as they are, fail to show any general overproduction. These conclusions are reached after a study of advance proofs of census statistics never before printed, the home market situation, together with official figures suggesting possibilities of foreign outlet for poultry products, and most careful deductions from other available data. The magnitude of the poultry business is never imagined by those who have not made a study of the situation. In round numbers our figures show what may be termed a permanent investment of 340 million dollars in poultry in this country. This is reached on the basis of an average valuation of fowls 50 cents each, turkeys, ducks and geese \$1, eggs 12 cents per dozen. Considering the vast amount of money invested in breeds of fancy strains throughout the entire country, which will do something to bring up the average value of barnyard fowls, together with the relatively higher values of both poultry and eggs in producing sections adjacent to large cities, especially in the east, these estimates are conservative.

It is probable that the annual product of the poultry industry, the meat and eggs consumed, represents almost as much money to the producer as does the wheat crop. The value of fowls alone is today three or four times the total value of all the sheep in the United States. Even the hogs now in this country represent no greater value than the poultry, and dairy cows are valued at only about double the poultry figures, eggs excluded.

Census figures on this important adjunct of the farmer's business, now available for the first time, show a decided gain over those of a decade earlier. Our own exclusive inquiry reveals an astonishing growth during the past five years. The condensed table above shows this, and other details by states appear in the larger table below. The census of 1880 was admittedly incomplete. Owing to the fact that the census taken in 1890 was only of fowls on farms, our effort to get at the fowls on hand Jan 1, 1896, both on farms and in towns, makes the increase seem larger than it really is. After much inquiry, we have estimated the egg product of fowls in towns and villages at only the same rate as the census showed on farms, which is doubtless much too low. All the figures at best are only approximates, though the most accurate available. Large and small farmers, and market specialists everywhere are very properly giving more attention to the poultry industry than ever before. While prices in many sections are often low, this fact is due rather to unequal and unfortunate distribution than to lack of healthy demand. Furthermore, the testimony of vast numbers of poultry raisers goes to show that at the above average valuation placed upon the different kinds of fowls, they yield a hand-

some profit on the investment besides paying well for the labor involved.

Up to the present, the production of poultry yards is all wanted at home, while it is a noteworthy fact that millions of dozens of eggs are imported annually, the home supply falling short of market requirements. So long as we pay ten times as much as for foreign eggs as received for domestic sent abroad, let no one say this branch of the business is overdone. During the past three years, and in spite of a duty of 3 to 5 cents per dozen nearly 8,000,000 dozen eggs have been imported into the United States, worth about a million dollars. Canada supplies nearly all these, yet far-off China ships a considerable number each year to our Pacific coast ports.

Care of Poultry.

An over-fat hen is always in danger of apoplexy.

Poultry nor babies can't stand filth and keep in health.

A well hen, if not too fat, is full of life. Sick hens mope.

When the bird begins to wheeze, you have a case of roup on hand.

Use plenty of dry earth in the hen-house and coops. It is a purifier.

Vermin cause the hens to pick their feathers and otherwise to be restless.

The way some people refuse to use whitewash in the poultry house would indicate that it was expensive.

When sickness occurs among the poultry find the cause, and remove it, and medicine will likely be unnecessary.

A poultryman says that after ten years of feeding everything, he has learned that the basis of vigor in poultry is green food.

Difficulty or apparent difficulty of swallowing on the part of young poultry, especially ducks, is said to indicate large gray lice in the neck.

When the nests are where the dog can run before and around them, either the dog, the nests or the laying hens are out of place. The laying hen needs to be kept quiet.

There is nothing else under the sun that compares to soft, tender green sprouts of oats, wheat or rye, for adult fowls, or young and growing chickens, writes a poultryman.—Western Plowman.

Chicken Fleas and Jiggers.

Here is a Texas man that accuses Florida of furnishing the original stock of these infernal pests, and I think that he has the cart before the horse this time. The fact is, the flea came from Texas to Florida. Early in the '80's the flea was first discovered in the north-western part of this state, and was known as the Texas flea. It was never known how it reached here, but was supposed to have been brought here with the numerous herds of Texas ponies that were driven into the State in those days. Another proof that the flea did not originate here, a native of New Mexico told me that in 1884 they were so numerous in that country that the pheasant and other feathered game were being exterminated by them.

We acknowledge that they are awful pests, but are easily gotten rid of, if you will pursue the right course and be thorough.

The remedy that I have recommended for years has proven successful in nearly every instance: Make a strong kerosene emulsion, same as for the orange scale (every orange grower knows the formula), only use it three times as strong as you would for the scale insect, spray the

ground in the yards and the houses where the fowls roost, inside and out; if there is any loose trash on the ground, first rake and burn. You may have to repeat the spraying several times before they are killed. The next thing to do is to make an ointment of vasoline, strongly impregnated with oil of pennyroyal, and anoint the ear-lobes, wattles, and about the combs, and give the legs below the knees and a good covering. If thoroughly done it may not have to be repeated; but examine again in a week, and if you find any that are alive go over them again, and in this way you will certainly get rid of the worst enemy the poultrymen has to contend with.

I have had them in my yards just once, and they got a good start before I discovered them; but in two weeks there was not one to be found. This was eight years ago, and I have not seen one since.—E. W. Anderson in Daytona Journal.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address

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Wm. Brooks of Floral City has fully decided to establish a canning factory at his place near Floral City. The plant will be quite an extensive one, and all kinds of fruits and vegetables will be canned. Mr. Brooks will plant about fifty acres of tomatoes and other vegetables, and the farmers in that section will also plant a much larger acreage of vegetables than heretofore, with a view of selling to the canning factory. The Chronicle is pleased to learn of this new industry and congratulates Mr. Brooks for his good work. This opens up a new market for the farmers of Citrus county and should receive the hearty support and co-operation of every citizen.—Citrus County Chronicle.

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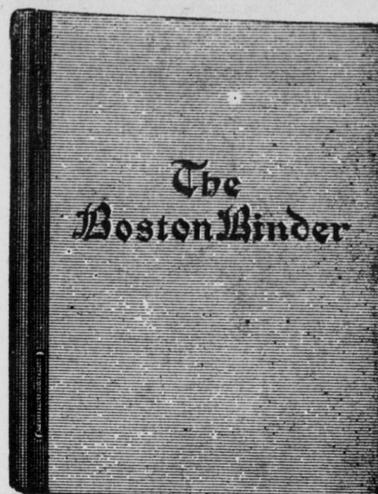
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