

A Wonderful Maine Hen.

After five years of careful breeding for egg production, regardless of all other accomplishments, Prof. George M. Gowell, Agricultural Expert at the University of Maine, has, says the New York Sun, succeeded in obtaining more than forty hens that have yielded more than 200 eggs apiece in a year, and has produced one hen which has laid 251 eggs within twelve months. This hen, known to the record as No. 617, is a small Plymouth Rock of pure strain, though not shape according to the standard type. She is not only under the size demanded for perfect specimens of the breed, but her wing barring is imperfect and her neck is too slim for her body. In spite of her defects, as viewed from the standpoint of the fancier, she is in actual performance the most valuable hen in the world, being capable under average Maine condition of returning to her owners a net profit 176 per cent. a year.

The figures, which have been passed upon and approved by expert bookkeepers, are deduced from counting the average cost of food and subtracting the total expense of subsistence from the income derived from eggs at the average price paid in Maine, which is 18 cents a dozen.

Prof. Gowell has devoted himself almost exclusively to breeding hens for a specific purpose for the last five years. Beginning with 1,000 hens, divided into flocks of about twenty hens, and two cockerels to a pen, he has employed trap nests and been able to get at the exact performance of every bird. The first year the best record was 220 eggs, laid by a Plymouth Rock pullet. There were eleven other Plymouth Rock hens that exceeded 200 eggs each the first year, though of the 500 White Wyandottes only three reached the 200 egg class. The next season the most prolific hens in their respective classes were put in pens together, and eggs saved from these were kept for hatching. Again the Plymouth Rocks outstripped the Wyandottes in egg yield by great majorities, so from that time on until the end no further attention was paid to the Wyandottes. Having hatched male and female chickens from the eggs of his hens of greatest ability to lay eggs, Prof. Gowell mated the selected stock and waited for results. At the end of the fourth year he had produced twenty-six hens that had laid more than two hundred eggs each in a year, and one hen that beat all previous hen records by laying 238 eggs. Again making his selection of breeding stock from the most prolific in his pens and mating the hens to cockerels from the same strain, he at last secured the most prolific hen in the world, No. 617. In speaking of his labors, Prof. Gowell says that the problem of developing a flock of hens that will beget chicks to maintain or outstrip the ancestral records, is beset with many difficulties. After reaching a certain point in inbreeding, the physical stamina of the fowls degenerates, and the birds die from a too intimate mixture of allied bloods. The hen known as No. 617 is vigorous and apparently healthy. She is active beyond the usual conduct of hens, and bids fair to live for years. From her and two other hens, each of which has laid 246 eggs in a year, Prof. Gowell is saving eggs for the hatching of still more prolific fowls. What the limit is going to be he cannot tell. He hopes to arrive at the hen which will lay 200 eggs in a year and yield a net profit of 200 per cent., though he is not at all certain that the fowls are capable of doing so much without physical collapse. It will take four or five years longer to decide the question either way. Meanwhile, he thinks he has originated a breed of fowls that Maine farmers and poultrymen can keep with an assurance of profit.

How One Man Increased the U. S. Corn Crop.

Throughout the corn belt, Prof. P. G. Holden is known as the man who, more than anyone else, has improved seed corn so that our greatest crop has been increased by millions of bushels. The work began twenty years ago, when Prof. Holden, then a college student, was teaching school in the summer. His pupils were all children of farmers. He heard the parents talking about poor corn crops and about crop failures. He wondered what he could do to improve the yield.

One day he asked his class, "How many ears are there on a rat's tail?"

One child said "two." Another said fifty. A third said "a hundred." No one knew. "How can you find out?" asked the teacher.

"Look in the dictionary," said one.

Finally a boy held up his hand and said, "Teacher, I'll catch a rat and see."

"That's the only way," said Professor Holden.

That night there was a general rat hunt in the Michigan village, and the next day every child shame-facedly reported that there were no hairs or a rat's tail.

This experience taught the pupils to investigate and to observe. Next Professor Holden asked every child to select an ear of corn from his father's crib and bring it to school. The teacher graded it. The child whose corn was the poorest went home and told his father. The parent after remarking

"What does the teacher know about corn? He is paid to teach arithmetic," came to see the teacher. When he saw the ears of corn that were fuller and richer than his own, he realized that the teacher was right.

Professor Holden then asked all his pupils to plant three seeds of the best corn in a box, and water it. The boy whose father had the finest ear was among the most enthusiastic. The children nursed the corn carefully. The result was a crop packed with large kernels. Then the pupils' fathers became interested, and planted special seed corn. There were no more failures of corn crops.

Professor Holden became Professor of Agriculture at the Illinois State Agricultural College, at Champaign. He remembered the lesson of the Michigan farmers. In a year, through his efforts, the Illinois farmers were careful about sowing the best seed corn, and soon the farmers in Iowa and in Missouri, and, in fact, throughout the great Corn Belt were becoming experts in seed corn.

Near Bloomington, Ill., is the 25,000 acre farm of the Funk Brothers, the largest in the United States. Twenty thousand acres are devoted to corn. One day Professor Holden was visiting the farm. "What is your average yield?" he asked. "Forty to fifty bushels," he was told. "But it should be more," he said. He showed the Funk brothers how to select the best seed-corn and to plant it carefully.

On a 20,000 acre farm, an increase of five bushels an acre a year meant a small fortune. Professor Holden became director of the farm. From some acres he raised seventy bushels an acre. The increase in yield the first year was 10,000 bushels!

This year Professor Holden preached the gospel of corn to the Iowa farmers from a special train. As a result, millions of bushels of corn have been added to the State yield. The work which began with a class of farmers' children in a Michigan country school is now effecting an improvement in the methods of agriculture throughout the United States.

Grandson of Stonewall Jackson at West Point.

A grandson of Gen. Stonewall Jackson has this fall entered the United States Military Academy at West Point. The lad's name is Stonewall Jackson Christian, and he is a son of one of the daughters of the original Stonewall. The grandfather, by the way, did not receive at baptism the name by which he is known to fame. It came to him at the first battle of Bull run, where Gen. Jackson commanded a green brigade.

"Will your men stan?" was the question of the general-in-chief, as the Northern troops were seen to be advancing against Jackson's position.

"Like a stone wall, was the reply.

And it was "Stonewall" Jackson from that time on.

Deafness Cannot be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When the tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by Druggists, 75c.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Awkwardly Worded.

The Perkins and the Podgrass families are unfriendly. Adherents of the Perkinses say it is Mr. Podgrass's fault, but he firmly protests that he meant no harm.

The trouble began at the concert given in aid of the Volunteer Hose Company. Mr. Podgrass was stage-manager. Miss Anna Belle Perkins was down for a solo, but when the eventful evening came she found herself prostrated with a cold, and at the last moment sent a messenger to ask that she be excused to the audience. When her place on the program was reached, Mr. Podgrass advanced to the front of the platform.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "I have to announce that Miss Perkins will be unable to sing, as announced, and therefore Mr. Brown will give us 'A Song of Thanksgiving.'"

One Cause of Illness.

A famous physician upon being asked recently what is the chief cause of ill-health replied: "Thinking and talking about it all the time. This ceaseless introspection in which so many of the rising generation of nervous folk indulge, is certainly wearing them out. When they are not worrying as to whether they sleep too much or too little, they are fidgeting over the amount of food they take or the quantity of exercise necessary for health. In short, they never give themselves a moment's peace. Our grandfathers did not concern themselves with these questions. They ate, drank, slept as nature

prompted them. Undoubtedly they were healthier in mind and body for their sublime indifference, and if we asked ourselves fewer questions, we should have less time to analyze or imagine ailments."

That medical science has made remarkable progress in the last few decades cannot be denied. The fault for some present day undesirable conditions lies not with the doctor but with the patient, says Robert Webster Jones in the December Housekeeper. There has been too great a tendency on the part of the laity to acquire a smattering of medical knowledge through the reading of so-called "health" magazines and pamphlets, and to put into practice, on their own account, that "little knowledge" which it cannot be denied, is a "dangerous thing." The following of some most ridiculous fads along the lines of eating, drinking, sleeping, and exercise has assisted in swelling the mortality statistics. Our grandfathers would hold up their hands in horror at many of the foolish things we do in the name of "health." A little more of the comfortable nonchalance of our healthy ancestors would do no harm to the rising generation.

FACTS WORTH KNOWING.

The Railway Passengers Assurance Company of London, England,

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Is the oldest Accident Insurance Company in the world.

Has paid out in Claims the enormous sum of over \$23,000,000.

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Has actually divided among its Policyholders in Bonus returns the handsome sum of over \$2,000,000.

Has a fully subscribed capital of \$5,000,000.
Insures against Lost Time caused by Sickness.

Pays a capital sum equal to one-half the amount insured for Paralysis of Blindness.

Pays the largest amount for Loss of EITHER Hand, Foot or Eye.

Before renewing your accident policies examine the accident contracts of the Railway Passengers. You can only afford the best.

Its contracts are clear, concise, and free from objectionable restrictions.
J. W. ASTLE, Agent, Queen St.

BORN.

Ross—At Woodstock, on Dec. 16th, to the wife of Rev. Geo. A. Ross, a son.

MARRIED.

PARENT-LORD.—At Boundary, Maine, by Clarence E. Farley, Justice of the Peace, Clinton E. Parent and Eva Blanche Lord, both of Tracy Mills, N. B.

MCLORY-DEWAR.—At Keswick Ridge, York Co., N. B., on May 24th, 1904, by Rev. C. Moore, Mr. Ernest M. McLory and Miss Inez B. DeWare, both of Waterville, Car. Co., N. B.

CARMICHAEL-HOYEY.—At the parsonage, Centerville, Dec. 21, by the Rev. R. S. Freeman, Frank Carmichael, of Bridgewater, Me., to Velma Hovey, of Royalton, Carleton County, N. B.

DIED.

MCLEAN.—At River de Chute, December 16th, of pneumonia, Alice Marion, aged two months and twelve days, infant daughter of Robert and Myrtle McLean.

READ THIS!

Important Notice to
Holiday Buyers.

30 Days Sale at Very Low
Prices to Clear Before
Stock-Taking, and
10% off these prices
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Pictures and Mirrors framed in Gilt or Dark Oak Mahair, Reversible &c., Rugs, Wool Mats, Hassocks, Carpet Sweepers, Fine new lot of Morris Chairs, Couches, Rockers, Sideboards. Extension and Centre Tables, Children's Chairs, Rockers, Sleds, Toy Carts &c.,

Be sure to see our stock of above before deciding your purchases. All make good useful Christmas Presents.

Mail Orders receive prompt and careful attention.

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FURNITURE STORE.****UNDERTAKING**

Given Careful Personal Attention

From Bradstreet's annual report for 1903 it appears that 84 per cent. of the merchants who failed during the year 1903 were NON ADVERTISERS, and the other 16 per cent. were weak advertisers, or didn't advertise enough. It surely is a case of go in and win or fall by the wayside.

\$2.00 for \$1.00.**GRAND SLAUGHTER SALE.****THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.**

75 Ladies' Cloth Jackets, all new goods, latest styles, will be sold for 50 cts on the dollar.

\$16.00 Jackets only \$8.00	\$10.00 Jackets only \$5.00
13.00 " " 6.50	8.00 " " 4.00
12.00 " " 6.00	6.00 " " 3.00
11.00 " " 5.50	4.00 " " 2.00

Ladies' Raccoon Jackets, former prices \$40 and \$45, now only \$25 and \$30. Ladies' and Misses' Muffs at Half Price.

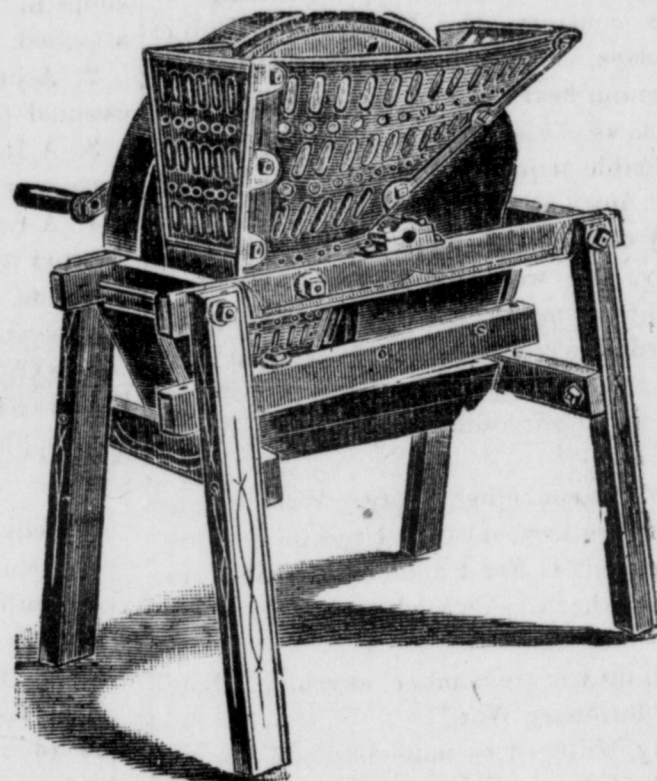
In our Men's Department we have 50 Men's Raglan Overcoats which will be sold at less than cost

\$15.00 Raglans only \$12.00;	\$12.50 Raglans only \$10.00
\$10.50 Raglans only \$8.00;	\$8.50 Raglans only \$6.00;
	\$7.50 Raglans only \$5.00.

Great Bargains in Boys' and Youths' Raglans, Ulsters and Reefers. This is your opportunity and do not fail to take advantage of this special sale.

OAK HALL, B. B. MANZER.**Root Cutters
and Pulpers,****ROLLER BEARINGS.****Six Reversible Knives**

which will Either Slice
or Pulp.



**"Climax" Furnaces,
"Villa Crawford" Ranges,
Heaters, Stoves, Cider Mills,
Farmers' Furnaces, Etc.**

We have have in stock two "BAMFORD" RAPID GRINDING MILLS, imported from England, and which will be sold at a Reduced Price.

**CONNELL BROS., L'td.
Useful Gifts.**

If you are looking for a Christmas Present for Father, Mother, Wife, Brother, Sister, or somebody else's sister, or brother, or in fact anybody, come in and see our stock of

Fancy Slippers, in Patent Leather, Felt, Plush, Plaids. Also, Gaiters, Overshoes, Cardigans, Patent Leather Goods, Etc.

Don't forget we have also Children's and Misses' Bedroom Slippers.

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Corner Main and Queen Streets, Woodstock, N. B.

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FROM FORCE OF HABIT you borrow money from private lenders who want their interest half yearly and no payments on principal until the end of the term, AND LOSE MONEY by so doing, while

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can lend you money on such easy terms that your mortgage will almost pay itself, and your interest in the case of farm loans will only be payable yearly. By borrowing from him THE INTEREST MONEY SAVED will help to pay the principal money. Write him at once and pay off that old Mortgage.

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