

THE ORPINGTONS.

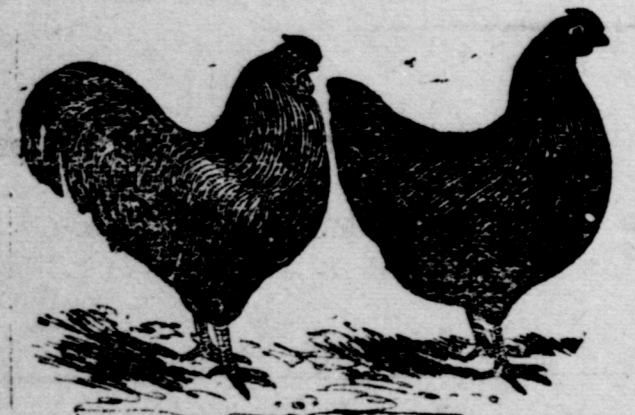
A New Breed of Profitable and Handsome Fowls.

The Orpington breed of fowls is a new one which has received much attention from poultry journals, but is as yet little known among farmers.

They were developed in England by a fancier named Cook, who says he brought them into existence for the purpose of infusing into farming pursuits a new element of profitable poultry keeping. He claims that Orpingtons are suited to almost all conditions under which poultry can be kept, offering a choice of varieties and characteristics so as to make it possible for all classes to keep them. He continues:

"The first variety of the Orpingtons was the black. To make these I took a good Black Minorca, which variety are extraordinary large, black plumage, but small and not putting on fat readily, with white flesh and skin of fine texture, but with black legs and tremendous activity. They are not suitable for cold, black situations, and they are not strong, hardy birds. The points I hoped to secure from this breed were black plumage, red face and large comb and ear lobes. I procured the finest bodied cocks of the breed that I could find throughout the country that had red ear lobes. These 'sports' had been killed or thought little of before because they had not white ear lobes.

"With these Black Minors I mated some Black Plymouth Rock pullets, which are 'sports' from the American Speckled Rocks, owing to the Black Java having been used in the making of the Plymouth Rock breed. Plymouth Rocks are hardy birds, winter layers of



A PAIR OF BLACK ROSE COMBED ORPINGTONS, a brown (or tinted) egg and were thought a good deal of when they were introduced, although their yellow skin and legs have always been against them as table fowls in this country. These varieties when crossed produced even black pullets and good shaped birds. The cockerels came of a mixed straw color and were, of course, useless for my purpose.

"With these beautiful pullets I mated a good Langshan, of the old short-legged type, and, as is well known, these birds are extraordinary winter and particularly late autumn layers of deep brown shelled eggs. They lay when eggs are scarce, more so than any other time of the year. They are also fine bodied black birds, showing an iridescent metallic green sheen upon their magnificent plumage. So these birds, with their long, deep breastbone and white skin and flesh, infused many good qualities into the breed.

"The feathers down the legs had to be disposed of, and to do this I sought out all the Langshans that were produced without feathers on the legs. These Langshans laid earlier than the feather-legged ones, and, with their breasts curved in that peculiar way which denoted strength of constitution and their fine qualities, soon set their stamp of real excellence upon the birds. So with the 'waistlers' (waisters) from the good breeds I formed the Black Orpingtons, using birds that represented of the three continents—viz. Minors from Europe, Langshans from Asia and Plymouth Rocks from America—and three varieties that were looked upon as three of the best for general purposes that England possessed.

These were the original Orpingtons made. Some people objected that the single combed birds were so like Langshans, and Rose Combed Orpingtons were next made by substituting a Rose Combed Langshan male. The White Orpingtons came next and were made by crossing White Leghorn cocks and Black Hamburg hens, and the pullets of this cross were every one white.

To make the Buff Orpingtons three varieties were crossed. First, Golden Spangled Hamburg cocks were mated with Dorkings. The reddish brown progeny were by far the best layers of this cross, and, having selected the best layers of these, he mated a Buff Cockerel with them, and about two out of every dozen came with clean legs, which is a disadvantage also in the English market.

Poultry Points.

Grit must be sharp.
Feed before you water.
Do not feed glass for grit.
Feed a mash the year round.
Good food is positive economy.
Clean out the feed troughs daily.
Oyster shells are too soft for grit.
Never throw soft feed on the ground.
Round pebbles will not answer for grit.

Millet seed is a great egg producing grain.
Always feed the mash crumbly, not sloppy.
In feeding grain in the runs broadcast it.
Beans are excellent feed, being highly nitrogenous.
A quart of feed for 12 hens is a good measurement.
More than one-half of early maturity is in high feeding.
Milk can be fed in any form—sweet, sour or butter milk.
Barley is much used in Europe and is valuable as a variety.
Sorghum and broom corn seeds are excellent for a variety.
The dried blood sold for fertilizer is dangerous to use for poultry.

Split the carrots in halves and allow the hens to peck at them at will.
Have the feed troughs sufficiently large so that all the fowls can find room.
Beef blood mixed with ground grain is excellent for both old and young stock.
Popcorn contains more nitrogen and phosphates than the regular Indian corn.
Refuse crackers and stale bread make an excellent addition to the morning mash.

Buckwheat is an egg producing food, but a steady diet of it is apt to be over fattening.
The egg has always been a prime object in the breeding of fowls. The jungle fowl of India lays an egg not half as big as an up to date barnyard fowl, while the eggs of the Plymouth Rock or Light Brahma hen attain a surprising maximum in respect to dimensions. Not only this, but the modern hen's egg has been artificially colored, as it were, by choosing for breeding purposes those chickens which laid the darkest eggs. Thus a very brown egg, not at all the color contemplated by

nature, has been produced. There is a popular notion, derived from nobody knows what source, that brown eggs are richer in flavor than white ones, and they bring a higher price in the market. Similar means have been employed to increase the rate of egg laying, so that now a well bred pullet will produce 200 or more eggs in the first year after she has reached maturity. It is obvious that nature never intended the eggs to be laid at such a rate, inasmuch as the mother hen would not have time enough to incubate them, much less take care of the chick after they were hatched. Yet, with the help of a wooden box and an oil lamp, the entire product of eggs can be transformed into chicks, which are subsequently reared by an artificial mother.

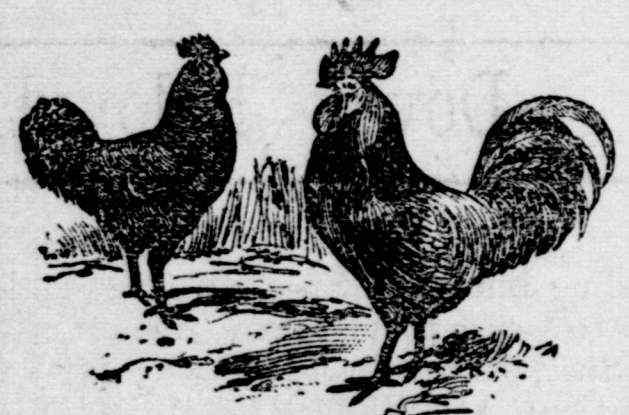
ROCKS AND LEGHORNS.

Why They Are Among the Best of All Breeds of Poultry.

Mr. E. O. Roscoe, the well known poultry breeder, says in an exchange that the breed par excellence known from one end of the country to the other is the Barred Plymouth Rock. There is not a farmer, amateur or fancier who does not at once recognize the sterling qualities of this most popular of all breeds. It is almost useless to enumerate their qualities, they are so well known. Yet they live up to these qualities and maintain year after year the excellence which is the foundation of their popularity. For egg producers, when eggs are highest in price, they are reliable. For good, large bodied specimens, when meat is demanded, they seldom fail, and for hardiness and general health they have no superiors. They are not beautiful, except in the eyes of their admirers, yet there is a certain steady, businesslike air about these plain specimens which appeals to all classes and stamps them the great money makers of poultrydom.

It is safe to say that the demand for Plymouth Rocks is far in excess of that for any other breed. This does not reflect unfavorably on the other breeds. It simply shows that they are the public's favorites.

The very best quality any breed can have is hardiness. A vigorous constitution in fowls is the first thing to consider. With it we may expect a good growth, an early maturity, a good egg yield and a fine carcass; without it we cannot depend upon any of these results with certainty. Health and prime condition go hand in hand, and hence the best results obtainable in poultry. The healthy hen is the egg type and the showman specimen. Condition should be the first consideration. Where can be found a healthier, stronger and more reliable breed than the Barred Plymouth Rock? Climatic conditions do not affect them. They are bred in all sections of our country. They are alike indifferent



to cold or heat. No matter how low the temperature, this popular American breed attends strictly to business, and if they are comfortably housed at night and kept busy during the day we may look for a full nest box at gathering time. Still, they lay a brown egg, and if the demand should be for white eggs, or both white and brown, we must look for another breed to run side by side with them, in order that the demand for both may be supplied.

Among the business breeds which lay white eggs our choice is limited—we have the Leghorns, Minors and Andalusians. The Minors lay a large, fine egg, and, if properly handled, plenty of them—but are they business egg machines? The Andalusians also are prolific layers, but if we breed them to perfection is the demand sufficient to justify their being kept for profit? We are forced to fall back on the Leghorns. Here we have truly egg machines. Can they be beaten in this quality? The choice of the entire family is probably the White, Brown or Buff. It matters little which we select—it is a fancy; admirers of each claim superiority. Are they popular? Yes—almost as much so as the Plymouth Rocks. They are well distributed throughout the country. The public has adopted them, and the demand for them has been, and is always will be strong. Any person who cannot make money out of eggs and keep White, Brown or Buff Leghorns does not deserve to be called an egg farmer. They are active, healthy, beautiful and profitable. Does any other breed combine more good qualities?

Their enemies, and they have some, call them spring and summer layers. They will lay as strong in the dead of winter as any other breed if properly housed. Being a closely feathered variety, they need warm quarters. Keep them shut up all winter in a house where the water never freezes in the pans, feed them liberally and keep them busy and they will lay continuously, and when spring comes and the warmer air permits them to run out they will, like all other breeds, increase their egg yield, but in greater proportion. They are the fit mates for the Plymouth Rocks for egg production. Being a non-mitting variety they continue the laying when the Plymouth Rocks become broody.

The great objection to the Leghorn is said to be its small carcass for market purposes. This is hardly an objection, except to those who demand size and weight alone. As the chicks grow very rapidly and are very active, they can be made to dress as fine a broiler for sweet, fine grained meat as any breed known and at the earliest broiler season. As roasters there is nothing better than a well fattened, three pound Leghorn cockerel.

To conclude, therefore, we may consider that the great business team of all the breeds is the Plymouth Rock and the Leghorn.

Points For Shippers.
One of the greatest mistakes in shipping live poultry is that of mixing fat hens and roosters in the same coop. The hens cannot be assisted in bringing better prices by having males with them, while buyers will not buy in large lots and pay good prices for mixed stock. The roosters only take up room in the coops and assist in crowding the hens. If the fowls are shipped, let them be 'choice' in the market. If roosters must be sent, put them into a separate coop. It means a difference of several dollars on a case of fowls if they are shipped properly. Dressed stock should also be assorted, and no fowls should be sent to market unless they are fat.

Farm and Poultry.
Chickens with cancer should be at once removed from the flock and kept in separate quarters. It is very contagious. Wash the spots with burned alum dissolved in new run. Cleanse thoroughly morning and night and remove the cancer daily. A weak solution of nitrate of silver can be used to touch the spots, but this must be done with great care, as it is rather a severe treatment.

Farmers should never ship eggs until they have first selected them. The prices for them nearer home. If they would retail their eggs and seek customers, a large sum would be added to their receipts from poultry. Fresh eggs are always salable, for every family man has them. It frequently happens, when eggs are scarce, that a farmer must buy them from another and in every village and town will find those who prefer to buy from a farmer than from the dealers.

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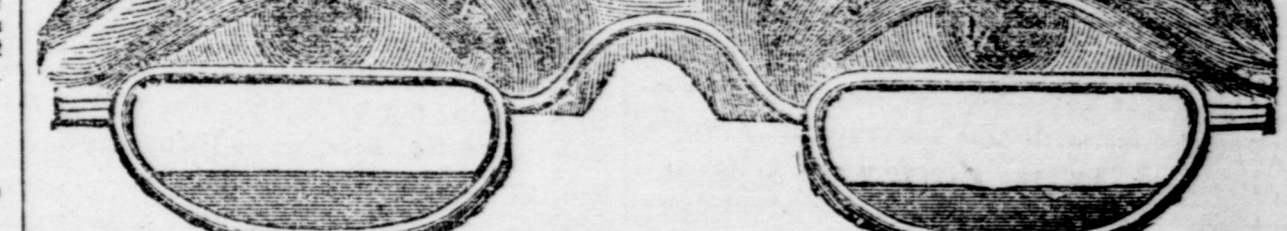
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7:10 " 1:30 "	Chatham, 12:45 a.m. 4:05 p.m.	Chatham Junction, 7:20 a.m. 2:20 "	Chatham Junction, 7:20 a.m. 2:20 "
7:30 " 1:50 "	Fredericton, 1:05 a.m. 4:25 p.m.	Fredericton, 7:40 a.m. 2:40 "	Fredericton, 7:40 a.m. 2:40 "
7:50 " 2:10 "	Fredericton, 1:25 a.m. 4:45 p.m.	Fredericton, 8:00 a.m. 3:00 "	Fredericton, 8:00 a.m. 3:00 "
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