

# SOME INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO RAISE POULTRY

**Birds Should Have Careful Attention if They Are to be a Source of Income—More Than One Half the Flock Should Be Renewed Each Year.**

From 12 to 25 hens are sufficient to provide the ordinary family with enough eggs and meat to render the keeping of the birds worth while, according to poultry specialists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The amount of outdoor space the flock will require may be estimated at about 25 square feet for each bird. There are instances in which chickens have thrived with much less than this, but unless the soil is especially favorable and the birds receive unusually good care, crowding is likely to prove unprofitable.

Poultry specialists do not recommend, however, that every one with the requisite space at his disposal should go in for chicken raising. Unless there is a natural interest in poultry or a determination to make the flock a source of real economy even if it does take time and trouble, the venture is not likely to prove successful. Lack of care may result in disease that will sweep off the entire flock and is almost certain to cause a reduction in egg production that will make the birds a burden instead of a help. In some localities where municipal ordinances may prohibit the keeping of poultry within certain limits, care should be taken that the poultry yard is not in a prescribed area.

## Space for a Flock.

While it is possible to get along with 25 square feet per bird, a larger space affording more green and insect food is very desirable. For one thing, the ordinary poultry keeper wishes to perpetuate his flock, and the raising of young chickens requires as much land as the keeping of mature hens. After she is two years old, the best laying days of the average hen are over and it usually pays to get rid of her. This means that half the flock must be renewed each year. Since many cockerels as pullets will be hatched and a certain percentage are certain to die, it is customary to hatch each year a few more chickens than there are hens in the flock. With a flock of 25, for example, about 30 chickens should be raised. The same space must be allowed for these as for the laying hens. The cockerels are consumed through the season, being used either as broilers when they are about three months old, as friers, or as roasters.

It is also most desirable as a precaution against disease to divide the available area into two plots. On one of these the chickens are allowed to range while a green crop—wheat or oats, for example—is being grown for them on the other. The preliminary turning under of the soil, the green crop, and freedom from chickens for a period to serve to prevent the land from becoming contaminated.

Additional range, with the advantage of a large supply of insect food for the birds, may sometimes be obtained where a vegetable garden is maintained. At different times in the growing season there are areas in the garden which are either idle or occupied only by crops that the hens will not touch. The birds, confined to these with the aid of a portable fence, benefit without injury to the vegetables.

## Some Housing Required.

An important item to be considered by those thinking of maintaining a home flock is the cost of the house. For some part of the year at least, in almost every section of the United States, chickens require the shelter of a tight, dry building. In planning the house, approximately 4 or 5 feet of floor space should be allowed for each bird. The height may be determined by the convenience of the operator, for

the birds themselves need only two or three feet. Such low houses, however, are very difficult to clean, and in consequence, are likely to be neglected. It is better to build them so high that a man may work in them without discomfort.

A not uncommon device is to use a piano box for a chicken house. The cost of these houses depends largely upon circumstances, though no estimate can be given. It may be possible to find one the owner will be glad to give away; and, on the other hand, one may have to pay \$1.50 or more for a box that is no better. By combining two piano boxes, a very satisfactory shelter for a small flock can be made at little expense. Where lumber must be purchased, it has been estimated that the materials for a substantial chicken house may cost anywhere from 50 cents to \$1 per bird, and it is not unlikely that with the present prices of commodities of all kinds, these figures will be somewhat low. Portable chicken houses are also on the market at costs varying greatly. The majority, however, will probably cost the owner from \$1.50 to \$2 for each bird sheltered by them. In any event, it is probable that unless there is plenty of spare lumber available and the prospective poultryman happens to be a good carpenter, the cost of the chicken house will not be met by the value of the products over the cost of feed for the flock for a year or two. The house should last, however, for a number of years, especially if painted and well cared for. Substantial profits from the investment should be made thereafter.

In many cases also, where the surroundings are such that the chickens cannot be allowed to range at will, the cost of fencing must be considered. This, obviously, will vary greatly with the size of the area to be enclosed and the kind of fencing selected. Ordinary chicken wire is not expensive.

## Cost of Keeping Chickens.

The actual economy secured by the keeping of a small flock of chickens depends primarily upon their egg production, and this, in turn, is largely a matter of care. Under favorable conditions, however, it is estimated that 150 eggs the first year and 120 the second is a fair return from the ordinary hen. On the other hand, at least from 25 to 50 cents a year must be expended for grain and other feeds, the exact amount depending upon the quantity of table scraps and green and insect food available. Where all the feed must be purchased, from \$1 to \$1.25 is allowed. Even in the most thrifty household, however, there is always a large quantity of table scraps, vegetable parings, and other "left overs" for the hens, so that a considerable portion of their feed consists of what otherwise would be carried off the place by the garbage man.

Although of less importance than the eggs, the supply of poultry for the table furnished by the home flock is an item that cannot be overlooked. As has been pointed out, in a flock of 25 which the owner is perpetuating, there will be approximately 12 or 13 cockerels, almost all of which can be used best for food. Half of the hens must go each year also, so that allowing for losses and for birds reserved for breeding, there still will be enough appreciably to affect the butcher's bill.

## GENERAL LESSARD ON RECRUITING PROBLEM

Montreal, May 8.—Major General Lessard this morning gave expression to his views to the recruiting problem in the province of Quebec. His principal complaint was that the lower clergy of the province have not lent an attentive ear to the voice of the higher episcopal authorities so as to bring its message in regard to the duty of the French Canadians at the present time to the race as a whole. He pointed out the grave responsibility that the lower clergy assumes in putting a damper on the appeal of the hierarchy to its children. As far as he himself was concerned he expected a more whole hearted co-operation from the clergy in conformity with the great influence which it exercises on the destinies of the French-Canadians. He might say the same thing about their leaders—those who directed opinion in Quebec. It was long enough that politics had been a bar to the complete spirit of union necessary to rouse up the French-Canadian people to rally to the great cause.

## TORPEDOED BOAT HAD A BIG CARGO

New York, May 8.—The Greek steamer Parthenon, which left New York on April 14 for Havre, has been sunk by a German submarine with a loss of \$4,000,000 in vessel and cargo, according to a despatch received today by the owners.

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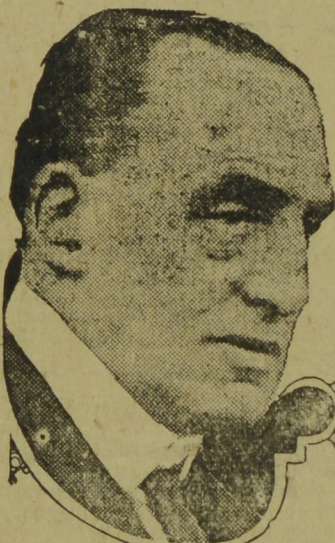
**—Black or Natural Green—**

## IRISH SITUATION NOT ENCOURAGING

**The Government's Plan for Settlement May be on Principle of County Option.**

London, May 8.—The Times today prints the following despatch from Dublin:

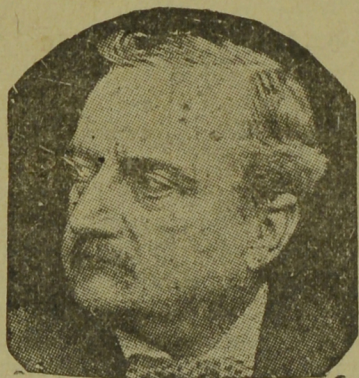
"This week, which may be a momentous one for Ireland, opens in a state of political confusion which discourages even the most modest speculating. On the whole, a spirit of pessimism prevails. Nationalist sentiment continues to grow harder against any thought of the partition of Ulster. If one may judge by its news, it remains inexorable. The situation is not improved by the unceasingly definite demand of the official Nationalists based on the exigencies of the war and the presumed support of American opinion for the coercion of Ulster. It is now believed that the government's plan



SIR EDWARD CARSON  
the Ulster leader

will be made on the principle of county option. A solution is just possible in this direction. Unionist Ulster may be persuaded to accept the loss or the risk of losing Fermanagh and Tyrone. In that event the official Nationalists might accept the plan, especially if it embodied a generous measure of self-alists might be persuaded also to accept such a scheme, for everybody in Ireland who has anything to lose and is careful of national honor is heartily sick of the present chaos and the country's isolation in the war.

"The unknown element at present is the Sinn Fein party. It will certainly reject the county option, but whether its opposition is strong enough to kill county option remains to be seen.



JOHN E. REDMOND, M. P.

"The Sinn Feiner is wholly mad and bad. Last week, for instance, a dozen of the leading Unionists in Tralee declared their anxiety for an immediate settlement. This overture was instantly rejected by the Kerry county council which also passed a resolution in favor of the Sinn Feiners' candidate in South Longford. Correspondents in South Longford tell me that women who have sons at the front are bitterly opposed to the Sinn Feiners, but a large majority of the young men are ardently on the Sinn Fein side mainly through fear of military service."

## THE SCOT'S ANSWER.

A lawyer was examining a Scottish farmer. "You'll affirm that when this happened you were going home to a meal. Let us be quite certain on this point, because it is a very important one. Be good enough to tell me, sir, with as little prevarication as possible, what meal it was you were going home to."

"You would like to know what meal

## AROSTOCK HORSES IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Billy Nelson is at Haverhill track with Ruth W., 2.23 1/4, and others owned by Jerry Smith, of Caribou, Me. Legal Guy, 2.14 3/4, now owned by T. M. Hoyt, of Fort Fairfield, Me., will be raced by W. N. Gilbert.

## STATE MAY CONTROL THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

London, May 8.—The Times this morning claims it has authority for stating that the government had adopted in principle the policy of state purchase of the liquor trade.

it was?" said the Scotsman. "Yes, sir, I would like to know," replied the counsel, sternly and impressively. "Be sure you tell the truth."

"Well, then, it was just oatmeal."—Rochester Times.

Im wunderschönen Monat Mai  
Blossom the trees and flowers  
What time this forecast greets the eye;  
'Colder today, with showers.'

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# How Brown Learned How.

**There is a man who makes shoes for children—and sells them to stores all over Canada But he is only just learning how people buy.**

It was this way: His wife—let us call her Mrs. Brown—phoned to him and asked him to buy some underwear for little Brown.

Picture Brown now among the throng of mothers at the "Children's Underwear" counter. He asks for Underwear for a child of six. He looks it over helplessly. What on earth does he know about Children's Underwear? For lack of anything better to say he asks: "Is this good quality?" The answer is short and quite conclusive: "It's Blank's"—naming a well-advertised line. That short word says everything. Brown pays his money and goes home, quite satisfied with his purchase.

Now what bothers Brown—a manufacturer of shoes, is this: How would it affect the purchase of a child's shoes if the salesman said "They're Brown's"?

Nobody knows Brown's shoes. Brown doesn't advertise.

The name Brown signifies nothing when used in connection with children's shoes. The salesman must use all his persuasive wiles to induce people to buy them.

**The point is—If the name Brown was as synonymous with Children's Shoes as "Blank's" is with Underwear, wouldn't Brown sell more shoes with less effort?**

If you are doing a local business talk over your advertising problems with the Advertising Department of this newspaper. If you are doing a provincial or national business it would be well for you to have the counsel and assistance of a good advertising agency. A list of these will be furnished, without cost or obligation, by the Secretary of Canadian Press Association, Room 503, Lumsden Building, Toronto.

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Flavor!  
Nutrition!**

**Grape-Nuts**

FOOD

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Breakfast  
Lunch  
or  
Supper