

## CHICKS DO BEST OUTDOORS IF DAYS WARM AND BRIGHT

### A Sun-Porch Gets Them Out Earlier—Separate Cockerels From Pullets as Soon as Possible

With warmer days and more sunshine now with us, it will not be long until chicks may be permitted outside. One of the best ways of doing this is to erect a "porch" alongside the house on which the chicks may run during bright, warm days.

Such a structure need not be elaborate, just something that will keep the chicks off the damp, cold ground. Many poultrymen are now using these sun porches, as it permits them to get their chicks outside earlier than if they had to run on the ground. It is wise to watch the chicks rather carefully during the first few days, to see that they do not become chilled. They may not be wise enough to find their way back into the warm house at first. Of course, it is still too cool for very young chicks, but if the porch is built on the side of the house that is protected from the cold wind, there is no reason why chicks a month old should not run outside during the warmest part of the day very soon now.

There are many types of these porches. The essential, however, is a platform covered with straw or other litter to keep draughts from coming up through it, a low fence, such as a wire screen, around it.

#### Remove Cockerels

It is never too soon to separate the cockerels from the pullets. Through their competitive strength they may hinder the development of the pullets.

Most brooder houses are filled pretty well to capacity with chicks. As the chicks grow they need more room, and one of the easiest ways to provide it is to move the cockerels to another house just as soon as they can be distinguished from the pullets. Overcrowding is a serious fault in rearing that is very common.

In the interest of good business on the poultry farm, it is well to consider the cost of raising pullets before any are sold. Costs vary from year to year and in different locations. In the final analysis your own costs must be your guide and now would be a good time to start keeping a record to arrive at these figures.

In this connection figures given by the United States Department of Agricultural Economics are interesting. The net cost of raising a pullet to twenty weeks in New York State was 92 cents during the years 1931 to 1934. The net cost of each bird raised was \$1.28. Allowing credit for broilers sold, the net cost of 92 cents was arrived at.

"About 41 per cent. of the total cost was for feed; 17 per cent. for cost of chicks, and 26 per cent. for labor. The remainder was overhead. Each pullet or cockerel raised was given an average value of \$1.02. On

this basis, the average return for each hour of labor on chicks during the twenty-week period was 48 cents."

It took nine pounds of grain and nineteen pounds of mash to raise each bird to twenty weeks. It required sixty-six hours of man labor to raise 100 chicks to that age. These figures were gathered by thirty-one poultrymen who kept cost accounts in co-operation with the New York State College of Agriculture.

The average number of chicks started on each farm was 1,633, about one-third of which became "pullets or cockerels raised;" another one-third were broilers. Ten per cent. were pullets sold before reaching twenty weeks, and an average of almost 20 per cent. died. It is easily seen how individual poultrymen's costs would vary, and for intelligent operation it is evident how valuable such information would be.

#### Good Layers, Good Hatchers

It used to be the belief that a hen laying a lot of eggs produced weak chicks or low hatchability. The scientists have spiced that old-fashioned idea by showing that the eggs from a hen laying rapidly hatch better than those from a hen laying few eggs. This is reported in "Poultry Item," from an address by Dr. T. C. Byerly, Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

The reason is that the embryo or growing germ develops better when it spends less time in the oviduct of the hen. The fast layer holds the yolk for about twenty-four hours, whereas a slow layer may hold it for thirty-six hours or more. If you want to get high hatchability, apparently hens should be fed for high egg production as well.

A low protein basic ration used at the Beltsville Experimental Farm gave very low hatchability when the birds were in confinement; 60 per cent. hatchability in semi-confinement, and 80 per cent. hatchability when the birds were on range. When the protein was stepped up by the addition of meat scrap, fish meal and milk, the average hatchability over a 6-year period was 70 per cent. This was for all hatches during the year, both in and out of season. Birds held in confinement or semi-confinement should have cod liver oil or some such sunshine substitute in their ration.

"Watch the egg production," said Dr. Byerly. "If they are laying well, more cod liver oil or vitamins would not help to raise hatchability. Put more milk into the winter diet rather than vitamins under these conditions." According to this authority, if there is heavy mortality the second week of incubation, it may be due to the diet.

## EDUCATION ON THE MARCH

Thinking people, in this day and age do not need to be reminded of the importance of education in our national life, but it is not so certain that we have given sufficient thought to the possibility that our educational institutions may not be adapting themselves rapidly enough to changing conditions. Since change, in a changing world is inevitable, and since reforms, in a democratically organized country can come only as a result of public demand and majority approval, we have ourselves to blame if education in Ontario should ever fall behind in the march of progress. There is no such danger however, if everyone who has any interest in the education of our youth (and that should mean every intelligent citizen) makes it his or her business, first to learn—to learn what reforms are most urgent and second—to work for or to support any measures which will make those reforms possible.

A great deal of work has already been done in Ontario by way of preparation and investigation, but as seldom is education "front page news" that many newspaper readers will be unaware of progress to date.

The Department of Education is working on a revision of the curricula of our schools which will drill them more into line with modern thought. In these revisions, the Department has a valuable detailed suggestions made, after many months of voluntary labor, by a committee of teachers and others. Dr. McArthur and his investigating commission of last summer followed the same policy of receiving briefs from interested groups—in that particular case, the groups interested in financial and administrative reforms. Probably the most detailed and helpful brief submitted to the commission was a 35-printed page pamphlet outlining the systems of financial and administrative education in English speaking countries and in all provinces of Canada, with concrete proposals for reforms in Ontario based on the best in other countries and adapted to our

special conditions. Few are aware that this brief was the work of a committee of teachers from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation working voluntarily and at their own expense. Since the government commission is chiefly concerned with the problem of equalizing the burden of educational costs throughout the province, it is safe to assume that changes in Ontario will follow the practice in those countries which have adopted an equalization programme.

How many readers are aware of even a few of the facts which educational bodies in Ontario are wrestling with today? Here are some of the most significant:

1. Ontario has approximately 6,600 administrative units operating schools and the other Canadian provinces a like proportion. In comparison—England and Wales, with a population twelve times as great as that of Ontario, have only 317 school authorities or Boards. Scotland has 35.
2. In no other English-speaking country, except Canada and the United States, is the educational unit smaller than the country or large city.
3. All English-speaking countries, except Canada and the United States, contribute at least half, and often the whole cost of education from the central treasury.
4. Government grants in Ontario average only 11.5 per cent of the total cost of schools; Quebec 6.3 per cent; Nova Scotia, 13.2 per cent; New Brunswick, 14.7 per cent; Manitoba, 13.5 per cent; Saskatchewan, 7.6 per cent; Alberta, 13.3 per cent; only British Columbia and Prince Edward Island approach other systems, with state support 32.0 per cent and 59.1 per cent respectively.
5. It is very instructive to compare the above figures with those for other states in the Empire. In England and Wales over 50 per cent of school costs is borne by the national treasury, special aid to needy areas; in Scotland the state share is 57 per cent; Northern Ireland about 8.2 per

## YES, THERE'S AN ANIMAL CALLED OKAPI FOR SAFETY ON HIGHWAYS

### He's a Fascinating Little Chap and Makes You Want to Know Him Better

NEW YORK, April 6—Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park in Washington, announced the other day that he wants an okapi for his zoo. "The London Zoo has an okapi," he said. "Why shouldn't we have one? There isn't an okapi in the United States—and there never has been one." With great fanfare the London Zoo received its okapi from the Prince of Wales, who got him from the King of the Belgians.

Without knowing an okapi from an ocelot, any one may hope that Dr. Mann gets his okapi. Doesn't this fellow's name itself sound intriguing? And his picture shows him to be a most charming sort of a creature. And what little is known about him is just interesting enough to make one wish to meet him personally.

He seems to be all colors of the rainbow. A color description gives him yellowish white cheeks and jaws, and a deep red chestnut forehead. His broad ears are also chestnut, fringed with black. His neck, shoulders and body range in tone from sepia and jet black to vinous red. His belly is blackish and his tail is chestnut with a small black tuft. His hindquarters and hind and forelegs are either snowy white or pale cream, touched here and there with orange and body marked with purple, and marked with black horizontal stripes and blotches.

He stands about 5 feet at the shoulders, and, oh yes, he lives a long way from the Washington Zoo, in the heart of the Belgian Congo. And he's a rare and ancient relative of the giraffe. His neck, unlike the giraffe, is, however, rather short and thick, but his head is giraffe-like and the male has a pair of short, backward-sloping giraffe-like horns. Indeed, "there ain't no such animal" might also be applied to this curious member of the giraffe family.

"Until a very few years ago," writes Ernest Ingersoll, the distinguished naturalist, in his "Life of Mammals," "it was supposed that the family contained no other living members than the giraffes; but in the closing years of the last century Sir Harry Johnston found the Negroes of the Semliki Valley, on the Uganda border of the Congo Free State, using for belts and other equipments the skin of an animal which he saw was unknown to science; but he was then unable to penetrate the forests where, the Pygmies told him, the animal lived. Later the Belgian officers of that district secured for him a skin and skull which, after a time reached London and were set up in the British Museum. Sir Harry learned that its native name on the Semliki was okapi or 'o'api,' as the Pygmies pronounced it; and Prof. E. Ray Lankester named it for a new genus, and called this animal Ocapia johnstoni."

The author writes further: "Sir Harry Johnston at first thought he had found a living specimen of the Helladotherium, a fossil predecessor of the giraffe occurring in the Pliocene (Miocene) beds of Greece, which had a neck much shorter than modern giraffes and limbs more equal in length. Later fossil species, as Samotherium, in which the male was horned, and others, show that the present giraffe long neck has been very slowly acquired."

The okapi lives in the densest part of the primeval forest, feeding on shrubs, leaves and epiphytes. His color renders him almost invisible at short distances. Dr. Williams T. Hornaday wrote some ten years ago that the animal is so canny in detecting the presence of man, and in making his escape, that no man had ever shot one, so far as he knew. The wary okapi is captured only in pitfalls and

in nooses by the native hunters. Dr. Hornaday relates that Herbert Lang of the American Museum of Natural History hunted the animal with native aid, but without securing a single specimen, so great was its cunning and the handicap presented by the brushy woods.

The common or garden variety of giraffe, with which we are all familiar is also a hard fellow to spot in his native haunts. His dappled hide blends harmoniously with the splotches of light and shade formed by the sun striking through the foliage. According to some writers his long and motionless neck and legs are sometimes mistaken by the natives for weather-beaten tree trunks. And the natives have sharp eyes, too.

It is interesting to know that giraffe individuals are sometimes very temperamental. Indeed, according to Dr. Hornaday, they require greater vigilance than any other of the hoofed animals. Those responsible for these cantankerous specimens in captivity are constantly afraid that they will stampede in their stalls or yards, with the danger of breaking their own necks and legs.

However, perhaps the okapi is very well behaved, and not given to the giraffe's goofiness of his long-necked relative.

## SPEAKER DEPICTS WEST OF OLD TIMES

### Inspector Royal-Gagnon of R.C.M.P. Addresses R. M. R. Officers

MONTREAL, April 6—A vivid picture of Canada's hectic West in the years immediately following Confederation was presented officers of the Royal Mounted Regiment in their mess last night by Inspector Royal-Gagnon, commanding the Montreal Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Rum-runners were trading their "fire-water" for pelts and buffalo hides, bands of frantic Indians were being forced north across the border by American troops, the building of the railway was being impeded by hostile braves, seeds of the West rebellion were being sown and western settlers went in continual and well-founded terror of their lives.

Sir John A. Macdonald suggested the formation of a force similar to the Royal Irish Constabulary with the advantage of military discipline and a provisional battalion was formed in 1873.

#### Uniforms Deceiving

The original force wore the bottle green uniforms of a rifle regiment and elicited the following report from Colonel Robertson Ross, who has been sent to make a survey of conditions: "I ascertained that some prejudice existed among the Indians against the color of the uniform worn by the men of the provisional battalions. Many of them said 'Who are these soldiers at Red River wearing dark clothes? Our old brothers who formerly lived here wore red coats. We know that the soldiers of the Great Mother wear red coats and are our friends.'" Thus was born the scarlet uniform of history and legend.

Inspector Royal-Gagnon pointed out that the policy of the force had always been to precede settlement and that even today there were lonely outposts far removed from the last frontier of civilization.

#### Growth Traced

He traced the growth of the force from a handful of men to the present number of 2,600, and explained that today the work which seemed the most interesting was that of the patrol in the Far North. North of the 60th parallel, the force carries out all police work and all Government functions, acting in the capacity of magistrates, deputy sheriffs, coroners, judges of the court of small debts, collectors of income tax, sub-collectors of customs and excise, clerks of the court of naturalization and any other duties considered advisable.

travels about 7,000 miles a year, partly by canoe, partly on foot and partly with dog teams in the winter. Inspector Royal-Gagnon declared that many people thought of this life as romantic. It may be, he said, but "from personal experience I can tell you that when the grub bag is almost empty and the thermometer sticks at 50 or more below zero, with a head-wind and no wood or camping place in view, the policeman's thoughts are not entirely of romance."

He was thanked by Lieut.-Col. G. V. Whitehead, V.D., commanding officer of the Royal Montreal Regiment.

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