

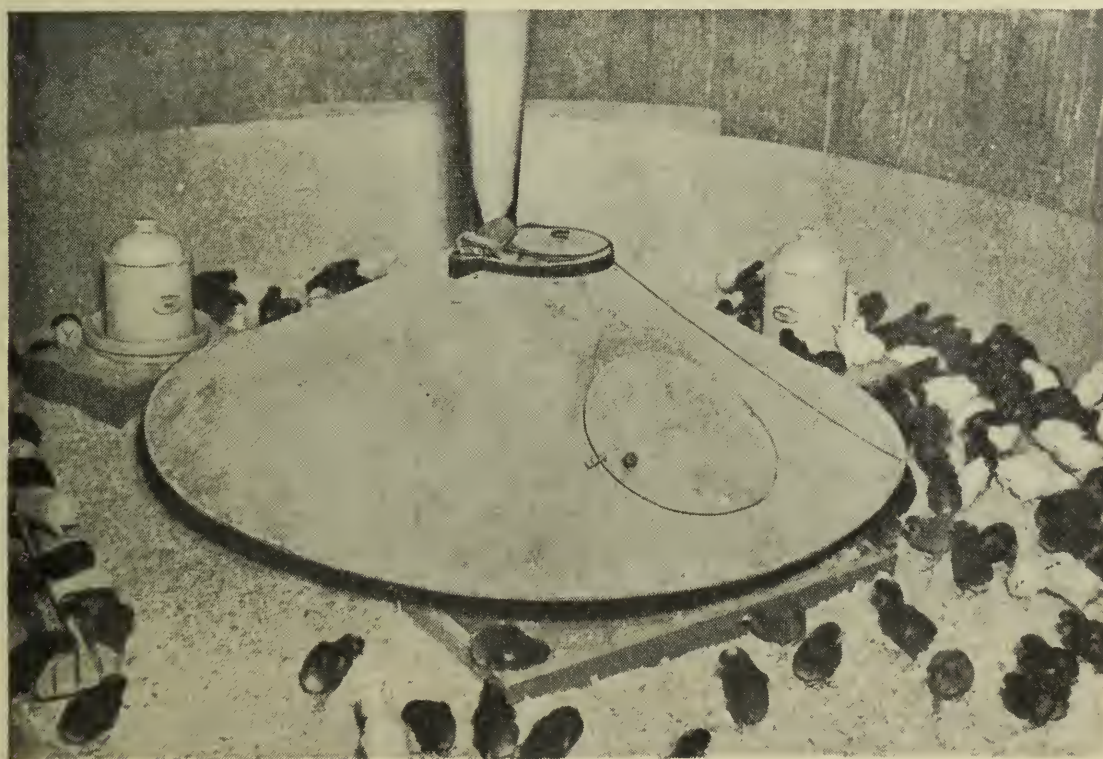
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DOMINION OF CANADA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## COLONY HOUSES

PRODUCTION SERVICE, GEO. B. ROTHWELL, *Director*

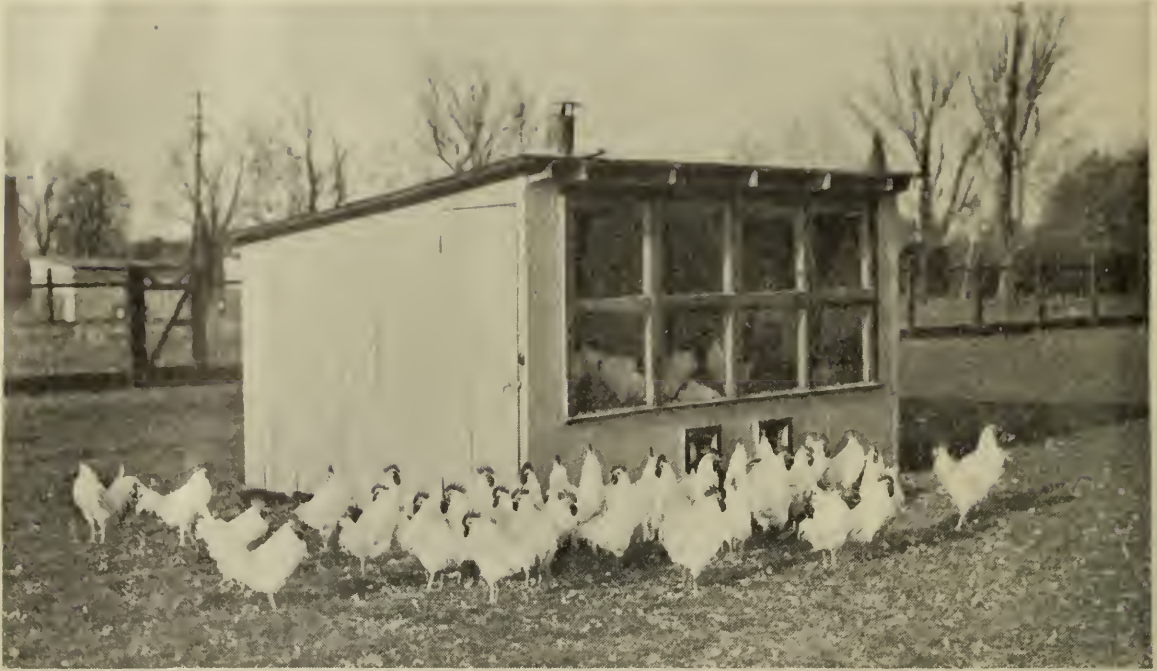
A colony house and a brooder stove are considered essential poultry equipment on the average farm. They are necessary for the successful raising of early chicks. To ensure profitable pullet production in September the baby chicks should be started in a proper brooder house, in March or very early in April.



CHICKS IN COLONY BROODER HOUSE

For brooding small numbers a stove of large brooder capacity is preferred. It has greater hopper space for fuel, holds the fire better and will keep chicks comfortable over a longer period than stoves of smaller capacity.

**Brooder House.**—The brooder house is usually a simply built colony house, about 10 by 12 feet in size, mounted on skids so that it may be moved from place to place. Since the house is to be moved, construction should be light but strong. The shed type of roof, covered with patent roofing is most common on brooder houses. Studding will be about 6 feet 6 inches high in front and 5 feet in the rear. The brooder house needs to be well lighted and well ventilated, so windows and cotton screens are placed in the front of the building. Besides being useful for the brooding and rearing of the young flock, this building can be used at any time to house layers by the addition of removable nests, roosts and dropboards.



### COLONY BROODER HOUSE

The 10- by 12-foot brooder house is a convenient size for farm use. As the chickens mature it may be used for the growing pullets, surplus cockerels or adapted as a laying house for fall and early winter months. In using the house for mature stock it is very important that it be cleaned frequently and thoroughly disinfected before being used for brooding young chicks.

**Range Shelters.**—The range shelter is becoming popular for the summer housing of growing chicks. Where the farm program calls for the raising of 100 pullets yearly it is necessary to start with about 300 day-old chicks. These can be housed comfortably in the brooder house until they are about two months old. At this age the sex of the chicks can be distinguished and for the best growth of both pullets and cockerels they should be separated. It is at this stage that the range shelter is specially useful. The chicks of one sex may be transferred to the shelter while those of the opposite sex remain in the brooder house.



### RANGE SHELTER

Range shelters provide ideal quarters for chicks in hot weather.

The range shelter can be made 8 by 10 feet or 10 by 12 feet in size, with studding about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high and with a tight gable roof. Sides and ends are covered with wire poultry netting. The roosts are placed on a level with the plate and the roof thus gives protection to the birds if the building is placed with the ends away from the prevailing winds. Because of its unlimited ventilation, the range shelter will house more birds than a brooder house of equal size.

**Remodelling Present Buildings.**—On many farms there are unused barns or other buildings which can be remodelled to make very good poultry buildings at small expense. In many cases the addition of light and ventilation will be the greater part of the work. Many of the existing poultry houses can easily be greatly improved. The principles described for new buildings can be applied to old ones which are being remodelled.



**REMODELLED BARN**

Unused barn space may often be converted into satisfactory quarters for laying hens, at small cost.

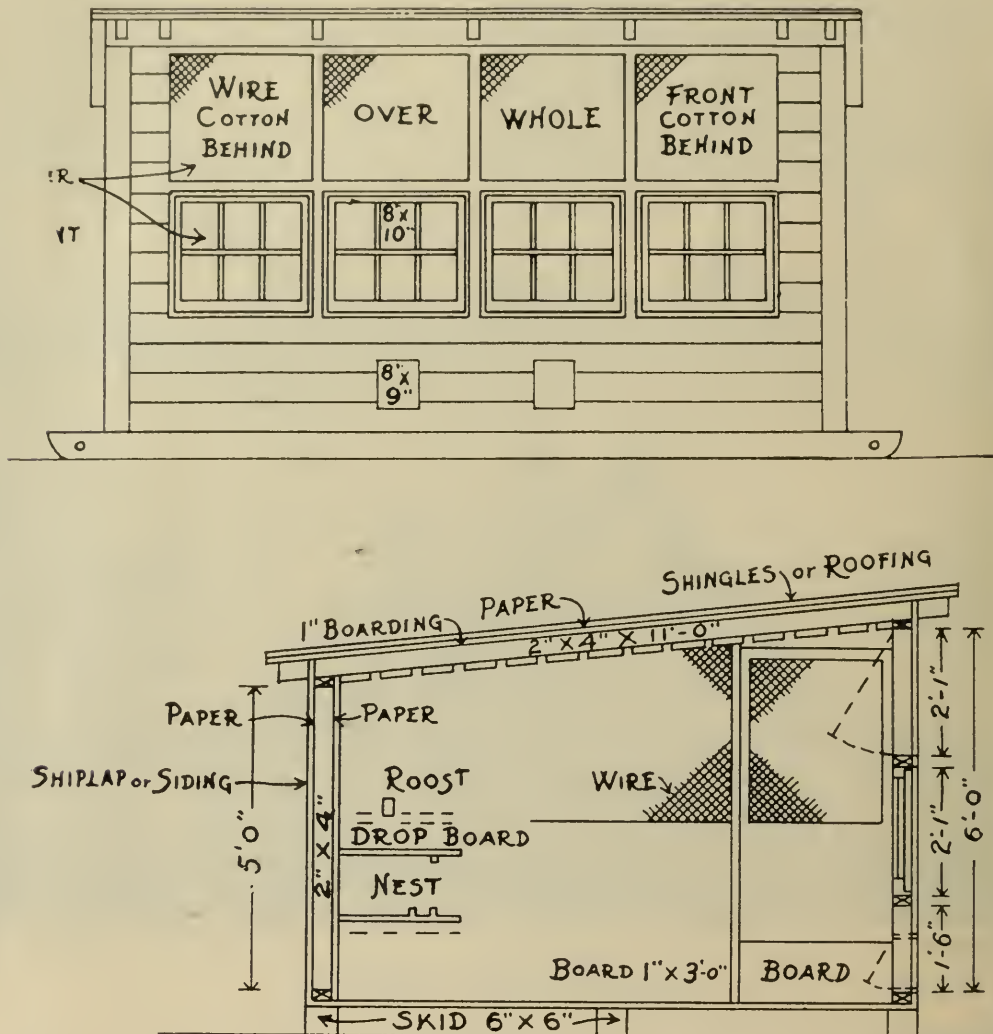
The subject matter for this leaflet consists of extracts from Publication No. 41 entitled "Members Handbook" Boys' and Girls' Poultry Clubs published by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture and from Farmers Bulletin No. 7, publication 506 entitled "Poultry House Construction" published by the Dominion of Canada, Department of Agriculture, to the authors of which due credit is given.

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## SHED ROOF MOVABLE COLONY HOUSE

The plan given below shows the house as it would be used in moderate or warm weather. For early spring brooding two or more panels of light construction should be provided to close the spaces covered only with cotton. The windows being placed as they are will provide light close down to the floor when the panels are in use.



## COLONY HOUSE—SHED ROOF

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Skids .....                            | 3—6" x 6" x 14'—0"      |
| Sills .....                            | 2" x 4" x 44'—0"        |
| Plates .....                           | 2" x 4" x 24'—0"        |
| Studding .....                         | 9—2" x 4" x 6"—0"       |
|  | 9—2" x 4" x 4'—6"       |
|  | 2" x 4" x 32'—0" (ends) |
| Rafters.....                           | 7—2" x 4" x 11'—0"      |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ " T. & G. sheathing..... | 310 ft.                 |
| 1" roof boarding .....                 | 150 ft.                 |
| 1" flooring .....                      | 120 ft.                 |
| Roofing or shingles.....               | 150 sq. ft.             |
| Roosts .....                           | 2—2" x 3" x 12'—0"      |
| Building paper.....                    | 375 sq. ft.             |
| Wire mesh .....                        | 50 sq. ft.              |
| Sash .....                             | 4—6 lt. 8" x 10"        |
| Door .....                             | 1—2'—6" x 5'—8"         |

