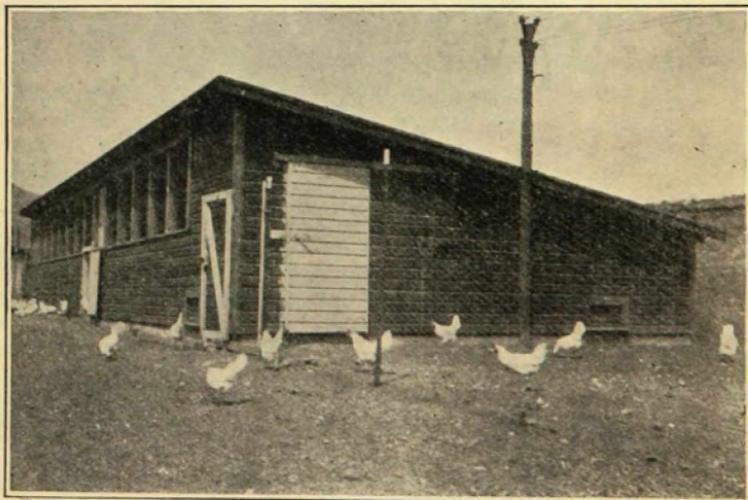


EXAMINED AND CHECKLISTED

Bulletin 291-A

June, 1929

AN IMPROVED POULTRY HOUSE FOR COLORADO FLOCKS



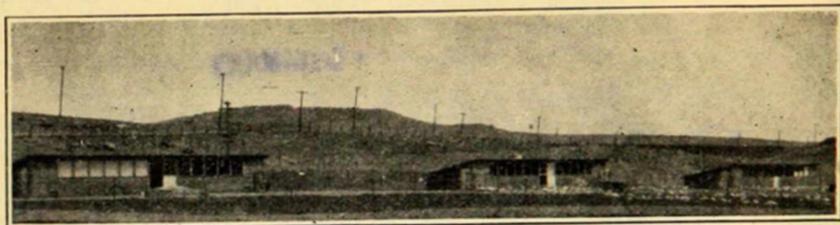
A well-housed and well-managed poultry flock will furnish a substantial cash income for the farm family.

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
FORT COLLINS

EXTENSION SERVICE

C. A. LORY, ACTING DIRECTOR

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
DISTRIBUTED IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF MAY 8 AND JUNE 30, 1914



El Paso County Poultry Demonstration Farm at Colorado Springs.

AN IMPROVED POULTRY HOUSE FOR COLORADO FLOCKS

BY O. C. UFFORD

While there are many things that enter into the management of the poultry flock, there is nothing that will have greater influence on the poultry raiser's success or failure than the way in which he houses his birds.

There are several types of poultry houses recommended in the United States. Not all of them are adaptable to or satisfactory for Colorado conditions.

We have found from several years of building and studying various types of poultry houses in Colorado that the shed type built deep, as shown in this bulletin, will be the safest and most satisfactory for the average poultry raiser all things considered.

It is not necessary to build an expensive laying house. The cost need not exceed \$2.00 per hen when the best of materials are used, and it is possible to put up a satisfactory building in some localities at a much lower cost.

Colorado is blessed with an abundance of sunshine and the poultry house should be constructed to make use of it during the winter months when it is most needed.

When building a laying house some of the important things that should be carefully considered are:

1. The location of the house.
2. The cost per hen.
3. The conveniences, so that only a minimum amount of labor will be required to care for the flock.
4. The sanitary features.

When selecting the location for building the laying house, be sure that it will not be too closely surrounded by other farm buildings and that it will be possible to cultivate the ground for some distance around it.

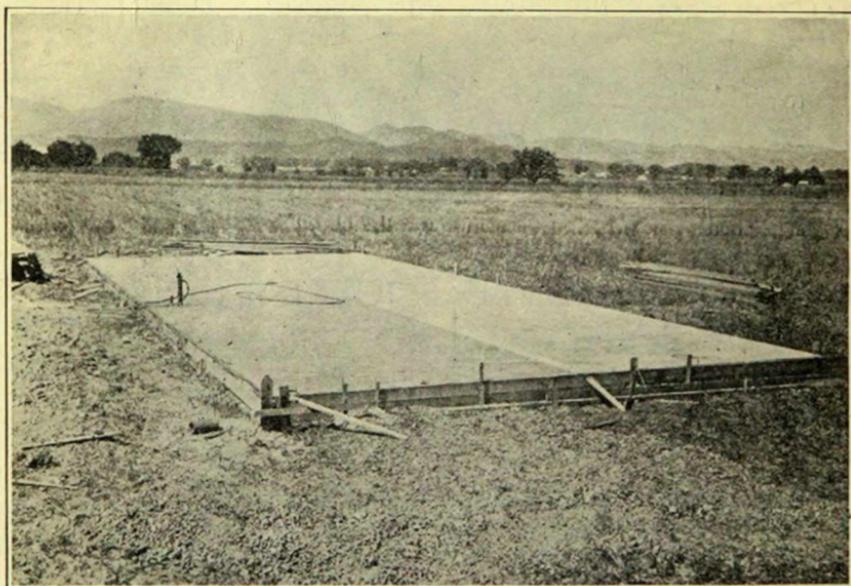


Fig. 1

The concrete floor is the most economical and satisfactory in the long run. When building the floor make sure that it is at least 6 inches above the highest point of ground. If this is done the house will never become damp from soil moisture and drainage. Slope the floor $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches toward the front for each 10 feet of depth to provide good drainage when the floor is washed off. A tile drain is located in the lower left hand corner of the floor shown in Fig. 1.

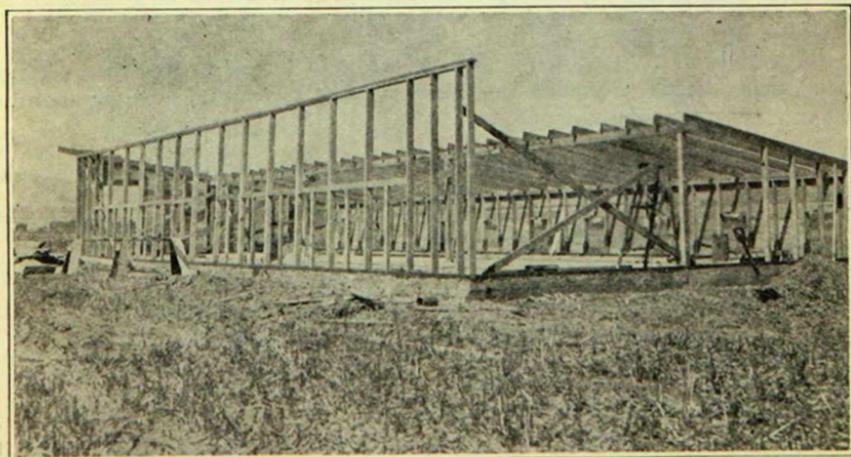


Fig. 2

Satisfactory materials for poultry-house construction are tile, cement, wood, logs and adobe. It is not the kind of materials that is so important as the type and principle used in the construction.

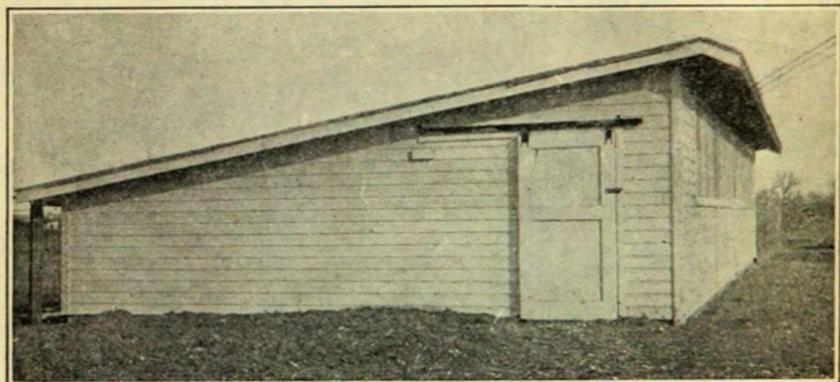


Fig. 3

The shed-type poultry house is a satisfactory type for Colorado. It is economical, warm, dry and comfortable when properly built.

Fig. 3 shows an end view of a 24-foot house that is 9 feet high in front and 5½ feet in the rear from the top of the floor to the top of the rafters. It is not necessary to build it higher than this.

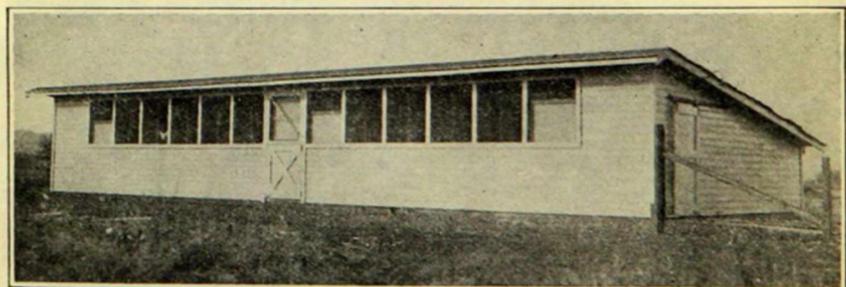


Fig. 4

The place where chickens live should not simply be a hen house; it should be a hen home.

Fig. 4 shows a 24 ft. by 60 ft. shed-type laying house showing an overhang at the front which is preferred by some because it serves as a protection against rain and snow and the hot sun in the summer time. This house will comfortably accommodate approximately 450 Leghorn hens or 400 birds of the medium-sized breeds, such as Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds or Wyandottes.

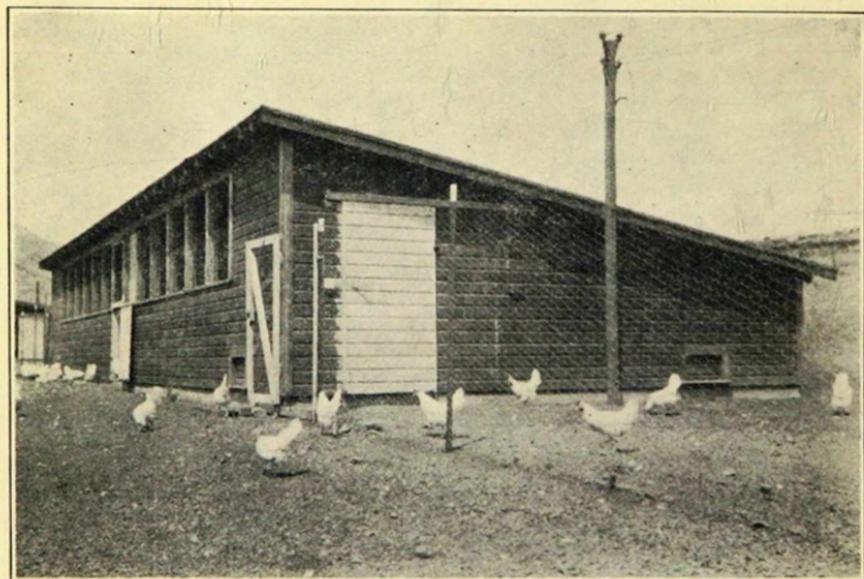


Fig. 5

The laying house is the most comfortable and economical when built deep—20, 22 or 24 feet are desirable depths for the shed type of laying house with not over a 9-foot front and $5\frac{1}{2}$ foot rear wall.

Fig. 5 shows a house that is 22 ft. deep by 60 ft. long. Note the sliding door which is an improvement over the hinged door.

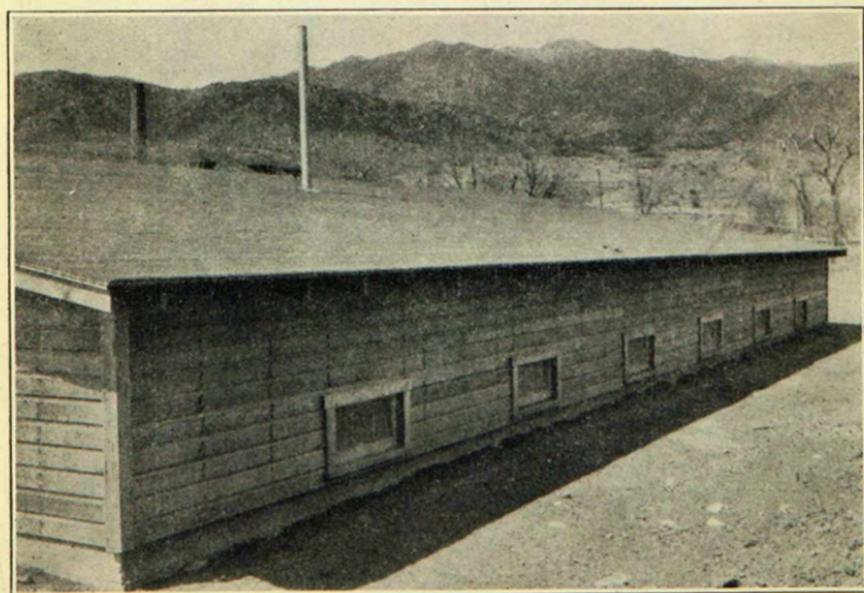


Fig. 6

Windows along the back under the dropping boards furnish light on the floor of a deep house and prevent the hens from scratching all the litter from the front of the house back into a pile under the dropping boards.

Build the windows 6 to 8 inches above the floor and 5 feet from each end of the house. Space them about 5 feet apart across the back. The 3-light cellar sash as show in Fig. 6 is more economical and is preferred to other types of windows.

Careful consideration in the selection of the type of roofing material is important because of the varying weather conditions in different sections of the state.

It will pay to put on the best grade of roofing. Shingles are not recommended because the roof pitch is not enough for the height and depth of these houses. In sections where hail storms are of frequent occurrence, galvanized roofing is used satisfactorily.

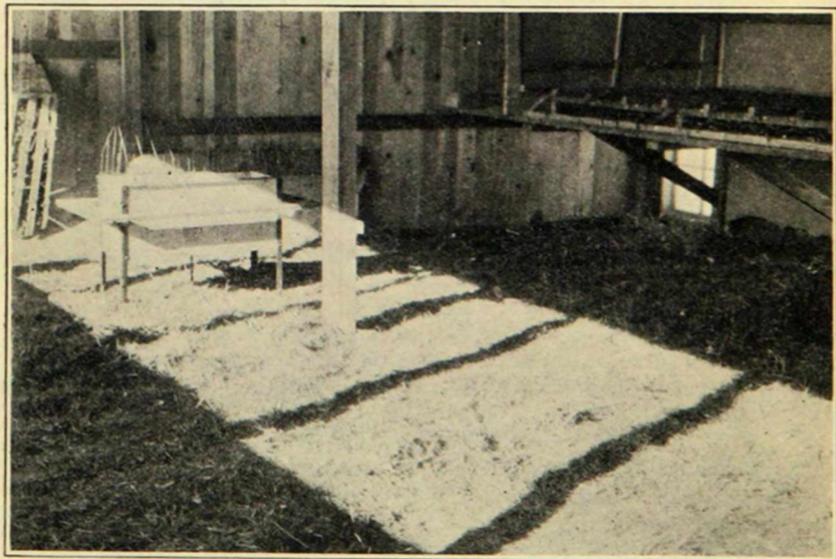


Fig. 7

Openings $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet square placed across the front of the house, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 provide ample sunshine when and where it is most needed. Fig. 7 was taken during the middle of the day in January and shows an abundance of sunshine covering the middle floor space of this 24-foot house.

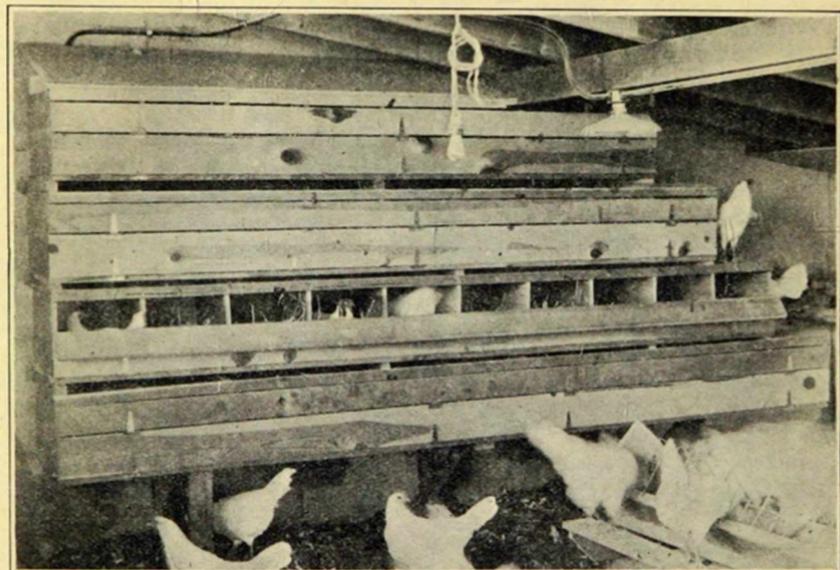


Fig. 8

Fig. 8 shows a battery of nests arranged in 4 tiers on the end wall of the laying house. The openings to the nests face the wall and the hens enter each tier of nests at the ends.

The eggs are removed thru the trapdoor, one of which is shown open. Each nest is 12x12x12 inches inside measurement.

A nest arrangement such as this affords the following advantages: The hen lays in a darkened nest; thus she is more contented. There is less crowding; as a result there will be less egg breakage and the hens are not as liable to develop the egg-eating habit. Fewer dirty eggs will be produced and it is more convenient to gather the eggs from one place than to travel the length of the house as when the nests are located under the dropping boards.

The dropping boards should be built not less than 30 inches and not over 36 inches above the floor. Use 6-inch tongue and grooved flooring and paint each board with creosote. Build the dropping boards in solidly and support them from the rafters which will do away with floor obstructions. (See Fig. 9.)

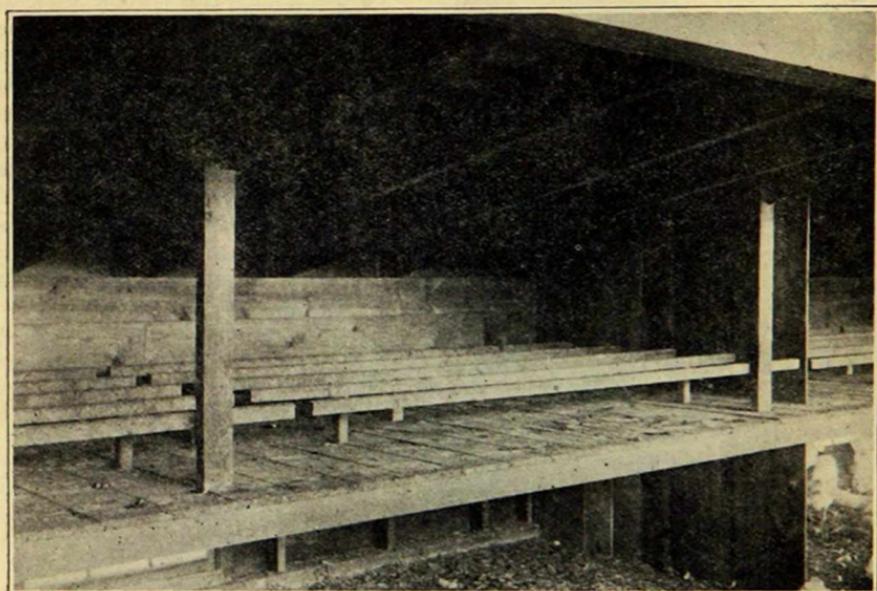


Fig. 9

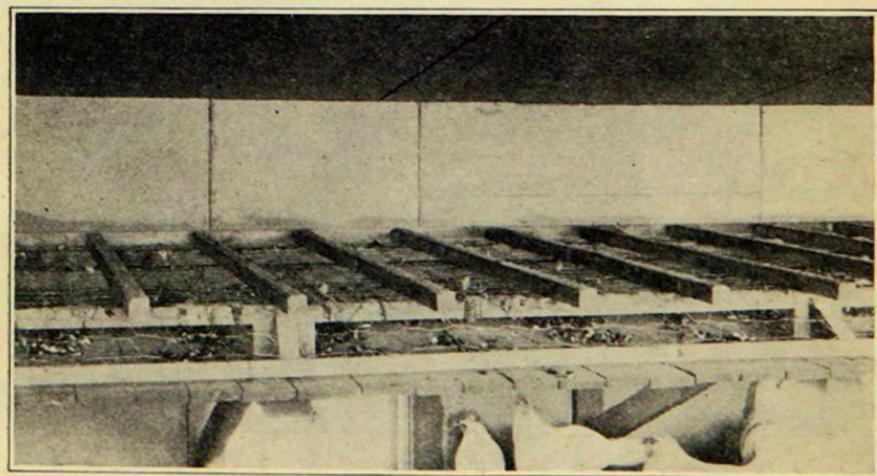


Fig. 10

Wire netting ($1\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh) under the roosts is a sanitary precaution and will soon pay for its installation in clean eggs produced. Some prefer running the roosts as shown in Fig. 10; others prefer the arrangement as shown in Fig. 9.

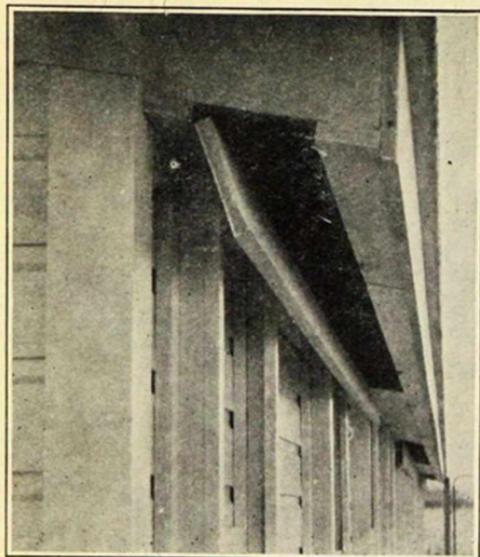


Fig. 11

No elaborate system of ventilation is needed in the type of houses described in this bulletin. A rear ventilator, as shown in Fig. 11, with the muslin curtains in front of the house, furnishes an adequate supply of fresh air without drafts. The overhead ventilation is regulated by opening or closing the trapdoor under the overhang at the rear.

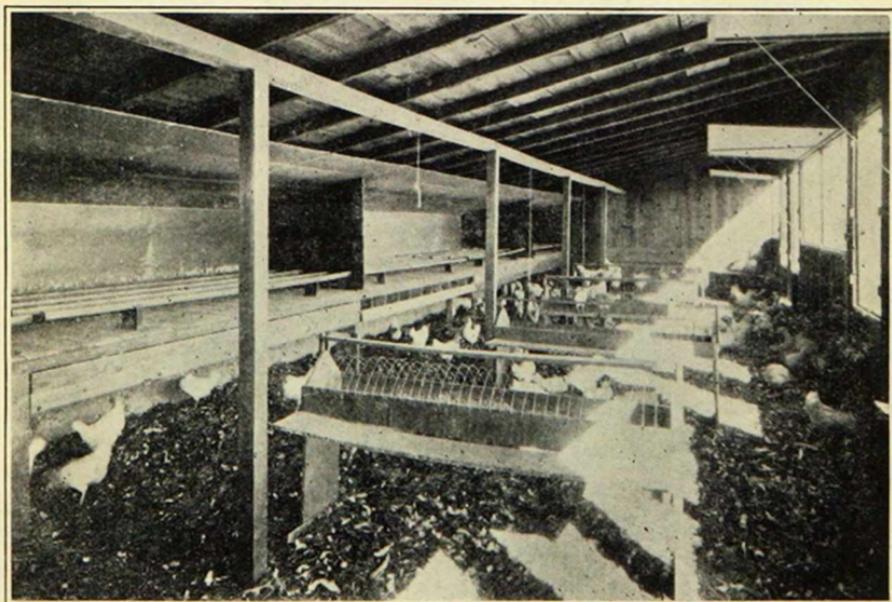


Fig. 12

Fig 12 shows the overhead ventilation arrangement on the inside of the house and partitions built out to the edge of dropping boards, spaced every 15 to 20 feet to prevent cross drafts on the birds when roosting at night. Note the nests located under the dropping boards. Some like this arrangement.

Glass is expensive and cold. Muslin is warm and cheap. Glass is not necessary in the front of laying houses in Colorado.

Fig. 13 shows a curtain arrangement to cover the openings. The muslin is tacked to a frame that slides up and down. The opening is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet square. The picture shows the curtain lowered half way.

A supply hopper, such as shown, holds several hundred pounds of feed and saves many steps. One can be located at each end of the house and does not take up floor space.

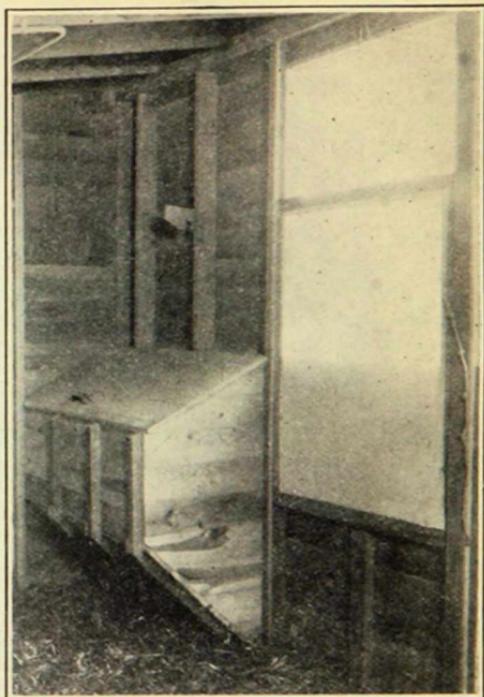


Fig. 13