

production that it would probably be only a short lived opportunity. Investments in buildings was held to a minimum in many instances. Dirt floors prevail. There are no foundations,—sweety concrete block pillars about every eight feet with a fill on top of them. There has frequently been no grading done. If the ground rolled, the house followed the curvature of the earth. Many of the buildings are not painted.

The dirt floors were a revelation to me. I had been brought up to think of dirt floors as the utmost in undesirability. I still believe that is true in most of Indiana but the dirt floors in Indiana have much in their favor.

In the first place they are not really dirt, but sand. They are relatively dry because all the surrounding ground is sandy soil and drains rapidly. After each brood the top couple of inches are hauled out and fresh sand hauled in. New sandy dirt is probably available in the woods a few rods from the house.

A common practice in cleaning between broods is to hose the house down after the litter has been removed. The sandy floors filter this measure laden with water. The 8th is hauled out. The side of the Indiana dirt floor houses after cleaning had little of the characteristic odors we common in our concrete floor houses even after scrubbing.

The houses reflect the fact that they evolved from converted shed roof laying houses and from brooder houses set out to end and built on to an volume increased. Some houses are as much

as 1000 feet long. Coal brooders are used almost universally.

When new houses were built, they followed the same pattern of construction but with a feed room in the middle. A typical set-up is a house 100 feet long and 20 feet wide. It is divided into 20 rooms, 20 x 32 feet with a 20 x 16 foot feed room in the middle. Each room has two stoves, 500 chicks per stove, making a total capacity of 10,000 broilers. These are under the care of one man. On the farms owned by the very large operators, above the feed room is a second floor which is used as a dwelling for the farmer and his family.

While this type of house has apparently given satisfaction, I can not say but feel that we have opportunities for greater efficiency with few or no partitions, and with hot water brooding systems instead of the innumerable coal stoves with their smoky atmospheres for more coal and their insistence for a regular shaking and ruzzing of ash. A few wider houses are now being built on the peninsula.

The one important lesson we can learn from their housing is the advantage of their universal use of feed carriers. These carriers,—low slung platform affairs suspended from overhead tracks,—are probably the chief reason why one man can handle 10,000—and in some cases, 40,000 broilers. The carriers are long enough for 5 or 6 bags of feed and several buckets of coal.

Lack of enough feed was a prime problem on the peninsula during the



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