

# Chicago Prepares for Another Massacre of the Turks; "Ship 100,000 Birds and Twice as Much Trimmings."



"GIMME TH' DRUMSTICKS"

Chicago is preparing for another massacre of the Turks. Fifty carloads at least, the market men say, with an average net turkey weight of 20,000 pounds to the car—1,000,000 pounds of turkey for one Thanksgiving dinner, with an even greater surplus of ducks, geese, and chickens—will serve to keep the cooks and the carvers busy.

This one feast will cost Chicago in the neighborhood of \$25,000, just for fowls alone, but nobody cares. Chicago works, so that its Little Willies and Marys can have turkey on Thanksgiving day and skates on Christmas, with a few unimportant necessities during the rest of the year. The fact that turkeys are a few cents a pound dearer this year than they were last is not troubling those who have the money to buy. And if turkey is out of the question, why, chicken is just as good eating.

**Middle West Contributes Share.**  
Where do all the turkeys come from for Chicago's Thanksgiving dinner? Most of them come from the farms of Illinois, with Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan doing their fair share to meet the demand. But the turkey on the farm is far different bird than the turkey in town. Little Willie, who regards his royal drumsticks as merely a creature to be eaten, should be told that this lovely fowl is the bird of romance.

**Turkey an Untamed Bird.**  
As a matter of truth the turkey never has been tamed and reduced to a state of domesticity. Only the buzz, jolly, strutting gobble of the flock has reached anything approaching it, and he doesn't amount to much as a table bird after his ornamental

paint brush he has developed on his shirt front. He is too hard to chew. "But, strutting as he does and 'groggling' his silly chest tones at anything animate, he deserves commendation of all men. It is the turkey hen who refuses the domestic life. She isn't mean to him about it. She simply won't nest anywhere in the neighborhood. Anywhere from 300 to 500 yards from the strutting haunts of her lord and master strikes her as about right for a nest, particularly if there be thick woods, underbrush, briar patches, hedgerows, and like impediments for human feet.

The nest isn't up to much. She's a slouch in this respect. It is mostly dead sticks and branches, built a good deal after the flat architecture of the plaster man who she's afterward served in season. And to the annoyed, worried, searching farmer's wife it's a temptation often to serve her on the farm table irrespective of either Thanksgiving or Christmas.

**Foolish Chromo for Turkey.**  
That's where the sympathy element comes in so strongly, for the silly turkey farmer, strutting with wings dragging the ground and the semi-circular tail feathers spread to the horizon.

**Some Work to Track "Hen."**  
She may go all around Robin Hood's barn in making for the nest. She's likely to be moving away from the other members of the flock, pretending to seek gravel, grasshoppers, bugs—anything but her nest—she steals away, yard after yard.

ing the distance between himself and the bird and is pretending to more hard work than he willingly would do in fact in a whole twine hour day. He marks the approach to the nest in the bird's increased agitation and hypocrisy and when he has found it at last, the old task of finding the needle in the haystack may not appear at all so much.

**Fool Makes Discovery Possible.**  
It's only that the turkey hen is such a fool that her nest ever was discovered by her owner. She has sneaked back to the farmyard for any possible feeding in prospect the night before and has gone to roost with the bickering flock, anywhere from the giant limbs of an orchard apple tree to the ridge of the hay barn itself.

**As Close as Possible.**  
"George wanted to get closer to nature," observed Harrington, and his new automobile has enabled him to do so.

**Philosophy of Experience.**  
"Keep your turkey chicks out of the wet and cold" is the philosophy of the farmer's wife, gained from experience. When her good fortune allows of the stepmother hen hatching the birds in the chicken house, that first "treatment" of the turkey chick is a grain of black pepper, shoved into its plaintive beak and forced down its throat.

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