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Saskatchewan

Continued from Page 11

9. Whereas the food controller and others of our leading men who know the seriousness of the present food situation are urging upon farmers the extreme gravity of the situation, and calling upon them to use every effort to increase production; and whereas the majority of our farmers are unable to respond owing to shortage of labor. Resolved that the Dominion government be requested to take immediate steps to prevent exemption boards from drafting experienced farm workers into military service and to institute some form of control over the labor market whereby a full supply of help shall be maintained on the farms, for the urgent work of crop production, care being taken to prevent men from being employed in non-essential occupations.

JOHN H. WESSON, Sec'y. District 11.

A LOCAL THAT WILL NOT DIE

The following letter has been received from our local association at Venn, and is a splendid example of tenacity. While we have nine who will hold on and hold out in spite of discouragement we shall have locals that will not die. Now that the women are to have a hand in the work they will no doubt put some vim in it.

"Our local has had a poor attendance during the year and not much interest been taken in the meetings. The board of directors met on November 17, and we decided to hold a supper to be an annual event for the purpose of a rally and to get renewals of membership and if possible new members. The supper was held on November 27 and was a good success. We secured three new members for 1918 and we hope to retain the old members. This association together with Venn local has a co-operative trading company in Venn and while being a decided advance upon the old method of trading it has tended towards a poorer attendance at the local meetings at the schoolhouse. However, I will urge when possible more directors' meetings or the appointment of committees to care for the social and educational interest of the community. Our membership for 1917 is 21 paid-up, including three life members. Our finances are O.K. and there is no reason why we should not continue as a unit of the S.G.G.A., although some members say because of poor turn out that we should disband. I enclose \$22.00 for the Red Cross Society and \$9.00 membership fees.

"The new secretary for the Thornfield local is B. J. Lambert, Venn, Sask. He has held the position before for one year. Kindly make note of change of secretary and forward communications to him in future.

"We have no lady members as yet but at our annual meeting a minute was carried that we appoint three ladies on the directorate, so I hope for improvement and that we shall maintain a worth-while association."

ALF. N. MANN, Sec'y. Thornfield G.G.A.

FARM FLOCKS IN WAR TIME

As the poultry situation stands today about 95 per cent. of the eggs and dressed poultry going on the market come from the farms. It is to the farmer that we must look for a continuance of the supply. If the farmers cut down their flocks, the supply will also fall off and a shortage will be the result. As a matter of fact this is what has already happened, although we may not realize it as yet on account of the surplus stock which was carried over in cold storage from last season. The last two years has seen a gradual cutting of the farm flocks on account of the scarcity and high price of feed, the shortage of labor and the comparatively low price of poultry compared to other meats. Notwithstanding these conditions, the farmers have been making money with poultry business figuring it on the basis of amount and value of food fed and the returns in eggs and meat received for it. Cutting down the farm flocks will have a good effect if it is done systematically. By this we mean to cull out the poor layers and keeping only the best. In this way the cost of keeping the flock is reduced while the average production of the flock is actually increased.

Should Maintain Flocks if Possible

However, at this time we would urge upon the farmers the need of increasing rather than decreasing their flocks. Farmers can generally grow poultry cheaper than any other class of meat on account of such a large part of the feed being waste produce. Poultry production can be speeded up more quickly and more easily and with a smaller outlay than any other line of farm production. There is not very much involved in the way of extra labor, feed or care for each farmer to raise 25 to 50 chickens more next season. But this increase may mean a whole lot in saving the food situation. By raising 100 pounds more poultry next year 100 pounds of good food can be realized to furnish the sinews of war overseas. Home demands will also be greater. The consuming public is gradually shifting from beef and bacon eaters to that of cheaper lines of meat. Poultry meats have not gone up in price the last three years like most of the other meats and today table poultry cannot be considered as a luxury compared to them. The overseas demand requires bacon and beef, so home consumption of these must necessarily be cut down if we are to save the food situation.

Cull Out and Select

We have for a long time maintained that with the farmer it should be a question of cutting down the cost of keeping the poultry more than reducing the size of the flock. However, as a war measure we would urge first a close culling of the entire flock of hens right now, killing off every single hen over two years old. This is reducing the flock and will cut down the cost of feeding. The next thing we urge is the need of doing a little selection. This should be done now. Look over the flock carefully and any pullets or hens that are laying during the month of January should be marked some way or other. A tin leg band is usually the best way of marking. Next spring these hens or pullets should be separated from the rest of the flock and mated with a good pure-bred rooster. Eggs for hatching should only be used from these selected hens. In this way a large number of chickens can be raised that will prove to be better layers than their parents. If any individual instruction is required in selecting good layers, the members of the staff of the Poultry Department of the Agricultural Colleges will likely be only too glad to help out. It is the intention of the Manitoba department to follow out a series of demonstrations next fall in selecting laying hens for farmers out of their own flock.

PROF. M. C. HERNER.

EARLY PULLETS BEST

For profitable early winter egg production the early hatched pullet is three times better than the late pullet, four times better than the yearling hen and thirty times better than the "aged" hen. Early pullets are best for winter eggs. This has been demonstrated



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many times. The Poultry Division, Experimental Farm, has collected figures for several years and when the three months (November, December and January) only are taken into consideration the relative profitability of the four ages is as noted above. If the six winter months were considered the contrast would not be so striking, for the hens and the late pullets were just beginning to lay when the experiment closed. However, if eggs alone are to be considered we cannot afford to feed birds until towards spring before they produce. Even if desired for breeding it is a question if, with the high price of feed, we had not better rely upon the well matured pullet for hatching eggs next spring rather than feed hens that will not produce or only at a loss.

This summary is of results that extend over four years and are taken from several of the farms of the system so that the figures will indicate fairly well what may be expected for these three months. These figures show that early pullets (hatched before May 1st) produced eggs at a cost for feed of 18.3 cents per dozen. The late pullets (hatched after May 15th) produced at a cost of 56 cents. The year-old hens produced at a cost of 78.2 cents, and for every dozen eggs laid by the hens in the aged class the cost of feed was \$5.73.

Experimental Farm Note.

MANITOBA SHORT COURSE SCHOOLS

The short course school in Manitoba after January 1 will be held as follows:

- Jan. 1-12—Virden, Reston, Grand View.
- Jan. 15-26—Carberry, Souris.
- Jan. 29-Feb. 9—Langruth, Hartney and Rathwell.
- Feb. 12-23—Farmers' week in Winnipeg, Glenella.
- Feb. 25-Mar. 8—Portage la Prairie, Roland, Neepawa.

The work includes lectures on livestock, field crops, instructions in gas engine work, home making, cooking, dressmaking and millinery. Competent instructors have been secured and will conduct the classes on each of these dates. For livestock the best herds in the district will be used for practical work and in addition about three dozen 16x20 enlarged pictures of the best types of livestock. Splendid exhibits in field husbandry work of all the grains grown in Manitoba as well as specimens of diseased plants will be available. A power grain cleaner will be included in the field husbandry equipment. This will be operated by one of the demonstrators on gas engines, thus providing a practical application of the instruction given. Farmers who wish to do so, may bring in all their seed grain and have it cleaned ready for an early start in the spring.

For the gas engine work, the various engine companies in Winnipeg have very generously donated over \$20,000 worth of equipment, including gas engines, magnetos, coils, carburetors, etc. The engines include some twenty different kinds and this provides a full line of instruction that will be of inestimable value to Manitoba farmers next year. A fully equipped lighting system is included in the equipment for each person and lectures and demonstrations will be given on the installation and operation of these plants on farms.

Classes in dressmaking, millinery, cookery and home nursing are provided for women, but the course is so planned that the women will be able to take advantage of the lectures in gas engine operations as well as the lectures on home economics.

LIVE POULTRY WANTED

Hens, in good condition, per lb. 16c-17c
Ducks, per lb. 18c
Turkeys, in good condition, per lb. 22c
Geese, per lb. 18c
Spring Chickens, choice No. 1, per lb. 18c
Spring Chickens, in good condition per lb. 17c

These prices guaranteed till January 15th, F.O.B. Winnipeg.

All these prices are for poultry in good condition. If you have Choice Fat Hens let us know and we will give you extra price.

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Turkeys, from 7 lbs, in good condition, per lb. 21c
Spring Chickens, No. 1 condition, lb. 18c
Hens, in good condition, per lb. 17c
Ducks, in good condition, per lb. 18c
Roosters, any age, per lb. 12c
Geese, per lb. 16c

All prices are f.o.b. Winnipeg, and are guaranteed for 15 days from date of this issue. If you have not any crates let us know how much you have to ship and we will supply crates.

DRESSED POULTRY PRICES

Spring Chickens, in No. 1 condition per lb. 21c
Hens, No. 1, in good condition, per lb. 17c
Turkeys, No. 1, in good condition, per lb. 24c

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Live Poultry WANTED

Fat Hens, per lb. 18c
Old Hens, per lb. 16c
Roosters, per lb. 12c
Ducks, per lb. 19c
Turkeys, per lb. 22c
Geese, per lb. 16c-17c
Spring Chickens, per lb. 18c

Old Birds in Good Condition
We are also handling Dry Picked Poultry, head and feet on, 3 cents above prices mentioned.

Our quotations are for Poultry in Good Condition. Go over your flock; let us know the variety and quantity and whether you wish to ship live or dressed. We will promptly forward crates and shipping tags. All consignments are given our personal attention in the matter of correct weight and grade. Our shippers know that they will receive entire satisfaction.

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