

the egg. You cannot go too strong on that point.' He said, I was up in a certain district not far from this city one early spring, and I noticed that they had taken the backs off the privies and were allowing the hens access to that highly nauseous but stimulating quality of 'food,' as they choose to call it. The hens, under the influence of such stimulating diet laid well and the eggs I was informed drifted into the city and were sold for whatever price could be obtained for them.' This incident is not a pleasant phase of the question but it has a significant bearing on the quality of the egg. A lady told me the following experience:—'I was asked by a friend who had heard that I wanted strictly fresh eggs to come and see the lovely hens that she had, and that she hoped she would be able to supply me with all the strictly new laid eggs, that I wanted.' This lady who resides in the city is a woman of refinement and culture and has a charming home. She accepted the invitation and in speaking to me afterwards she said, 'I could not describe to you the appalling filthy conditions of poultry house and surrounding nor the filthy way in which those hens were fed, nor the filthy stuff they ate.' I said, 'You need not tell me any more, I can fancy the rest.' She added, 'I could no more eat one of the dozen eggs my friend gave me than I could eat the filth I saw about the place.' I can assure you, gentlemen, that it takes some little trouble to secure the delicious flavour so desirable and so peculiar to a new laid egg.

By Mr. Thornton:

Q. There is no doubt at all about what you say. There is a lady in one of the villages of my constituency who gets, and has for years got never less than fifty cents a dozen all the winter for her eggs which are, of course, always up to quality. She gets stale bread from Toronto at a very cheap rate, and stale bread is the very best of feed, there is no question about it, for producing eggs. The quality of the eggs cannot be surpassed and she is making a great deal of money. She is a retired farmer's wife living in a village, making money hand over fist by feeding her hens that clean way and raising eggs all winter for the Montreal market. As I said before she has not for a good many years got less than fifty cents a dozen for her eggs.

A. Yes, and I think she is in a position to demand the best price for she has the very best article.

Q. I think you do well to lay stress on the fact that the hens should have good food.

A. That is exactly what I am trying to do.

THE SENDING OUT OF INFORMATION.

By Mr. Staples:

Q. I think you had better also have in your report something suggesting how these difficulties should be met, that is in the keeping and feeding of the hens and the construction of the henhouse. That is the kind of information that should go out to the farmer keeping in mind the ability of the average farmer to construct suitable houses.

A. I do that and have done so in my annual reports of the work in the poultry division of the Experimental Farm system. I am delighted to see Mr. Gridale, our esteemed Director here. It shows an interest in poultry keeping on the part of the Director, I thoroughly appreciate, and I take it as a hopeful augury for the future.

Q. The question is, is the information going out to the farmers?

By an hon. Member:

Q. You don't print a sufficient number of copies of these reports.

A. A member told me that notwithstanding the large number of copies printed of last year's evidence he wanted to get 5,000 more.