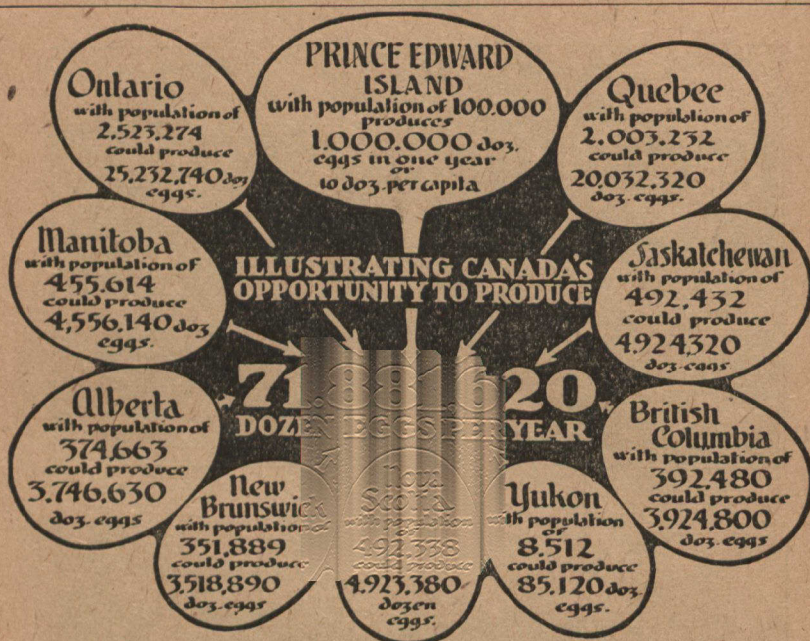


POSSIBILITIES OF RURAL EGG CIRCLES.



Co-operative egg circles in Canada, are associations among farmers for marketing eggs frequently and regularly through a common medium. It is estimated that before the adoption of the co-operative system, Canadian farmers lost between five and six million dollars annually as a result of carelessness in the handling and marketing of eggs. This condition no longer exists, however, and where circles are in operation farmers are consistently making money on their hens. Prince Edward Island, with its few thousand inhabitants, has perfected the system and sets the pace for the whole Dominion with its egg circles. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Alberta have been progressive in this direction, but, for various reasons, little enthusiasm has been shown for poultry raising in the other provinces.

According to Mr. J. E. Bergey, poultry specialist at the Manitoba Agricultural College, co-operative handling of eggs has hardly had a fair trial in Manitoba. His department is at present concerning itself with encouraging farmers to take better care of their eggs, and this propaganda is having good results.

In Alberta there exists a central marketing service which operates very successfully. In 1917 a total of 450 cases of eggs, or 13,326

dozen, were handled through this central agency, and reports up to September, 1918, indicate that a total of 4,236 cases, or 123,580 dozen, were handled last year.

Progress is reported both in Ontario and Quebec. In Ontario thirty-six circles had shipments in 1916 representing gross values to the circles of \$104,227. This went up in 1917 to \$209,837. In Quebec the eggs are gathered by the two hundred odd local agricultural co-operative associations throughout the province and are sent to the Central Co-operative Associations to be handled.

Increasing interest is evidenced by the farmers of Nova Scotia in the co-operative system of handling eggs. Cement tanks have been built in various parts of the province where the eggs are stored in the flush season, to be sold when the supply falls off. During 1917 the eggs shipped from different circles in Nova Scotia were valued at \$20,639. In New Brunswick endeavours are being made to speed up the production of poultry in order that there may be sufficient eggs available in the near future to justify the formation of egg circles.

Despite an entire population that falls far below several of our larger cities, Prince Edward Island is in the vanguard in this work.