

REPORTS OF FARMERS' INSTITUTE MEETINGS.

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THE following notes of meetings held by Farmers' Institutes in some of the Western Districts of Ontario may be of interest to readers of the REVIEW as showing to what extent the poultry industry has a foot-hold in the places mentioned.

These Institutes are bonused by the Ontario Government and lecturers are sent to the several districts to discuss improved methods of agriculture and breeding farm stock.

Mr. Ketchen, of Brucefield, lectured on feeding hogs, growing and cultivating corn and feeding beef cattle, while I had the honour of holding up the poultry end of the argument.

The subject for the afternoon address at the first stopping place (Scotland, Ont.) was—"The first three months of poultry life." As the desire seemed to be more for general information the line was not hewed to quite as closely as usual. Numerous enquiries, at the close, were made, proving that there is a growing interest in the poultry industry. Points enquired about were: Height of roosts, space allotted for each fowl, feeding a mash, bone cutters and feeding bone, roup remedies, capons, grit, and feeding corn.

The evening meeting brought out more ladies which afforded an opportunity of advising them to consider the poultry industry of greater importance than a mere side-line. The subject was—"Production of eggs in winter," which elicited queries regarding feed for young chicks, oats as a general feed throughout the year, and breeding in line for egg production. The interest evinced was encouraging for those who wish to see the industry advanced to its proper place among the chief features of the farm.

At Brantford only one address was given, and that in the afternoon. The attendance was very slim although those who were there were out for information. It was brought out by questioning the lecturer that to fatten fowls successfully requires more than the bare three or four weeks of final fattening. The stock must be kept growing and healthy from the start, as a bird ill-kept is a bad frame to round up, even if it

were possible to put on the flesh. On the subject of range for growing chicks, it was advised that such a mistake as too much freedom might be made. It is better to limit the exercise of growing chicks; birds making lots of growth may be run off their legs. Similarly with regard to laying stock, a fair range is better than an unlimited range. Housing was touched upon, and the requirements of large combed varieties mentioned. Either build a house which may be kept fairly warm by the natural heat of the fowls, a house in which a warm roosting place is built, or, a house artificially heated. In the first case it will be necessary to dry out the moisture occasionally by artificial heat.

Jerseyville furnished a very appreciative audience, as did Carlisle. The fact that poultry varies as do cattle, was impressed upon them. As illustrations, reference was made to butter cows, milk cows and beef cattle, each chosen from the breed most suitable, each breed of different formation. So it is with poultry, as illustrated by the market fowl, the egg producers and the general purpose fowl. An outline of the shape of these breeds, sketched for their benefit, added to the statement that very seldom do birds which are much underweight win in the show room, impressed the audience that in breeding thoroughbred poultry even the fancier considers weight in market fowl of more value than beauty, and that the different formations are as much in evidence as in cattle.

Glanford supplied a more critical audience, and naturally so, for some of the best breeders of the Province live in the neighbourhood. Then again, Hamilton being only about six miles distant, the fanciers of that city make their influence felt throughout the surrounding country. Mr. Erland Lee, Secretary of the Institute for South Wentworth, is a fancier himself, a breeder of Red Caps and partridge Cochins and so has an especial interest in the poultry talks. He sees the necessity for closer communication between the farmer and fancier and does his best to bring this about. The principal queries at this place had reference to the advisability of hatching from eggs laid by young fowl. It was advised that although chicks raised from eggs of early matured birds might not be as large or vigorous as those from hen eggs, yet, if the pullets had been fed and raised with a view to size, and not solely for an early production of eggs, then there was no reason