

Marketing Poultry and Eggs

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some co-operative system evolved that will enable farmers to market everything by a direct route and do away with so many different parties handling the goods before they reach the consumer. Co-operative egg circles and co-operative fattening would be a step in the right direction. But further than this a central organization would be necessary to place the product at the consumers' door. If our farmers would combine and organize themselves properly thruout the country and then also organize a central organization to dispose of the products, higher prices could be secured for all farm produce. The branch organizations could all send in their produce to the central organization, where it would be graded properly and put on the market in the shortest possible time and disposed of at highest prices. It is not sufficient to have co-operative egg circles and co-operative fattening stations, we must also have co-operative marketing. Unless we have this the produce goes thru the present channels, and the profits are cut down every time another middleman gets his hands on the goods. If the product has to find an outlet thru these agents, co-operation at the producers' end will not amount to much. What should be done is for fifty or a hundred farmers to get together and organize a co-operative association, each take a share or more, depending on what amount constitutes a share. A store could be rented in one of the larger cities and they could do a regular retail business. Whatever profits would accrue should go back to the association to further its own interests. Highest prices would then be realized, and, what is more, the consumer would get a better class of product, especially in the case of eggs. The central organization could regulate the supply pretty well by knowing approximately what amounts each member of the branch organization was going to send in every week. The scheme could be worked out so that the supply would meet the demand right along, and in the case of over-production or too large quantities being sent in, some of it would have to be held over in cold storage for a certain length of time.

Such a business could be conducted by the farmers themselves on a co-operative basis, and with the hearty co-operation of every member of each branch organization an immense business could be built up in a year's time.

Co-operative Fattening Stations

Co-operative fattening stations owned and controlled by such an organization could be operated to good advantage, and the properly finished product would find a ready sale in the hands of the central organization. Such stations should be located at various points thruout each province. They should commence operations early in the fall or the late summer months and turn out a specified number of dressed fowl every week. These stations could also be made the receiving stations for the eggs from the co-operative egg circles during the entire year.

Poultry fattened and finished by these various stations would all be uniform in quality and finish, and as such would command the highest market prices. The eggs produced by the circle members would also be of a better quality than ordinary eggs. These could be candled, packed and shipped from each station direct to the central organization, there to be disposed of at the best possible prices.

The improvement in the dressed poultry and egg trade which we desire to bring about can only come by the united and whole-hearted co-operation of all the farmers. If all are agreed on one line of action, the rest will be comparatively simple. By co-operation in production, co-operation in handling and co-operation in marketing poultry products, the farmers will be doing their share in developing the poultry industry.

The comfort which poor human beings want in such a world as this is not the comfort of ease but the comfort of strength.—Kingsley.

PATRIOTISM and PRODUCTION

Complete Now Your Plans for the Year's Work

Canada, this year, cannot produce too much staple food. No matter how large her surplus for export, there will still be need of more food in Europe and Britain. The Canadian Government, therefore, urges all farmers and producers of food to attend the series of Conferences now being held throughout the Dominion under the direction of the Canadian Department of Agriculture. Let farmers get together at these Conferences and discuss the vital questions of the day. Agricultural Specialists will

also be on hand to give valuable information as to the food products the Empire and her Allies most need, and to offer suggestions to increase production.

The important thing now is to complete at once your plan for the year's work—for increased production. By planning well in advance, each month's operations can be carried through more effectively when the time comes. Delays later on, through neglect of this, will mean loss to you and to the Empire.

ATTEND YOUR CONFERENCE

Use the Best Seed

This year, for the sake of the Empire, farmers should be exceptionally careful in the selection of seed. Cheap seed is often the dearest. If every Canadian farmer would use only the best varieties, and sow on properly cultivated soil, the grain output of Canadian farms would be doubled. Deal only with reliable seedsmen. Write at once to Canadian Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and to your Provincial Agricultural Department, for information as to the best varieties of seed to be

used in your particular locality, and use no others.

All grain intended for seed should be thoroughly cleaned and selected to retain only the strong kernels. You can reap only what you sow. It does not pay to sow weeds. Clean seed means larger crops and helps to keep the land clean. When you have your seed grain ready, put it through the cleaner once more.

Test Your Seed

Test your seed for vitality, too. Seed is not always as good as it looks. For example, oats, quite normal in appearance

and weight, may be so badly damaged by frost that their value for seed is completely destroyed. If you have any doubt as to the quality of your seed a sample may be sent free to the seed laboratory at Ottawa, or Calgary, for test. But in most cases this simple test will prove sufficient:—

Take a saucer and two pieces of blotting paper. Place seed between blotting papers. Keep moist and in a warm place. In a few days, you will be able to see whether the vitality is there. Neglect to test your seed may mean the loss of crop.

The Farm Labour Problem

This is undoubtedly one of the most difficult problems to solve today. There is a surplus of labour in the cities and towns and a shortage in the country. Careful handling of the problem is necessary. Under present conditions, in addition to looking to the Governments for help, the necessary work should be largely undertaken locally.

Committees in every Town

The Government suggests the forming of an active committee in every town and city, composed of town and country men and women. This committee would find out the sort of help the farmers of their locality need, and get a list of the unemployed in their town or city, who are suitable for farm labour. With this information, the committee would be in a good position to get the right man for the right place.

Councils, both rural and urban, boards of trade and other

organizations could advantageously finance such work. Every unemployed man in the town or city who is placed on the farm becomes immediately a producer, instead of a mere consumer and a civic expense. With Britain and her Allies calling for more food, it will be a national loss, in fact a national crime, to leave in the towns and cities any unemployed men who are capable, as thousands of them are, of being of assistance on the farm.

Have you a house on the farm for a married man? A real home for the farm labourer will solve this problem.

Free Bulletins

The Government urges farmers and other producers to make a wider use of the large number of Free Bulletins issued by the Canadian Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, or your Provincial Departments. There are special Bulletins on selection of seed, testing, early planting, that you should have. Clip out, fill in and mail the coupon below and get these Bulletins.

Send your coupon by first mail. Do not put a stamp on the envelope. Your coupon will be "On His Majesty's Service," and will travel free.

Canadian
Department of
Agriculture,
Ottawa, Canada

Publications Branch, Canadian Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa.

Please send me Bulletins relating to Seed.

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