

POULTRY

The Farmer's Beef Scrap.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The prohibitive price of beef scrap in Alberta has always seemed to me a great handicap in raising poultry. A good substitute for the summer months has presented itself. I started to trap gophers that were working under my granary and skinned them for the hens and growing chicks. The egg yield has been noticeably better this year than last, and I am expecting good results from my pullets raised with gopher meat. It is impossible to mature pullets in our climate early enough for winter layers without meat, but as they are getting meat every day, I confidently expect them to lay early this coming winter.

Last year I shut up the hens which I wished to carry over, and starved them down for a time, and then fed them well to force an early moult. To my very great surprise my hens began to moult this summer in the first week of July without any forcing. I have one hen which has a complete coat of new feathers and a large part of the others are in the moult. Today, July 25th, I noticed a hen with all her tail feathers gone and loose feathers hanging all about her. I attribute the early moult to the gopher meat, for I have noticed that if March-hatched pullets are fed as much meat as one would feed April pullets, the March pullets will moult in the fall as old hens do, while March-hatched pullets fed sparingly on meat will not moult. That certainly proves that meat affects the moult, and the winter egg yield from hens carried over should be much better.

When I do not catch gophers enough with the trap, I shoot them with a small rifle. I cannot say that I wish the gophers would last the year round, for they are doing greater damage to crops this year than ever before, but I do wish I had something in the way of fresh meat to take their place in winter.

Alta.

W. I. THOMAS.

Poultry Fattening In Saskatchewan

The Department of Agriculture, Regina, will operate three chicken fattening stations this season. They will be located at Moosomin, Tantallon and Langenburg, and will be conducted in connection with the creameries under government supervision, butter-milk being used as feed in conjunction with fine oat chop for fleshing purposes. The work is under the charge of W. A. Wilson, Superintendent of Dairying, who will be assisted in doing the outside work by experienced poultrymen and the various creamery managers.

For 1908 the following rules will regulate the work:

1. All birds must be delivered alive and free of charge at the fattening stations.

2. Only spring birds will be received.

3. All birds should weigh, at least, 3½ pounds.

(By this it is not meant that good birds weighing less than 3½ pounds will be refused. Our desire is to supply the requirements of the trade respecting suitable weight for roasters, which, on the average, calls for a bird weighing about 4½ pounds. To meet this as nearly as possible we would like the minimum weight when the birds are delivered to be as stated. We will, however, accept good birds under this weight and prepare them for marketing as best we can.)

4. In no case will cock birds, crippled, deformed, sick or diseased birds be accepted. The operator in charge of the fattening stations will classify all birds and may refuse to accept those, which, in his opinion, are unsuitable for fattening purposes.

5. The crops of all birds must be completely empty when received at the fattening stations. This is easily accomplished by cooping and not feeding the birds twenty-four hours previous to delivery.

6. All birds will be weighed alive on delivery at the fattening stations, and the seller given credit for the total weight.

The Department of Agriculture, Regina, will make advance payments on birds as follows:

1. For scrub or grade birds, and also for cross bred birds not showing good conformation, as well as pure or cross bred birds of the egg-laying and heavy strains, seven cents a pound live weight.

2. For pure bred birds of the Rock, Wyandotte and Orpington strains, together with their cross, showing good conformation, ten cents a pound live weight.

From the work conducted by the Department last year it was clearly demonstrated that it was practically impossible to suitably meet the market requirements with the type of birds kept by the average farmer. Neither would these birds show creditable gains for the food consumed. In consequence of this it was decided to make advance payments according to the quality of the birds delivered, which would also tend to encourage farmers to raise pure bred birds suitable for table purposes.

The western market offers favorable opportunities to the poultryman who will supply good plump birds well fleshed and neatly prepared.

The work at the poultry fattening stations promises to be quite extensive, and the farmers are manifesting an enthusiastic interest in the development of the work. Quite a number of fowls have already been received, fattened and disposed of. The price received in all cases is gratifying. This is the second year the work has been conducted, and there is every evidence that the demand for good birds can be greatly increased. It is apparent also that the farmers are going to make an attempt to supply this demand. The Department, through their fattening stations, is endeavoring to encourage and develop this trade.

HORTICULTURE

The Fruit Harvest in British Columbia

"We expect the fruit crop of British Columbia this year will amount to about one-half a million dollars," said L. M. Hagar, secretary and manager of the Fruit and Produce Exchange, Revelstoke, B. C., who made a business visit to Winnipeg last week. The exchange of which Mr. Hagar is manager is the central organization of several local fruit growers' associations, and also handles consignments from individual growers, and from districts not organized into associations. The exchange has been in active operation for about one year, and already about eight-tenths of the fruit grown in the Pacific province is sold through its channels. With the devotion of the many different districts of British Columbia to fruit growing it very soon became evident that the marketing of the product would have to be organized as effectively as possible, in order to effect economy in finding markets, making up shipments, securing refrigerator cars and minimum rates, reducing telegraphic expenses and controlling the supply from day to day. Local organizations were first formed which looked after the preparing of consignments, circulated information on growing, and carried on local co-operative work. Then it became necessary to have a central exchange through which the local exchange could market their fruit and find the best markets. The exchange appears to be making good, as through its activities fruit is marketed for about five per cent. of its wholesale selling price.

The exchange is now having its busiest time, but already it has sold twenty-one cars of strawberries; seven from Victoria which netted the growers \$1.85 per crate and fourteen from the Kootenay, of from 640 to 650 crates to the car. About forty to fifty cars of peaches have been booked from Summerland and Peachland, eleven cars of prunes from Grand Forks, and smaller consignments from Chilliwack Mission and Okanagan. Some consignments of high quality pears are booked from the coast and from Kelowna and Grand Forks.

But the most surprising feature of the exchange is the finding of markets in Australia for apples. The prairie buyers who have been looking to British Columbia for their apples, and who have imagined that they had a monopoly of the output, will find competitive buying from the sister colony which has her Christmas in harvest time and is now enjoying winter weather. This year the exchange has contracted to supply an Australian firm with 14,000 boxes of apples of the Wealthy, McIntosh, Gravenstein, Baldwin, Wagner, Northern Spy, Ben Davis, Snow, Roan Beauty, and Wine-sap varieties. The arrange-



YOUNG ORCHARDS IN THE KELOWNA DISTRICT, B. C.

FARMERS
ADVOCATE