

UNCLE SAM'S POULTRY CROP.

The Sprague Commission Co. of Chicago, large dealers in live and dead poultry, in a recent bulletin estimate the poultry crop of 1897 in the west as follows:—

Turkey estimates 25 per cent short, chickens 10 per cent larger, ducks 15 per cent larger, geese 15 per cent short of full crop. They further state this compilation of the poultry crop is made from over 500 reports received from the best posted poultry shippers and dealers in the United States and is something which has never been accomplished by any other commission house in this country. After a careful study of the 500 or more reports received by us from the prominent shippers and dealers throughout the principal poultry raising districts we are enabled to make the following report, which we believe to be about as accurate an estimate as can be given. We have no interest in the market as buyers or speculators and therefore would have no object in misrepresenting conditions. Our sole purpose is to place before the poultry dealers the most interesting and at the same time best and most reliable information which will be of benefit to them. We ask no compensation but would respectfully ask to handle your shipments of poultry coming to this market.

Turkeys.—The general tenor of the reports received indicate that the crop of turkeys will be short of last year, and the crop of last year was very much short of the year of 1895. Thus it would be fair to estimate the turkey crop of 1897 to be about 75 per cent of last year or about 60 per cent or little over half of a full crop. The reasons assigned for the short crop are unfavorable weather conditions during the Spring and possibly more to the fact that but few turkeys were carried over from the crop of 1896 to raise turkeys with. High prices during the Fall and Winter of 1896 and early winter months of 1897 influenced farmers to market their stock closely.

Chickens.—The reports in nearly all cases note a liberal supply of chickens and a crop possibly 10 per cent larger than last year. From many sections the reports state a considerable loss in young chickens by rats, which, owing to the amount of corn kept cribbed in the country were very abundant especially throughout Illinois, Iowa and Northern Missouri, more especially Iowa, they killed a great many chickens, but notwithstanding this loss the supply will be heavy and exceed that of last year.

Ducks.—As a rule the reports indicate a larger crop of ducks than last year. A fair estimate would probably be about 15 per cent more than last year. A good many ducks were carried over from the crop of 1896, which was the

foundation for an increased supply and the weather conditions evidently were favorable at the time the young ducks were hatched.

Geese.—From the reports received we would estimate the crop of geese at least 15 per cent short of last year, or about 85 per cent of a full crop. Advices from some sections state the reason for a smaller crop was the unfavorable weather at the time for hatching—cold and wet weather. Nearly all reports note a scarcity of geese, and many state that the quality is poorer than last year, the geese being smaller and thinner than at the same period last season. Possibly the higher prices for grain made farmers less inclined to feed, at least not so liberally as last year.

OLDRIEVE & WILKINSON,

the proprietors of the well-known Kingston Poultry Yards offer as a going concern their entire plant, farm and stock, being desirous of closing the partnership. A good stone house, barn and three hundred feet of poultry buildings are on the place.

SOME OF OLD ENGLAND'S IMPORTS.

Sir James Blyth in writing to the daily press states that in 1896 England imported the following:—

	£
Butter	15,344,083
Cheese	4,900,428
Milk and cream (fresh or condensed)	1,177,921
Margarine	2,498,425
Lard	2,268,029
Eggs	4,184,567
Poultry, etc.	1,007,072
Vegetables (potatoes, onions, etc.)	2,874,388
Fruit (apples, pears, plums, cherries, nuts, etc.)	3,615,855
Grapes	442,830
Oranges	1,925,473
Lemons	444,202

Canada's share in this immense egg trade is altogether too small.

ALMOST AS GOOD AS A VISIT.*

I must congratulate you on the write up on buff Leghorns, to any one not able to attend the Industrial the report was as good mostly as a view of the birds. What we want is more of such in the poultry press. Will. F. Lowe, Almonte.