

APPENDIX No. 3

mous wealth open to them. Again, if they produce enough prices will go down. It is because the supply is not available that prices are high.

By Mr. Thornton:

Q. Just on this point, what is the reason that prices at points within reasonable reach of Ottawa are less than half what they are in Ottawa today?

A. At what point is that the case?

Q. Within three hours' run of Ottawa strictly fresh laid eggs are selling at twenty-six cents a dozen right straight along.

A. At the present time?

Q. Yes, at the present time, I bought them last week.

A. As I have remarked a reason may be that the farmer does not send his eggs into the city market regularly and frequently. As I have shown he holds them until he has sufficient to make it worth while taking them to market. The consequence is that when he does bring them to market the purchaser simply gives him the value of the stale article. I related the following incident to the committee last year. Allow me to repeat it: I was present in a large grocery store in this city recently when a farmer came in from a point about 35 miles distant from Ottawa, the farmer said to the clerk, 'Do you want any eggs?' 'How many eggs have you,' enquired the clerk. 'Twenty-five dozen', said the farmer. Note the next question asked, 'How many hens have you?' When the clerk heard the number of hens the farmer had he at once concluded that before the farmer could save up twenty-five dozen eggs that a good many of them must be mighty stale, and so a price of twenty-five cents a dozen was paid at a time when strictly new laid eggs were selling at 50 cents a dozen. A point I wish to emphasize.

Q. Well, I do not understand how the people of Ottawa have to pay that price, or how they get their supply of eggs, when within three hours' distance there is any quantity of strictly fresh laid eggs today selling at 26 cents a dozen, I bought them myself; there is no question about their being strictly fresh laid, produced by the best and most industrious farmers in this country?

A. Yes, I have not the slightest doubt of the correctness of what you say but I do not think farmers will get a better price for their eggs, until they make an effort to bring their eggs in for sale more promptly than they do.

Q. I tell you what I think, there is something wrong with the way in which the supplies are distributed or else there could not possibly be that difference in the price within such a short distance.

A. Doubtless. There is one thing certain that the hen does not lay a stale egg, but it is too frequently a mighty stale article before the consumer gets it. This happens in too many instances, as you well know. The farmer has the fresh egg, but why does the egg not reach the consumer in the city while yet fresh. The consumer is willing to pay 55 or even up to 60 cents a dozen for the strictly new laid articles? Why the difficulty in his obtaining it?

By Mr. Marshall:

Q. How old has an egg to be before it is stale?

A. Five or six days in the winter. If fertilized, a much shorter time in summer.

FLAVOUR OF THE EGG ANOTHER EXACTING QUALIFICATION.

While on the point I would like to deal with the question of the quality of the egg. People are getting educated in regard to the flavour of eggs as well as of other articles. The good flavour of the egg depends upon how the hen is fed and the way in which she is kept. I repeat that well flavoured eggs can only be obtained from hens that are carefully, well and cleanly fed. Permit me to emphasize this point by relating an incident which has a most important bearing on the subject. A gentleman visitor to my poultry division some time ago remarked 'I am glad you are laying such stress upon the clean feeding of the hen in order to have a good flavour to