

interested (from the farmer to the consumer) to "take stock" of the egg trade, and see if something cannot be done to overcome some of its losses. According to a United States Department of Agriculture report, the losses are divided as follows:

69% of them are due to conditions on the farm.

17% of the blame is attached to the country store, and

14% of the loss is attributed to conditions under which eggs are shipped, or the loss that occurs in transit.

In this province conditions are very much the same. Judging by these figures, the farmer is most to blame for the bad quality of eggs going to market. While he sustains the blame, and is responsible for his share of the trouble, still there may be a reason for conditions being as they are. At present the farmer receives no inducement to try to market better eggs. The storekeeper would help greatly if he offered the farmer a little inducement to bring in better eggs. Often a farmer who tries to sell the best of eggs, by looking after his poultry properly, gathering the eggs regularly, and selling only the best, becomes discouraged because his neighbor, who goes to no trouble at all, receives the same price as he gets with all his care. Right here the country storekeeper becomes responsible. If he would promise the farmers, say, two or three cents a dozen more for eggs of good quality, and of proper weight, paying a lower price for "cracked" and "dirties," and throwing out all bad ones, it would not be long until the farmers would see that eggs were all sold in good condition. Besides this, the store-keeper should be sufficiently informed on the production and care of eggs to give the proper kind of instruction to farmers.

There is no Argument for better Quality in Eggs that sounds quite so loud as Better Prices for Choice Goods.

The Farmer's Duty

In considering the question of preventing losses, the first step must be taken at the farmer's end. No matter when and how all the losses occur, unless the eggs are good when they leave the farm, they can never reach the trade in good condition.

In the spring the losses are very light, and all eggs are pretty much the same in quality. But as warmer weather comes the losses grow heavier and heavier. This is because eggs do not keep as well in warm as in cold weather. There are also more broody hens on the nests, more dirty eggs, more soiled and smeared eggs, and more "stolen nests," all of which, singly or in combination, help to increase the losses. Eggs produced under such conditions cannot leave the farm as first-class eggs. The egg shell is porous, and any filth or dirt adhering to the outside is likely to cause molds inside, especially during warm weather. This means bad eggs. Broody hens sitting on fertile eggs, even for only a few hours, naturally start the germs to grow, and such eggs are never fit for food. Eggs from "stolen nests" come in the same class. Eggs laid by a flock of hens having roosters with them never reach the consumer in as good condition during the warm summer weather as eggs laid by a flock with no roosters. In