

a Government grant, in return for which the bull is used for the improvement of stock in the neighbourhood. I saw one of these gatherings a few days ago. About 300 animals were exhibited of the noted Simmental breed. Four of the best bulls were selected by the judges and duly certificated. I was much struck by the great uniformity of these animals, nearly all of the same colour and shape. The amount expended for this purpose is \$80,000.

There are also a number of smaller projects which receive Government aid, such as the draining of morasses, construction of roads, subsidies to exhibitions and horse races, etc.

In addition the Federal Dept. conducts a large insurance business against hail, the total value of crops insured being about eight million dollars, also a cattle assurance for death of cattle from accident or natural causes.

It will be thus seen from the above somewhat meagre outline, that the Federal Department is doing a great deal for the agricultural population, and that the effects of this enlightened policy are good. I should especially notice the quality of the horses and cattle. "Scrub" cattle are very scarce. In a future article I hope to say something further about the courses given in the Agricultural and Dairy Schools.

Cold Storage for Butter

Last week at the request of the Minister of Agriculture, Prof. Robertson had a conference with the Butter and Cheese Section of the Montreal Board of Trade to discuss the question of cold storage for butter. The agreements between the Department of Agriculture and the steamship companies providing cold storage will expire this season, and the Department is desirous of learning whether anything further can be done to improve the transportation facilities for butter, and to keep up the advance that has been made this year.

In 1894 when there was no cold storage the exports of butter were only 32,055 packages. Since that time there had been gradually provided through the efforts of the Government, mechanical refrigeration on steamships, refrigerator car service on railways, cold storage at creameries, etc., until in 1899 up to Nov. 11, the exports were 444,376 packages, or fourteen times as much as in 1894. The quality has also improved, and whereas Canadian butter used to be quoted at from ten to fifteen shillings under Australian, this year it has been selling for higher prices in the same markets.

The Minister of Agriculture has decided to continue the payment of the bonus, and owners of creameries who put up cold storage rooms during the season of 1900, and keep them in use in accordance with the regulations of the Department will receive a bonus of \$100. This work is recognized as being very helpful in the improvement of the butter business. The Department will send an expert to many of the creameries during the winter to point out to those who have not yet put up cold storage rooms how best they may provide them at their creameries.

In consequence of complaints that butter is often spoiled at stations because there was no cold storage, Prof. Robertson announced that the Government would assist in establishing such chambers at six points upon the different railways to be selected by the Association. The members of the Association, after commending the work of the Government, requested that assistance be continued to a weekly refrigerator service to Liverpool, London, Bristol, Glasgow and Manchester, and a monthly service to Newcastle. It was thought advisable that the Government should continue to have some control over the steamships with refrigerator service to preserve it for Canadians, and to prevent big Chicago firms like Armour and Swift from absorbing it all.

Everyone interested in the development of our export butter trade will coincide with the views expressed above. It would be a risky proceeding to withdraw Government assistance from the cold storage movement at the present

time, and we are glad to know that it will be continued at least for another year. Even if it has to be continued for several years to come the money expended will be well spent in the development of the butter trade, and the improved condition of the product when it reaches the British consumer. The extension of the system in providing cold storage chambers at several railway centres seems to be along the right line, as is also the maintaining of the control of the ocean service, and keeping it for the use of Canadians only.

Preparing Fowls for Exhibition

During the next few months the poultry shows in the various parts of the province take place. Among them as announced last week will be the Toronto Poultry show which takes place next month. In view of these shows coming so soon, the following article on preparing poultry for exhibition written by J. Fred Crangle for the *Reliable Poultry Journal* will be found of value to those intending to compete:

Few years ago it was not necessary to spend a great deal of time on birds before exhibiting them, but for the past ten years competition has been so great that a good many prizes have been won simply on condition. It is almost impossible to win in strong competition, no matter how good the bird, if it is not in condition. To an amateur it is hard work to put a bird in condition, and there are many people who are exhibiting birds in a small way who never had any experience in that line. Different varieties of fowl have to be treated differently. I will give my methods with several varieties.

In preparing turkeys for exhibition, to put them in the best possible shape, it is necessary to keep them thin in flesh. Have them perfectly free from all kinds of vermin, which they are always liable to have. About four weeks before these birds are to be exhibited, it is necessary to commence feeding them more fattening food, and it is necessary to start in a very moderate way, because if you try to force the turkeys too early you get them up in condition too quick. Corn and oats should be the principal foods. About two or three times a week they should have soft food with some sort of meat. Beef suet is very good. There are cases where turkeys will not touch beef suet, but by warming it on a stove, and then while warm putting in a little soft food, you can get them to eat it in that way. This puts a very fine luster on the feathers. They love stale bread and occasionally it is very nice for them for a change.

To make good show birds it is necessary to have the birds as gentle as possible. You will always find that the very best exhibition birds are easy to handle. I have seen birds defeated at the biggest shows in the country simply because they got nervous and would not act well in the exhibition coop. Take a bird that is scared, of course he does not show his shape. It is very essential to have birds tame. It is not necessary to wash turkeys. Those varieties whose plumage soils easily we usually put in a large room a few days before we expect to exhibit them, where there is plenty of straw. This could be applied to white turkeys and buff turkeys. If you do not take some course of this kind many times only a few hours before you coop these birds up for shipment to the exhibition hall it will start in and rain and the feathers of the turkeys will be soiled, and of course look very badly.

Many kinds of water fowl, such as geese, etc., can be shown at several exhibitions without hurting them if they are properly taken care of during the exhibitions. Many varieties of ducks cannot be shown at more than one exhibition and have them in first-class condition, because they become frightened and it starts them to molting, no matter what time of the year they are shown. This applies more particularly to Pekin ducks, as they seem to be very easily frightened. There are a few other varieties as well