

Our Poultry Census

There has been a most liberal response to our questions on poultry raising, and a number of essays have already been received in competition for the prizes offered. Replies to our questions have come from all parts of the province, which assures a large amount of valuable information for our special poultry number on March 12th. It is our desire, however, to obtain as much information as possible on this whole question, and we have, therefore, decided to extend the time in which both answers and essays may be received till Feb. 23rd. The adding of three days grace to the original time will allow parties who have not yet responded to our appeal to do so after receiving this number. Look up the list of questions, and also the prizes for essays as published in last week's issue, and let us hear from you at once.

The Man Behind the Cow

At the recent dairymen's meeting a point more strongly emphasized than any other, perhaps, was that the patron of the cheese or butter factory is the most important factor in our co-operative dairy system. He has control of the raw material, and therefore has it in his power to greatly influence the quality of the product made at his factory. As it is "The man behind the gun who does the work," so it is "The man behind the cow" upon whom we must depend largely in the future for improvement in the quality of our dairy products.

This being the position of affairs, managers of factories and makers should make every endeavor to educate their patrons in the best methods of feeding their cows and caring for the milk for cheese and butter-making. The man who is making a business of dairying and keeps a large number of cows, as a rule, gives little trouble. It is the fellow who is only in the business in a small way, and who neither gives his cows nor the milk the proper care, that causes the most trouble. He never has sufficient interest in the business to attend a convention, an institute meeting, or even the annual meeting of his own factory, and get information as to what his duties are. But he continues to supply milk, and thinks everything is serene so long as his milk passes muster at the weighing porch.

It is this individual who needs educating, and the problem of how to reach him is the difficulty. If factories were to pay their makers sufficiently to enable them to visit the patrons more it would be better. As it is now the maker only gets sufficient to make both ends meet by getting his nose down to the grindstone, and doing more manual work than he should in a fair sized factory. If the maker were sufficiently paid so that he could afford to have a little leisure in which to visit delinquent patrons, and discuss with them the best ways and means of taking care of his milk, etc., a great improvement in the quality of the milk received could be effected. There are hundreds of patrons in Ontario who would not know their cheese-maker should they meet him face to face, though he has perhaps managed their cheese or butter factory for several years. This should not be. There should be a mutual interchange of views and methods between

every maker and every one of his patrons. Some will say that the maker has the whole winter for such work. That may be; but in our opinion a visit during the summer, when the maker can show the patron by practical demonstration how the milk should be cared for, would be much more effective. A good way, then, of reaching the delinquent patron is through the maker. If a kindly visit will not help matters, then return the milk to the patron.

Kaffir Corn

W. B. Stevens, Shetland, Ont., writes this office as follows: "I bought 50 grains of Kaffir corn a short time ago from a man travelling over the country and selling 50 grains for — cents. He stated that the corn was grown near Ottawa, and that a farmer near Ridgeway, Ont., raised it last year. Let us hear through *The Farming World* from anyone who has grown Kaffir corn.

"The person who sold this corn stated that every kernel is enclosed in a husk. The ears grown on the stalk and the grain on the tassel. He recommended it as a fodder crop, and stated that 50 grains would give 400 ears in the fall; that each grain gives 3 to 4 stalks, and that only one grain to a hill is required in planting."

Kaffir corn is very well known in the Southern and South-western States, where it is grown very largely as a fodder plant. It is specially adapted for districts where the rain fall is not sufficient for maximum crops of the regular corn. Kaffir corn is a non-saccharine sorgum plant and is the best known and most widely cultivated of this variety of sorgums. It is a sturdy growing plant. The stem is thick at the base, tapering toward the top, and usually grows to the height of about five or six feet. The leaves are long and large and fairly numerous, but not markedly abundant. It throws up a single spike which bears a head on which the seeds are closely packed. The head is fully six inches long and three inches broad, and stands erect, or nearly so. Large yields of seed are obtained, and when ground its feeding value for the various classes of farm stock is nearly equal to that of corn. The plants have extraordinary power to grow under dry conditions, and to retain succulence in the leaves and stems even after the seed is matured.

The leading varieties of Kaffir corn are red and white. The red matures earlier than the white, but the latter would seem to produce more seed. The red variety is better adapted than the white to districts north from where the most suitable conditions exist for growing Kaffir corn. Some experiments conducted at the Kansas Experiment Station a few years ago, showed Kaffir corn to be almost equal to the regular corn for fattening steers, and also for feeding swine.

It is very doubtful if the person referred to as selling the Kaffir corn seed, if it were genuine, procured it in Canada. Besides, it is very unlikely that the plant could be grown to maturity in the neighborhood of Ottawa, where it is sometimes difficult to get the ordinary corn to mature sufficiently for seed purposes. However, we would be glad to hear from any parties who have grown Kaffir corn in this country, though we do not think there is anything to be gained by introducing this plant in