

When I had the pleasure of being in Mr. McMillan's constituency some few years ago, I met Mr. S. J. Hogarth, then President of the South Huron Farmers' Institute. Speaking of the figures eggs brought in the cities, he said: "I have stopped selling my eggs in Toronto or sending a further distance, because I find there is plenty of money in eggs for me at 20 cents a dozen which I can get in Exeter in winter time. He had Leghorns and had got the cost of feeding down to a fine point.

One more point I wish to mention as showing the development of the poultry industry of the country, a great impetus to which has been given, during the past year, by the completion of a system of cold storage by car and steamboat by means of which poultry can be exported to the British markets, or kept in preservation for home markets. In connection with the cold storage system and by direction of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, and under the auspices of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, Professor Robertson, a new feature of work was successfully introduced last fall and winter, namely, the exhibition of dressed poultry accompanied by addresses of explanation as to how to kill, draw and dress the turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens exhibited. Instruction was also given to the farmers as to the best breeds of turkeys, geese, ducks and fowls for them to rear and breed. Information was also given as to the best methods of hatching, rearing and feeding of the young. The specimens were dressed by an expert in the most approved methods. Addresses in this connection were given at Smith's Falls, Lindsay, Cornwall, London, Peterborough, Owen Sound, Cobourg and other places. Some of these meetings were special while others were the regular Farmers' Institute gatherings, and some of the exhibits were given at the poultry shows. It was admitted on every hand that the work had been a new and important feature and an object lesson of great value to the farmers, their wives and daughters. In view of the development of an egg trade with the British markets (where eggs in order to bring the highest price should be large) instructions to our farmers in the way of keeping the breeds which lay large eggs is most important and necessary. Our reports from year to year have given this information. The farmers of Ontario mostly want hens that will give flesh development and lay eggs as well. This combination is hard to get. It is something like getting the cow that is good for beef and milk at the same time. We come as near to it as possible in the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes. In this connection allow me to read a letter which I received in March last from M. J. H. Stewart, of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, as follows:—

"ANTIGONISH, N.S., March 10, 1898.

"Mr. A. G. Gilbert, Ottawa.

"Dear Sir,—I don't think it would pay me to take the trouble of getting the farmers into the way of raising poultry for the English market. As they have had no experience along this line, it would take them a long time to get into the way of doing the business properly. For my own part I would sooner see them getting into the way of raising more eggs of a larger size than they are now doing, and it is to help them in this that I want to get the best breed of hens to start with. If the farmers could get into a strain of larger eggs I would pay two cents per dozen more for them through the season than what I pay for the run of eggs they raise now. Last year was the most successful year I ever had in the English market. My eggs gave very good satisfaction. One firm that I shipped 40,000 dozen to did not have to allow any off for shrinkage. If the farmers would only improve their stock so as to have larger eggs for sale and market them fresh, dealers would pay much more money for them for the English market. Any pointers you can give me along this line will be thankfully received. Any pamphlets you send us would do much good."