

APPENDIX No. 2

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Before you leave that subject. The farmers have to keep their eggs for a few days before they can get them to market. What is the best means of preserving these eggs in proper condition. I mean on the ordinary farm, where they have not cold storage or other facilities, so as to get them on the market in the best possible shape?

A. If the eggs are non-fertilized—that is the point which Mr. Henderson raised, and it is a most important one—if they be so and are placed in a cool, sweet smelling cellar they will keep well for a certain number of days.

Q. For six days?

A. Yes, for five or six days if the necessary precautions are taken.

I speak now of changes in the methods of feeding.

CHANGES IN THE METHODS OF FEEDING.

Certain radical changes have been introduced in the method of feeding our birds. These changes followed the introduction of the 'hopper system,' and I have brought a hopper for your inspection. By the old way the food was given to the fowls. By the new way the birds help themselves to the food, be it whole or ground grains, grit or oyster shells, all of which are contained in one or more hoppers. The hoppers are really feeding troughs divided into compartments. From the hoppers—which are usually hung on the wall—the hens help themselves to their food whenever they feel inclined to do so. It is much the same method as the old one of keeping the food before the birds all the time. In my report of last year I have summarized some of the statements for and against the hopper system, made by those who have used them, as follows:—

For.—Because labour saving; preventing waste or fouling of food; allowing each bird opportunity to obtain what food it desires; convenient and economical in use.

Against.—For the reason that birds of the heavy breeds are apt to eat too much, and, as a result, are disinclined to exercise; not economical; fowls are not likely to go to roost with their crops as full as desirable; fowls scratch or pick out the grain from the hoppers; when fed outdoors prevents foraging, &c.

For chickens the open trough form of hopper, holding both ground and whole grain, has been found convenient and beneficial. I think it is safe to say that the hopper system of feeding has come to stay.

The foregoing, gentlemen, are some of the changes that have taken place in recent years in the manner outlined. All denote steps forward in the march of progress. Whether all, or only a certain number of these changes will be found permanent, remains for experience to decide.

By Mr. Lewis:

Q. Is this hopper for fattening purposes?

A. Not for fattening purposes, but for the ordinary keeping of poultry.

Q. How much does a hopper cost, say one holding a gallon?

A. I suppose you could get a hopper like the one I have brought with me for 75 cents, that is the price which is marked on it, but the farmer can make his hoppers very cheaply. This is only one style, and there are many different styles.

By Mr. Henderson:

Q. I thought you preferred keeping the hen active. If so, why gather the feed and place it in a dish where it can get its full supply at once without moving about?

A. I answered that question fully in last year's report. It is an important point, and I explained the apparent inconsistency by saying that the exercising of the fowls